

The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield

United Church of Christ




May 10, 2026; 10 a.m.

REFLECT

*The good news [of Jesus's teachings] implies ... that God should be thought of as a lover—as one who is deeply attached to you and wants to be with you, to make this love known to you, and to awaken an answering love. -- L. William Countryman, in *Good News of Jesus*--*

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER; MOTHER'S DAY
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 Worship and Ministry

Paul Andersen

Leader: We come to offer ourselves to God our Source, in worship as in daily life.

All: We seek the presence of Jesus, who beckons us each to ministry.

Leader: We open ourselves to the wind of the Spirit, who blows through our lives to change us,

All: That we may do justice, love kindness, and live humbly with the Holy One.

Leader: Let us worship the Living God,

**All: Who gives us life, who calls us to ministry, and who empowers us for holy living.
Amen.**

 **A Hymn for Eastertide**

“Gather Us In”

#649

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 41:17-20

A Prayer for Our Church and Its Ministry

Pastor: Eternal God, we offer thanksgiving and praise to you in this festive Easter season.

All: As we celebrate the passing last week of our Covenant of Welcome, we give you thanks for those who responded long ago to your call to establish this community of faith.

Leader: We acknowledge our gratitude for the continuing ministry and mission of our church through the years.

All: We thank you for all that our church has meant to its members, to those its ministry has touched, and to the communities that surround it.

Pastor: In tender memory, we rejoice at the inspiration which has been found here, **All: through the preaching of your word, through the singing of hymns to your praise, and through the sharing of life-sustaining sacraments.**

Leader: Look upon us this day with mercy. Bless us as we reconsecrate ourselves to you. Sanctify our lives and our work through this church.

All: Help us, loving God, to preserve the best of our past and to be open to new vision. May this local church long continue to be a sign of your Spirit and a witness to Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

The Gospel

John 14:15-21

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 (seated)

“Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ”

#475

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

“Cherish is the Word”

Rev. Doug Williamson

✠ **Hymn**

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

#311

✠ **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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