

The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield

United Church of Christ



October 18, 2026; 10 a.m.

REFLECT

There is none like you O God! Such splendor and strength!

May all the earth sing to you: the families of the nations, the fish of the sea, the fields brimming with crops, and the forests filled with creatures. May your whole creation become a chorus whose song is you. May my voice join creation's chorus in praising you today.

--Prayer of Praise: Earth Chorus; by Chris Altrock, based on Psalm 96—

TWENTYFIRST 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

An Opening Prayer of Praise (from Psalm 96)

Nancy Zurawka

Leader: We are people who must sing you, for the sake of our very lives.

All: You are a God who must be sung by us, for the sake of your majesty and honor.

Leader: And so we thank you, for lyrics that push us past our reasons,

All: for melodies that break open our givens, for cadences that locate us home, beyond all our safe places, for tones and tunes that open our lives beyond control and our futures beyond despair.

Leader: We thank you for the long parade of mothers and fathers who have sung you deep and true;

All: We thank you for the good company of artists, poets, musicians, cantors, and truments that sing for us and with us, toward you. We are witnesses to your mercy and splendor; We will not keep silent... ever again. Amen

 An Opening Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

#59

A Stewardship Moment

Paul Andersen

A Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 96

Prayer Hymn

“Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life”

#403

(please feel free to remain seated)

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.

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

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** (by Ruth Duck, for Psalm 96) **Tune: # 34 (Old 100th)**

Praise Love who made all time and space.

Praise Love who came in truth and grace.

**Praise Love on humankind outpoured,
That all may love forevermore.**

A Litany of Thanksgiving (inspired by Psalm 96)

Insert

Pastor: Today we offer our thanksgiving and gratitude to the Giver of all good and perfect gifts,

All: May God be praised.

*Pastor: For the tables we share, and the bread we partake of within our communities, within
our families, and within our homes,*

All: May God be praised.

Pastor: For the hands of friendship that have been extended to us and the grace we have
received,

All: May God be praised.

Pastor: For Your continual provision in our lives,

All: May God be praised.

Pastor: For the embrace of love,

All: May God be praised.

*Pastor: For Your mercies that are new at dawn and sustain us through the day, echoing through
the night,*

All: May God be praised.

Pastor: For the gift of Your Child Jesus, his life, his teachings, his sacrificial, unconditional love.

All: May God be praised.

Pastor: For the new life that beats within us now.

**All: May God be praised. In all things, O God, we give You thanks and join with creation's
song, "Great is Yahweh, Our God, and most worthy to be praised!" We rejoice in Your love
and ask that you bless the love and gifts we share with others. Amen.**

Youth Message

Music for Reflection and Inspiration

Stephen Page

Sermon

"Worshipping A Servant God"

Rev. Doug Williamson



A Closing Hymn

"Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service"

#575



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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