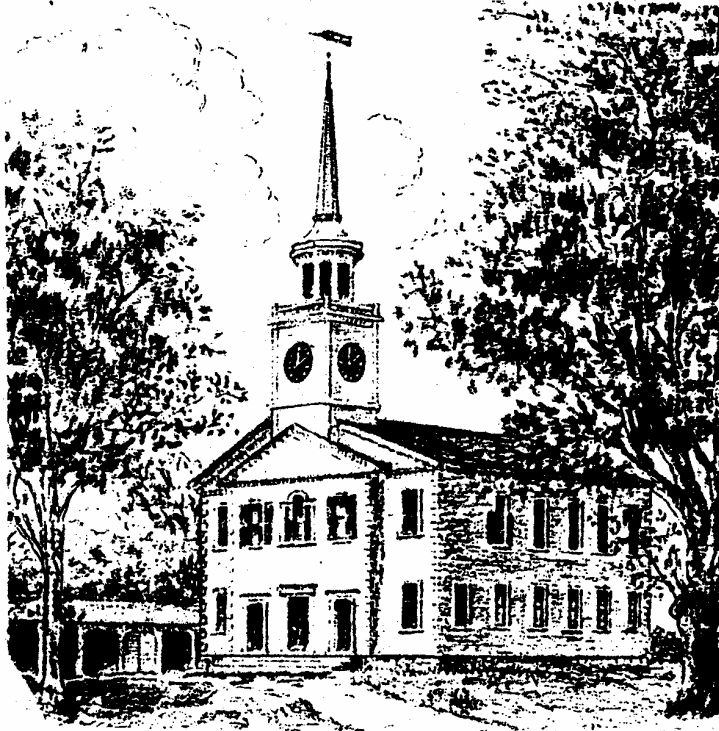


**THE FIRST CHURCH  
OF  
WEST BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS**

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Est. 1651



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**“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.”**

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Gathering Songs Rosemary Valentine

Welcome Rev. Ashton

Centering Music Rosemary Valentine

Choral Response “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” H No. 571

Call to Worship Cameron Hay

L: As people of faith, we are called above all to celebrate God.

**P: We celebrate God revealed in the creation.**

L: We celebrate what we trust, God-with-us in Jesus;

**P: We celebrate what we experience, God’s Spirit moving among people, reconciling, and liberating.**

L: We celebrate what we hope for, God’s commonwealth of justice and love.

**P: And beyond all these, we celebrate the mystery of grace and generosity at the heart of life.**

L: Let us worship God.

Chalice Lighting Cameron Hay

We light this candle to honor the free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

Opening Unison Prayer Cameron Hay

We come before You, gracious God, seeking what money cannot buy. Only you can provide nourishment for our souls. There is no other source of meaning in our mixed-up world. We can find no fountain of strength or sustenance apart from you. Surely you can be found where two or three are gathered together. As a community of faith, we call on you, believing that you are nearer than our next breath, more available to us than we can think, more caring than we can ever imagine. Uphold us now that we may worship on wings of joy. Amen.

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

Scripture Isaiah 55:1-9 (Pew Bible Pg. 718-719)

## Litany of Confession

L: Sometimes the pages won't turn in the book of our dreams, and we are left clinging to a life we never lived . . . just wanted to.

**P: Stuck in the stark reality of unlived dreams, we sniffle and tread water,**

L: Or go in search of the Holy One who will wipe the tears from our eye and offer to us the only dream that lives.

**P: Covenantal God, forgive us for not turning toward You. Amen.**

Response "Sanctuary" H No. 555

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true; with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.*

Scripture Psalm 63 H No. 644

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.*

*We pray for those in need of healing in mind, body, spirit and soul.*

Allan, Frederick Baker, Joe Bulu, Bill Ellison, Michele English, Helen Golder, Joan Green, Dawna Hanson, Jeanette, Cathy Kelley, Margaret Kazium, Hailey Marie Loughren, Jane and Charles Lovell, Karissa Manning, Maureen, Jenna Rose Pratt, Nancy Preston, Morgan Rasnick, Sue & Family, Ruth Snow, Warren Turner

*We are mindful of those who have died . . .*

*We remember. . . Adam and Rob. Virginia Chase, Barbara Ginn, Marietta Kent, Phylis Kierstead*

*We rejoice. . .*

*We pray for peace and goodwill. . .*

Silent Prayer ... *The Lord's Prayer*

"Eagle's Wings"

*God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.*

Scripture Luke 13:1-9 (Pew Bible Pg. 110-111)

\* Hymn "For Those Tears I Died" H No. 315

Sermon "What Was I Thinking!?" Rev. Ashton

## Offertory

Invitation Jenny Williams, Deacon  
Remember the words of Jesus how he said it more blessed to give than to receive.

Anthem "Jesus, Name above all Names" Choir

\* Doxology Verse 1: H No. 562

Verse 2: tune of H No. 562

*O God, may we who bear your name, by your gentle love proclaim, Christ's gift of peace on earth declare, and your anointing Spirit share.*

Affirmation of Faith Sacrament of Communion

**We thank you, God for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives. Amen.**

\* Hymn "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" H No. 536

\* Benediction First Church President

L: Christ's food in our souls, our food shared like his.

**P: Christ's life in our hands, our lives shaped by his.**

L: Christ's love in our hearts, our love warmed through his.

**P: Christ's peace in our path, our path following his.**

L: Go, then in peace,

**P: Boldly serving God, who is with us, in us, all around us. Amen.**

\* Blessing Rev. Ashton

The blessing of God: Starmaker, Friendmaker, Wisdom maker, make and remake you in the image of God.

\* Congregational Response "Let There Be Peace" H No. 308

\* Postlude Rosemary Valentine

*Whether you are a guest, friend, or member, we're delighted that you are here. In this bulletin \* marks the time when you are invited to stand as you are able.*

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Last Sunday, February 28, we collected \$1,662.50  
towards meeting our weekly budget need of \$1,451.00

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