



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP *with UCC Westerly*

September 27, 2020 @ 9:45am*
In-person worship
broadcast live from our sanctuary

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Gathering Music – “*The Lord Is Here Today*”
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Pastor’s Welcome

Prelude – “*Let Us Break Bread*”

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Deacon’s Greeting

CALL TO WORSHIP [adapted from *The United Methodist Hymnal*, p. 877]

New every morning is your love, great God of light, and all day long you are working for good in the world. Stir up in us the desire to serve you, to live peacefully with our neighbors, and to devote each day to learning more of your vision for this world and how we may do our part to make it so.

Opening Song – “*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*” (#133, The UM Hymnal/“blue” hymnal)

[WORDS: Elisha A. Hoffman & MUSIC: Anthony J. Showalter, © Public Domain]

1. *What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Refrain: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.*
2. *O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting
arms. Refrain*
3. *What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms? I
have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Refrain*

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION [adapted from *The United Methodist Hymnal*, #360]

Gracious God, make us sensitive to all the evidences of your goodness in these days which seem so fraught with anxiety and fear. May we, trusting in you, free ourselves of the terror of evil and the unknown, that we may reclaim your gift of freedom to live intensely and happily the lives you have given us. Help us to live each moment grounded in our trust in you. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Morning Message

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Matthew 7:7-14

Rev. Ruth

Musical Meditation – “Psalm 103: Bless the Lord”

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A TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayers

Silent Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer in whatever words are most comfortable for you

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

Acknowledgement of Gifts & Offerings*

*Doxology “Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.”

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CLOSING SONG -- “God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens” (#150, “Blue” hymnal)

[WORDS: Catherine Cameron & MUSIC: William Moore, © 1967 Hope Publishing. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE#A-734569]

1. *God, who stretched the spangled heavens, infinite in time and place
Flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space,
We your children, in your likeness, share inventive powers with you
Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.*
2. *Proudly rise our modern cities, stately buildings, row on row;
Yet their windows, blank, unfeeling, stare on canyoned streets below,
Where the lonely drift unnoticed in the city’s ebb and flow,
Lost to purpose and to meaning, scarcely caring where they go.*
3. *As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew,
children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor well begun.
Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION

[adapted from *The United Methodist Hymnal*, p. 869]

Bear witness to the love of God in this world, so that those to whom love is a stranger will find in you generous friends. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, this day and forever more.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Postlude – “At Length There Dawns the Glorious Day”

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Points for Reflection

Welcome to my Fall Sermon Series on hymns and how they inform and deepen our faith. Each week, you are invited to read through the week's focus scripture and reflect on some questions intended to guide your thoughts on that text. Then, you will be invited to consider how the biblical text connects with the hymn's verses.

This week's text: Matthew 7:7-14 (see page 4 of Resource)

- Who is speaking this text? HINT: Check out Matthew 5:1-2 to find out.
- Who are these words directed to? See HINT above.
- What lesson is being taught in this text? Why? How might this lesson be applicable in what is happening in the world around us right now?
- The word "trust" does not appear in this text but it's central importance to faith is inherent throughout. In which sentence do you "see" trust being taught?
- Which line of the hymn do you think captures the essence of this biblical text?

If you would like a copy of my sermon for this week, kindly contact me or Carol in the office and we will send you a copy with next week's Weekly Update.

Matthew 7:7-14

'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.

'Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.'