

The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield

United Church of Christ



December 21, 2025; 10 a.m.

REFLECT

***“Thus says the prophet to those of Israel:
‘A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,
One whose name is ‘God with us,’ our Savior shall be,
Through whom hope will blossom once more in our hearts.”***
--Alberto Taule’, in the hymn *Todo la Tierra (All Earth is Waiting)*--

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

*Words in **bold** are to be spoken in unison.*

 *Please stand as you are able.*

Congregational Announcements

Pastoral Greeting

Prelude and Candle Lighting

Stephen Page

Lighting the Candle of Love

Nancy Zurawka

Leader: You know what time it is! It is already the moment to believe God's signs.

All: Today we stand firm in revoking evil, its scorn of life, and its appetite for tears. We hold fast to God's signs of all that is good and eternal.

Leader: The hour is already here, even as we are waiting.

All: Soon—yes, very soon—love will restore and heal the world. God's ways will be sweet to all who travel upon them; God's name will be like honey.

Leader: The love by which God delivers us already burns within us.

(The fourth Advent candle is lit.)

 **Hymn**

"Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

#160

A Reading from the Prophets

Isaiah 7:10-16

Seeking a Blessing, Affirming Our Faith

Leader: Welcome, saints of God, to this time of celebration; come in wonder and with open hearts to worship God.

All: We come to this holy place seeking a blessing. We gather as apostles to renew our faith.

Leader: Let us together prepare to greet the child of Mary, the one called Emmanuel, God with us.

All: We remember the story of God's greatest gift. We lift up our heads to share the good news.

Leader: Be still, that the Holy Spirit may be known to us; be open to the grace and peace of salvation.

All: We affirm that God loves us and all people; we seek to live that love among all we meet.

Prayer Hymn (please remain seated) "O Little Town of Bethlehem" **#180**

Prayers of the People Sharing Concerns, Joys ~ Pastoral Prayer
~ Lord's Prayer~

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

Reader: May God bless our hearing and understanding of this reading from our sacred texts.

All: Word of God, Word of Life, Thanks be to God

Call to Offering and Offertory Music

(Offering plates are in the front and rear of the sanctuary for your gifts; you may place them in the plates during the music)

✠ A Doxology

Tune: # 34 (Old 100th)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

Youth Message

Special Music

Stephen Page

Sermon

“O Jesus Christ, Is it You Again?”

Rev. Doug Williamson

✠ Hymn

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

#188

✠ Benediction (please be seated)

Postlude





Our Mission and Vision Statement:

We are a church where all are welcome to worship together, to share in fellowship and to grow spiritually in our journey with Christ. We value justice, diversity, and freedom of expression. We strive to serve our community and all God's creation and to spread the love of God to all people.

Welcome members, friends, and visitors to our service this morning! If you are a guest with us, we invite you to sign our guest register and/or fill out a visitor card. Activity bags are available in the back of the sanctuary for children who are with us in worship.

Prayer Requests

Would you like to ask for prayers for someone? You may write your request in the red prayer book on the table located in the back of the sanctuary. A deacon will share them with the pastor. Please see a deacon with any questions.

First Congregational Church of West Brookfield

36 N. Main Street

PO Box 371

West Brookfield, MA 01585

508-867-7078

FCCWBWorship@gmail.com

Westbrookfieldcongregationalucc.org

Rev. Dr. Doug Williamson – 913-387-9947

djwnscaa@gmail.com

P.O. Box 74, Barre, MA 01005