

The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield

United Church of Christ



March 1, 2026; 10 a.m.

REFLECT

"God does not just deal with this world, but deals with it passionately, loving it and suffering for it. 'God loved the world so much that God gave God's only Child to it' (John 3:16). But this is not logic. This is passion. How else would God be willing to part with God's own Child for the sake of us? Nor is this a result of reasoning. It is a risk. And passion always involves risk, does it not? But only in risking will there be new discoveries and exciting experiences." **--Choan-**

Seng Song—

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
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

An Opening Affirmation

Millie Gushue

Leader: At every bend in the river, at every fork in the road,

All: Christ waits.

Leader: At every surprising turn and in every corkscrew twist,

All: Christ lingers.

Leader: At every T-junction and in every wrinkle of time,

All: Christ carries.

Leader: Every day, each path we wander, each road we travel, we journey not alone.

**All: Here and now we remember that Christ has already
walked the road of life. He walks it again with us. Here
and now we raise our songs of praise.**

 **Hymn**

“Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather”

#597

A Reading from Paul’s Letters

Ephesians 2:4-10

The Gospel

John 3:1-17

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

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.

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

“Somebody’s Calling Our Names”

Rev. Doug Williamson

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: A LITURGY FOR LENT

*In this community of faith, all, without exception,
are welcome at God’s table.*

Call to Communion

Pastor: Let us face the music. Jesus calls us to follow him, not just to another party of praise, but to the hard work of bringing God’s love and justice into this world of violence and fear. Let us prepare ourselves by confessing our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Pastor: Source of all Life, we gather as your people, broken and regretful. All: Eternal One, we offer to you our prayer of confession.

Pastor: We like the path of life to be easy, comfortable, untroubled.

We get angry and impatient when problems arise and hardships persist.

All: Loving God, Please, forgive us.

Pastor: We like the way to be fun and happy. We do not want the hard way that Jesus takes.

All: Merciful God, please, forgive us.

Pastor: We like power on our side and miracles for our benefit.

We do not like to confront the powers that be nor to face the drudgery of everyday living.

All: Renewing God, please, forgive us.

Pastor: We want to live free of fear, confrontation and risk. We do not like to face the music.

All: Empowering God, please, forgive us.

Pastor: O Merciful One, forgive us our sins and strengthen us to be truly faithful.

All: Healing God, Help us follow Jesus and face the music.

Amen. [a brief silence is kept]

Words of Promise

Pastor: God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through faith we are forgiven and in hope are empowered for new life.

By your Spirit, O God, bless this bread and this cup that they may become for us the presence of Christ among us.

All: Shine your light and your love on the offering of our lives.

Pastor: As we recall Jesus breaking bread with his disciples on the night he was betrayed, we recall that our bread represents his body—broken in solidarity with the suffering of the world; and our cup is about a new community – with God, with each other, and with the world.’

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion

Pastor: Let us join together in prayer.

All: God of gentleness, thank you for relieving our burdens and for filling our emptiness with the Bread of Life. Create of us the living Body of Christ, that in these challenging times we might witness the power and possibility of your love and peace in our world today. Amen.

 **Hymn**

“The Summons”

#350

 **Benediction** (after which, please be seated for the postlude)

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