

The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield

United Church of Christ



May 17, 2026; 10 a.m.

REFLECT

Alleluia is not just a word, it is a way of living...

How many ways can we share 'alleluia!'?

When the bread is divided, alleluia

When the table is set, alleluia

When the hungry are fed, alleluia

When peace is celebrated, alleluia


When communities are brought together, alleluia

When neighbors love each other, alleluia

~ excerpted from an *Easter Statement of Faith* written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on
Listening to the Stones

**SEVENTH 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 Universal Call to Worship (Psalm 117)

Nancy Zurawka

Leader: Praise the Most Merciful, all nations!

Extol the Holy One, all peoples!

All: For great is the Blessed One's love towards us; The Beloved's faithfulness endures forever. Praise be to the Heart of all hearts!

 **A Hymn for Eastertide**

"Morning Has Broken"

#35

A Reading from the New Testament (NRSVUE)

1 Peter 3:13-22

An Easter Season Affirmation of Faith "God's Beloved"

Leader: In a time before all knowing, God is,

**All: and God's breath fills the emptiness, creating:
a universe, a world, an ecology, a biology and us, humankind.**

**All humankind, no exceptions, no imperfections;
and all of us beloved just as we are.**

Leader: In a time before all knowing,

**All: Christ Jesus watches the creating, and steps out into
creation: becoming, living, dying, and rising, all for us.**

**All humankind, no exceptions, no reservations;
all of us just as we are, God's beloved.**

Leader: In a time before all knowing the Spirit is,

**All: and moves through every part of creation:
consoling, interceding, leading, and refreshing all the world,
including us. All humankind, no exceptions, no differentiations;
all of us just as we are, God's beloved. Amen.**

A Reading from the New Testament (NRSVUE)

1 Peter 3:13-22

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) "Holy, Holy, Holy" (3 times) #737

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

Rev. Doug Williamson

"Blessed are Those Who are Persecuted Because of Righteousness"

☒ Hymn

"Christ is Alive"

#312

☒ 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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