

George Whitefield

United Methodist Church and

The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield

United Church of Christ

September 20, 2026; 10 a.m.



REFLECT

“The Season of Creation is a time set apart in our liturgical calendar to intentionally involve the whole community, the flourishingly hopeful and those of withering faith, to purposefully dream together how we might live into our Christian calling to build the world of God’s dream. It is important, especially for the sake of folks like me, that we do this work together, and not just focus on those who are ‘already in the choir’.”—Alydia Smith; Identity and Mission

Network Coordinator for the United Church of Canada

SEASON OF CREATION; 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Words in **bold** are to be spoken in unison.

 Please stand as you

are able.

Opening Announcements

Pastors Sandy Dam, Doug Williamson Pastoral Greeting

Prelude and Candle Lighting

Stephen Page

Opening Sentences from Our Sacred Texts

Pastor: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork. [Psalm 19:1]

All: The pastures of the wilderness overflow; the hills gird themselves with joy; the meadows clothe themselves with flocks; the valleys deck themselves with grain; they shout and sing together for joy. [Psalm 65:12-13]

Pastor: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that fills it; let the field exult and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy. [Psalm 96:11-12]

All: Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also. [Isaiah 45:8]

Pastor: This is the day the Creator has made.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Glory to the Source, Wisdom, and Breath of Creation, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

 An Opening Hymn of Praise "For the Beauty of the Earth" Insert

A Unison Prayer from Ojibwe Evening Prayer

Pastor: Let us join in one voice as we pray to our Creator God:

All: Great Spirit God, we give you thanks for another day on this earth. We give you thanks for this day to enjoy the compassionate goodness of you, our Creator. We acknowledge with one mind our respect and gratefulness to all the sacred cycle of life. Bind us together in the circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and one another. Amen.

A Responsive Psalm [Bold Text: All Speak in Unison] Psalm 65:5-13

5 God our Savior, You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds,

the hope of all the ends of the Earth and of the farthest seas,

6 who formed the mountains by your power,

having armed yourself with strength,

7 who stilled the roaring of the seas,

the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations.

8 The whole Earth is filled with awe at your wonders;
**where morning dawns, where evening fades,
you call forth songs of joy.**

9 You care for the land and water it;
you enrich it abundantly.

The streams of God are filled with water
to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.

10 You drench its furrows and level its ridges;
you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

11 You crown the year with your bounty,
and your carts overflow with abundance.

12 The grasslands of the wilderness overflow;
the hills are clothed with gladness.

13 The meadows are covered with flocks
and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.

All: Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

A Reading from the New Testament

Romans 8:19-25

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

"We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky"

Insert

(please feel free to remain seated)

Prayers of the People Sharing Concerns, Joys ~ Pastoral Prayer
~ Lord's Prayer (for the season, from New Zealand Book of Prayer)~

Pastor: We pray our common prayer that Christ taught us.

***Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name
echoes through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created brings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts
we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign
in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.***

A Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving and

Blessing of Our Offering for The Sharing Cupboard

 A Doxology

Tune: *(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.

 Pastor: Let us pray together. **All: *Creator God, source of all life and goodness, we bring before you these gifts today. You have given us this wondrous planet as our common home, filled with the beauty of fields, forests, rivers, and skies. Accept the work of our hands and the offering of our hearts. Help us to use your gifts wisely, to care for the vulnerable, and to live in harmony with all of creation. May these offerings support the health and wellness of our neighbors in this community, and bring glory to your name. Through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.***

Youth Message

Music for Reflection and Inspiration

Stephen Page

Sermon “Cherishing and Protecting the Gifts of Creation”

 A Closing Hymn “Touch the Earth Lightly”

Insert

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

Postlude