

# THE FIRST CHURCH OF WEST BRIDGEWATER

United Church of Christ & Unitarian Universalist Association

**January 21, 2018      Service of Word      10:00 A.M.**

Gathering Songs      Rosemary Valentine, Organist  
Welcome      Rev. Ashton

Centering Music      “Sanctuary”  
Choral Response      “      H No. 555

Call to Worship      Robert Upton, Deacon

L: Jesus said, follow me.

**P: Let us put down our date books and follow.**

L: Jesus said, follow me.

**P: Let us lay aside our busyness and follow.**

L: Jesus said, follow me.

**P: Let us postpone our shopping trips and follow.**

L: Jesus said, follow me.

\* Hymn      “God of Grace and God of Glory”      H No. 456

Chalice Lighting      Robert Upton

Wisdom      Jesus

Jesus said: I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but have the light of life.

Christ Candle

We light this candle to affirm and promote the right of conscience in our congregation.

Prayer

**God of heaven and earth, we, who bind ourselves to this world, seek a vision beyond ourselves and our immediate circumstances.**

**Direct our thoughts toward the marvels of your creation and the vast possibilities for good that you have placed within us. Gather us to yourself and link us to one another in ways that will build up your church and empower our service. In Jesus’ name we pray.**

**Amen.**

Time of Reconciliation

Invitation      “Create in Me a Clean Heart”      H No. 414

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, forgive us our certainty that our thoughts, attitudes, opinions, perspectives, feelings, and way of loving is the same as yours. Calling Spirit, save us from ourselves by turning our hearts and minds toward you and instilling in us a desire to follow in the way of Jesus.**

Assurance      “Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus”      H No. 146

Scripture      Psalm 62      H No. 643

(Choir sings choral response . . . Leader reads odd verses. . . congregation reads even verses)

Pastoral Prayers      “Cares Chorus”

*I cast all my cares upon you; I lay all my burdens down at your feet and anytime that I don’t know what to do; I cast all my cares upon you.*

**R: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer**

Merciful God, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love:

We pray for all those who are in need of healing in mind, body, spirit, and soul \_\_\_\_\_ **R**

We pray for those who have died \_\_\_\_\_ **R**

We remember those who suffer from abuse, oppression, war, injustice, and violence \_\_\_\_\_. We ask

that the peace of Christ enter every heart that God’s

goodwill be realized on earth \_\_\_\_\_ **R**

We rejoice with those who rejoice \_\_\_\_\_ **R**

May our church ministries of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ be a blessing to you. **R**

We are mindful of those who are unable to gather in communities of faith on your Sabbath, those in need of travel mercies, and families that gather today. Bless and keep them \_\_\_\_\_ **R**

Silent prayer . . . Lord’s Prayer . . . “Eagle’s Wings” chorus, H No. 385

Scripture      Mark 1:14-20      (Pew Bible Pg. 968)

Sermon      “Looking to Jesus”      Rev. Ashton

Hymn      “Trust and Obey”      H No. 368

## Thank Offerings

Invitation Deacon  
Anthem Choir  
\*Doxology H No. 563  
\*Offering Prayer

Covenant Rite of Membership

\* Hymn "Lord of the Dance" H No. 163

\* Benediction First Church President

L: The Light has splintered our darkness.

**P: God has called us to dance.**

L: We go forth to answer with our lives.

\* Congregational Response "We Are Marching" H No. 153

\* Postlude Rosemary Valentine, Organist

On Sunday, January 14, we collected \$1,571.00 towards meeting our weekly budget need of \$1,451.00.

The Mission and Outreach Committee reminds you to please bring in your food donations, on any Sunday, to help stock the shelves of the W.B. Food Pantry.

**Thank You....** Many thanks for all the phone calls, cards and support during my recent hip surgery. Your thoughts and prayers are sincerely appreciated.

Bob Chisholm

Please be sure to pick up your *Annual Report* today before leaving church so that you will have it for the **Annual meeting** which will be held **next Sunday**, January 28, at 11:30 a.m.

Our next *Newsletter* will be published in February! All committees please submit your "committee news" to Jane Hatch by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

A new flower calendar has been posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

A note from **Horizons for Homeless Children**... Start off the new year by doing something good. Volunteer to play with homeless children at a Horizons for Homeless Children Playspace in one of more than 90 family shelters. We have a high need for volunteers in Brockton & Stoughton. A commitment of 2 hours a week for 6 months and training are required. Upcoming volunteer training: Tuesday, February 6, 6 until 9 p.m., Brockton, MA. To find out more, view other training dates, or to apply, call 508-510-3250 or visit [horizonschildren.org/playspace](http://horizonschildren.org/playspace).

## THE FIRST CHURCH OF WEST BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

Est. 1651



**"We the members of The First Church of West Bridgewater united by the love of one another and guided by the teachings of Jesus, hold it to be our purpose to maintain a welcoming house for the worship of God; to teach and study the lessons of our faith, to develop programs for those in need; and to sponsor fellowship opportunities. All this we support in order to build a mutually sustaining and caring community of faith."**