

THE FIRST CHURCH OF WEST BRIDGEWATER

United Church of Christ & Unitarian Universalist Association

February 18, 2018 Service of Word 10:00 A.M.

Gathering Songs Rosemary Valentine, Organist
Welcome Rev. Ashton

Centering Music “Oh, How He Loves You and Me”
Choral Response “ H No. 335

Call to Worship
L: We live in a wilderness of temptation,
P: But we know one who understands human temptation,
L: Who wrestled, but did not yield,
P: Who showed us the way to stand firm.
L: Let us stand with him, then, in the time of trial.

* Hymn “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” H No. 7

Chalice Lighting
Wisdom Daniel Schowalter
“The greatest battle of most Christians will ever fight is within themselves: a battle between self-interest and God’s interests.”
We’re in a war of sorts, caught between the call of God and the demands of a world that rewards “self-promotion,” not weakness or humility.

Lighting
We light this candle to fan into flame the transforming power of God’s love among us.

Prayer
God of saving acts in human history, and lively promises for future fulfillment, equip us in this hour of worship to live fully in the present. Make your ways known to us and teach us your truth. Lead us in the way you would have us go. Be patient with us, we pray, for we are trying to be faithful. Amen.

Time of Reconciliation

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

Prayer of Confession
Creating God, still Center of the World you have made, we come to you in this season of turning and returning. We do not know how to seek you with our whole hearts, but we know you are our source and destiny. In the midst of life, we return to you, we turn toward you. We thank you that you receive even the broken heart, the troubled conscience, the conflicted spirit. Seeking you in secret, may we turn around to honor you among humanity through Jesus, our pathway to you. Amen.

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

Scripture Genesis 9:8-17 (Pew Bible Pg. 8)

Scripture Psalm 25:1-9 H No. 606
(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.

Today’s flowers are given by Jill and Tim Hay

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 1:9-15 (Pew Bible pg. 968)

Sermon *“Keeping Tethered to God”* Rev. Ashton

Hymn “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” H No. 408

Thank Offerings

Invitation Mathew Pratt, Deacon
Anthem Choir
*Doxology H No. 563
*Offering Prayer

Covenant

* Hymn “God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale” H No. 32

* Benediction First Church President

L: From the dawning of creation,
P: You have loved us as your own,
L: Stay with us through all temptations,
P: Make us turn to you alone.

* Congregational Response “Go Now in Peace”
**Go now in peace, never be afraid,
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true,
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe,
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above,
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

* Postlude Rosemary Valentine, Organist

On Sunday, February 11, we collected \$ 960.00 towards meeting our weekly budget need of \$1,451.00.

The Mission and Outreach Committee has named the month of February as “Soups and Stews” month. Please bring in your donations on any Sunday to help stock the shelves of the W.B. Food Pantry.

Thank you for all the donations to the *bake sale*. We made \$206.50 to buy food for the W.B. Food Pantry. Thank you for all your support. The Sunday School.

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.”