

The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield

United Church of Christ

September 27, 2026; 10 a.m.



REFLECT

"In the Season of Creation, we turn again to Christ, through whom all things were made and in whom all things hold together. In his incarnation, death, and resurrection, God's love is revealed not only for humanity but for the whole created order. To care for creation is therefore an essential expression of Christian discipleship and an integral mark of the Church's mission: to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and to sustain and renew the life of the earth. As we follow Christ, we are called to share in his reconciling work, seeking justice, healing, and hope for the earth and for all who dwell within it." --The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury—

SEASON OF CREATION; EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
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

Linda Daskowski

Leader: In the beginning, the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. And God called them good.

All: Come Holy Spirit and cleanse the waters.

Leader: The prophet saw a river flowing from the Temple, and wherever the river flowed, everything lived.

All: Come Holy Spirit and renew the face of the Earth.

Leader: Jesus cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me... Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."

All: Come, Holy Spirit and heal your people.

 A Season of Creation Hymn

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

#30

A Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Waters

Leader: Let us join our hearts and voices together in prayer:

All: Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for your love in all creation, and especially for your gift of water to sustain and cleanse all life. We rejoice that in Christ we find the living water--cleansing, refreshing, and making all things new. So now we offer our thanks for the waters that bring beauty to all that we enjoy, the wild places, the bush, the mountains, coast and the sea. We give thanks and praise for all good lands, for the trees and pastures, for our plentiful crops, and for the living water that quenches them. Amen.

A Reading from the Psalms

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16

A Community Lament over the Waters

A Community Lament over the Waters

(in Hebrew, 'ashamnu' means 'we have all been guilty')

Pastor: We look upon your waters, O God, and we grieve:

Rivers run polluted.

Oceans choke with plastic.

Marine life disappears from warming seas.

Coral reefs fade and fisheries collapse.

All: Ashamnu

Pastor: The seas rise and swallow coasts.

Storms grow stronger.

Floods destroy homes.

Drought cracks the Earth and children thirst.

All: Ashamnu

Pastor: We confess that we have not guarded your waters.

All: We have consumed water without restraint.

We have polluted what you called good.

We have forgotten that the river of life flows from your throne.

Ashamnu. Forgive us, O God.

A time of silence for personal reflection and lament

Pastor: God's mercy flows like living water. The love of God, incarnate in Jesus who spoke to troubled waters, forgives us and calms our hearts so that justice may flow to all the dry places in our lives.

All: In the name of Christ, may this grace free us to follow and proclaim the good news of the healing of all creation. Amen.

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Exodus 17:1-7

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

*"Let All Things Now Living"
(please feel free to remain seated)*

#22

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

Music for Reflection and Inspiration

Stephen Page

Sermon

"Fresh Water and Faithful Discipleship"

Rev. Doug Williamson

✠ A Closing Hymn

"For Beauty of Meadows"

#28

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

Postlude



Our Covenant of Welcome

We, the members of the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, UCC, are a people of faith, following Jesus and sharing God's abundant love, believing each of us is created in God's image.

We seek to demonstrate God's love through respect and care for one another. We celebrate and learn from differences in race, culture, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, economic and political background, and physical and cognitive challenges. We welcome those who have no church home, need strength, want to follow Christ, or are seekers in their spiritual lives. All are invited to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry and mission of this church as we strive to grow in a safe and nurturing community of faith. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

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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