

It's Saturday



Let's Do Church!

WEST PARISH OF BARNSTABLE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 22, 2025

4:30 p.m.

An Open Invitation
The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?'⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Luke 13:6-9

BE THE CHURCH

Fight for the powerless.

OUR STATEMENT OF WELCOME

We are:

PROGRESSIVELY UNTRADITIONAL: 21st century minds in a 1717 Meetinghouse!

Embrace diversity.

JOYOUSLY INCLUSIVE: Radically open and affirming, all ages, races, gender, and sexual orientation, everyone is welcome exactly as you are.

EXPRESSLY “ON THE WAY”: Faith is a journey. Journey with us!

COMMITTEDLY IN THE COMMUNITY: In helping others, we become our true selves.

GOD GATHERS US



*OPENING SONG

In the Bulb There is a Flower

493 Green

**In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow in winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

WELCOME

Pastor Christie

One: Welcome home, whether this is your first visit, or you have been here for years. Here at West Parish, no matter who you are, and no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. We are glad you are here with us today whether you are joining us online or in person. Hello, I'm Pastor Christie, and here is Pastor Reed, and we have Steve Gregory as our director of music with the band, AND TOGETHER WE ARE

All: ONE diverse community

Growing up in faith

Reaching out in love.

One: It is good when God's people are together here, and so we can rejoice, because,

All: It's Saturday, Let's Do Church!



CALL TO WORSHIP

God has called us—we have responded.

Some of us sing a joyful hallelujah,

Others give quiet thanks to God.

Some of us seek God's ways in the activities of our lives.

Others seek God's ways in contemplation and prayer.

Whatever our choice, wherever we go, God is with us.

UNISON PRAYER

Beginner of all things, begin in us again: take these tired limbs and rouse them to dance your joy from sunbreak to sundown. Amen.

Forgive often.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (we will sing this in echo fashion)

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 all our sins...

And lead us not... into temptation... but deliver us from evil.

Unison:

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory

Echo:

Forever..... and ever....

Our Father... who art in Heaven... hallowed be thy name.

A TIME OF PRAYER



A TIME FOR CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

A SONG OF PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS

We now accept Venmo, the QR code and instructions are on page 10.

Care for the poor.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

**THE BREAD OF LIFE
AND THE CUP OF NEW BEGINNINGS
ARE SHARED**



Our service of communion is open to all seeking Christ's presence.
Whether children receive the elements we leave to their parents' discretion.

We shall be receiving communion by the ancient practice of intinction.

Come forward, take a piece of the bread, dip it in the cup,
and consume it on the way back to your seat.

We offer a communion cup and wafer system of cranberry juice and cracker.

INVITATION

Giver of all life, Source of love.

With your breath, you formed all that we are and all that is beyond us; the heavens tell
your glory.

Through fear-filled days and aching nights when the powers of death have done their best
to make us fear, you respond with love.

A RESPONSIVE AFFIRMATION

I believe that bread comes from grain
that grows in the wind
and the rain
with the farmers' help
far from the eyes of city folk.

**I believe that bread comes from love
the love of God
the love of the farmer
the love of the baker's hands
the love of those who bring it to me.**

I believe that bread can be
and should be broken
and shared
and given to all persons
until all have enough
and then some.

**I believe that Jesus loved bread
and took it
and broke it
and blessed it
and fed his disciples
and asked them to feed us forever.**

I believe enough in bread
to want it from Jesus
to want it to nurture me
to want his life through it
to want to give life through it.

**Many: I believe that his body as bread feeds me
and as part of his body
I want to be bread for others.
I believe the Spirit will help me
as well Jesus' people. Amen.**

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Eternal God, we thank you that you have called your people from east and west, and north and south, to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. Keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure – that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED



SPECIAL SONG

Sing a Song

Maurice White



SACRED WORDS FOR SACRED SPACE

Luke 13:1-9

MEDITATION

An Open Invitation

Rev. Christie Burns

GOD SENDS US FORTH



CLOSING SONG

Glory be to God on High

35 Green

**Glory be to God on high, Alleluia!
Let the whole creation cry, Alleluia!
Peace and blessing God has given, Alleluia!
Earth repeat the songs of heaven, Alleluia!**

**Creatures of the field and flood, Alleluia!
Earth and sea cry "God is good," Alleluia!
Toiling pilgrims raise the song, Alleluia!
Saints in light the strain prolong, Alleluia!**

**Stars that have no voice to raise, Alleluia!
Give to God their radiant praise, Alleluia!
Silent powers and angels' song, Alleluia!
All unto our God belong, Alleluia!**

WORDS OF SENDING



Love God.

SONG OF SENDING

Go In Peace

Sam Baker

**Go in peace
Go in kindness
Go in love
Go in faith
Leave the day
The day behind us
Day is done
Go in grace
Let us go
Into the dark
Not afraid
Not alone
Let us hope
By some good pleasure
Safely to
Arrive at home
Let us hope
By some good pleasure
Safely to
Arrive at home.**

WE ARE GLAD YOU WORSHIPPED WITH US TODAY!

All people, young and old and in-between, are lifted up wherever they are on the journey.
We look forward to worshipping with you again soon!
Pastors Christie Burns and Reed Baer

“Saturday School” is underway, a special class for our youngsters, held over in Jenkins Hall, led by Pastor Reed and an adult lay teacher/volunteer, during the last 20 minutes of the service. Interested in joining in as a teacher or an extra pair of hands, speak to Reed after church.

Would you like to play in the Saturday Band? Contact Steve G.



by recycling this bulletin.

Need to get connected? Wi-Fi: Meetinghouse **Password:** 1717Rooster

Venmo @WestParish or scan the QR code.



venmo

To make a donation, simply scan the QR code with your phone's camera or search “@WestParish” on the Venmo app.

Be sure you select “West Parish of Barnstable” under the charity profiles.

If you would like your donation to go toward something specific like “Deacons”, note that in the description.

Church Staff

Reed Baer, Pastor and Teacher
Paula King, Music Director
Susan Moeller, Council Chair
Chris Haven, Sexton

Christine Burns, Associate Pastor
Susan McEwen, Office Administrator
Bobbie Jordan, Deacons Chair
Alycia Williams, Family School Director

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The Week March 22, 2025

Saturday	3/22/25	4:30 pm	Worship
Sunday	3/23/25	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship AA (J)
Monday	3/24/25	10:15 am 5:00 pm	FS Classes (J) AA (J)
Tuesday	3/25/25	9:15 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 4:30 pm 5:00 pm	FS Science (G) Christie's Coffee Hours at Nirvana Choir Rehearsal (J) Bell Choir (M) AA (J)
Wednesday	3/26/25	9:15 am 12:00 pm 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) Bible Study (G & Z) AA (J)
Thursday	3/27/25	5:00 pm	AA (J)
Friday	3/28/25	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Knitting Group (G) AA (J)
Saturday	3/29/25	4:30 pm	Worship

Key: FS = Family School; G = Guild Room; J = Jenkins Hall; M = Meetinghouse; Z = Zoom

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment.

Care for the poor.

Forgive often.

Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

Love God.

Enjoy this life.

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

