

The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield

United Church of Christ



March 29, 2026; 10 a.m.

REFLECT


**“Jesus, when you rode into Jerusalem
the people waved palms
with shouts of acclamation.**

**Grant that when the shouting dies
we may still walk beside you even to a cross. ...”**

-- A New Zealand Prayer Book—

**PALM SUNDAY
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 Prayer of Discipleship

Linda Daskowski

Leader: Blessed is the one that weeps for us and with us when we have lost our way.

All: Blessed is the one that comes towards us in majesty and humbleness, down that ancient twisted path, straight into our gated cities, our locked-up hearts.

Leader: Blessed is the one that hears our shouts of joy, then endures our chants of betrayal.

All: Blessed is the one that knows our limitations, who pours out his love for us, into us, so we can be guardians of truth, protectors of justice, architects of peace.

Leader: Hosanna in the highest!

All: Hosanna in the highest! We are inspired by Christ's passion; ready to follow in the way of discipleship.

 **Hymn**

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

#267

The Psalter (from *Psalms for Praying* by Nan C. Merrill) **Psalm 118:19-29**

Prayer Hymn (please feel free to remain seated)
"Sanna, Sannanina" ("Holy, Most Holy Lord") **#269** [sing three times]

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

Mark 11:1-11

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

A Reflection on the Gospel

Hold on to the Hosannas

Pastor: Let us stay with the Hosannas for a while; let us let them keep on ringing in our ears.

All: Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of our God!

Leader: Instead of rushing on to hear the cries that came later in the week, let us stay with the Hosannas

All: Maybe once we have heard those in a new way, we will be ready to make the rest of the journey—a journey that was hastened and given new purpose by those Hosannas.

Pastor: For those Hosannas were not simply the innocent cries of palm branch waving children:

All: Those Hosannas were the war cries of adults tired of the oppression of occupying forces. Those hosannas were the hopeful cries of a nation seeking liberation.

Leader: Those Hosannas were an investment of hope in one they thought would deliver.

All: Those Hosannas that we have sanitized over the years rang out in clear insurrection, sealing the fate of one who rode on a donkey.

Pastor: So, let us stay with the Hosannas.

All: Let us wrest them from the lips of children and allow them to ring in our ears and spew from our mouths as a call to action, a call to justice, a call to love.

Leader: Let us stay with the Hosannas,

All: even as we journey with the Christ who carried those Hosannas all the way to the cross, and ensured their fulfillment as the justice and love of God.

Let us stay with the Hosannas. 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


“Yep, These Are Mine”

Rev. Doug Williamson

 Hymn

“Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!”

#268

 **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