

The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield

United Church of Christ



March 22, 2026; 10 a.m.

REFLECT

"That which seems most feeble and bewildered in you is the strongest and most determined." —Kahlil Gibran

**FIFTH 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

A Call to Community and Our Response

Leader: The Way of Christ is the way of courage, connection, challenge and joy.

All: Lord, let us be a blessing.

Leader: The path of service and love is lined with flowers, and occasional dark twists and turns.

All: Lord, let us be a blessing.

Leader: We worship to release sorrow and worry. We praise God to gain strength and remember who we are.

All: Our spirits hunger for the presence of God. Let us worship together in truth and light!

 **Hymn**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

#358

A Unison Prayer of Awareness

Leader: Let us join together in prayer:

All: Beloved God, You have told us that your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Help us re-learn this simple lesson. Help us re-direct our lives toward lighting up the world and making the lives of others more bearable and blessed. May we include all in our circle of love and acceptance. May we re-commit our days to being a blessing for you and your glory. Let us not squander this precious gift of life. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

Leader: The lives we live, in humility and service, standing for justice, peace, and compassion will make a difference far beyond our small circles. God blesses and multiplies the love we share and the good we do. Believe, people of God, and start fresh in this holy moment.

Prayer Hymn (please feel free to remain seated)

“Come and Find the Quiet Center” #477

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

John 11:1-45

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

Sermon

Being Alive

Rev. Julie Olmsted

 **Hymn**

"He Leadeth Me"

#499

 **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