

*The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield*

*United Church of Christ*



**April 19, 2026; 10 a.m.**


**REFLECT**

**"Having shared our bread, we know that we are no longer hungry. It is enough that you see me for myself. That I see you for yourself. That we bless what we see and do not borrow, do not use one another. This is how we know we are no longer hungry, ... that the world is full of terror, full of beauty, and yet we are not afraid to find solace here. To be bread for one another. To love.**

**-- *Plenty*, by Gunilla Norris—**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER  
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 Gathering and Community**

**Nancy Zurawka**

Leader: Let the people assemble; God calls each one of us by name

**All: The promises of God are to us and our children, and to sisters and brothers near and far.**

Leader: We gather as a community of faith, united in mutual concern and caring.

**All: Here we break bread, learn, pray together, and join in outreach to a needy world.**

Leader: May our eyes and ears be open to the special message this hour holds for us.

**All: We will listen for God's living and abiding Word and strive to be obedient to the truth.**

Leader: Amen.

**All: Amen.**

 **Hymn**

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

**#59**

**A Reading from the Psalms**

(from *Psalms for Praying* by Nan C. Merrill)

**Psalm 116**

**A Unison Prayer in the Season of Easter**

Leader: Let us join our voices together in prayer:

**All: O God of all our days, we come this morning with eager anticipation. We seek to know you, to see you, to touch you. Open our hearts, that we might experience you anew. Open our lives, that we may be faithful witnesses to your resurrection.**

**May we, with shouts of joy, proclaim your steadfast, liberating love to all people, everywhere. Amen.**

**The Gospel**

**Luke 24:13-35**

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.*

A Litany

"This Church"

by Ann Weems

Pastor: We don't pretend to understand the mystery of what goes on in God's Church.

**All: We just know we feel a pervading spirit of love that reaches into the niches of all of us and pulls us out into the open, free and alive and belonging.**

Pastor: We believe this spirit of love exists because God's spirit lives within this Church, this unity of persons trying to be the Good News.

**All: We see this Church as a circle of persons holding hands ... and dancing, supporting each other, accepting each other, loving each other.**

Pastor: Each person in this dancing circle is facing outward, ... reaching into God's world, listening for the whimpering, watching for the hurting. Willing to offer a cup of cold water in God's name.

**All: Sometimes they need the water; sometimes you need the water; sometimes I need the water. Being a part of the Church means knowing that the cup is always filled in Christ's name. 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**

**"Ordinary Life, Be My Rock in Times of Trouble"**

**Rev. Doug Williamson**

 **Hymn**

**"How Can I Keep from Singing" (refrain follows v.4)**

**#424**

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

**Postlude**