

The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield

United Church of Christ



April 26, 2026; 10 a.m.


REFLECT

"There was not a needy person among them.' By seeing to it that the needy are cared for, the early church came to embody the Old Testament ideal (Deuteronomy 15:4). Yet by sharing goods in common, they also came to embody the Greek ideal, which held that 'for friends all things are common.' Clearly Luke is presenting the early church as the embodiment of both the Jewish and Greek ideal community in which unity and charity thrive." --Fred

Craddock--

FOURTH 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

Opening Words of Praise and Worship

Linda Daskowski

Leader: We have heard about you, God of all power. You made the world out of kindness, creating order out of confusion; you made each one of us in your own image; your fingerprint is on every soul.

All: So we praise you. We praise and worship you.

Leader: We have heard about you, Jesus Christ:

All: The carpenter who left his tools and trade; the poor man who made others rich; the healer who let himself be wounded; the criminal on whom the soldiers spat, not knowing they were fouling the face of God; the savior who died and rose again.

So we praise you. We praise and worship you.

Leader: We have heard about you, Holy Spirit.

All: You broke the bonds of every race and nation, to let God speak in every tongue; you made the disciples drunk with grace; you converted souls and emptied pockets; you showed how love made all things new and opened the doors to change and freedom. So we praise you. We praise and worship you.

 Hymn

“Great God, as We Are Gathering”

#604

 An Easter Season Affirmation of Faith

Leader: We are not alone; we live in God’s world.

All: We believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word in the flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

Leader: We trust in God.

All: We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

Leader: In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

All: We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

A Reading from the Letters of Paul

Philippians 4:8

A Second Reading from the New Testament

Acts 4:32-35

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

Prayer Hymn (please feel free to remain seated)
"Spirit of the Living God" #492

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

"Set Free to Share"

Rev. Doug Williamson

☒ **Hymn**

"Community of Christ"

#615

☒ **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.

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