



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP *with UCC Westerly*

September 13, 2020 @ 9:45am*
**Broadcast live from our sanctuary
as we return to in-person worship!**

□ This Worship Resource is intended for your use whether you are joining us for in-person worship or joining us via Facebook Live, or just using this resource on your own. *We will return to our 9:30am start time

when we are able to resume in-person worship without *any* Covid restrictions.

□ You **MUST** make a reservation prior to 9am on Sunday to attend worship. Reservations may be made up until 9am on Sunday morning by calling the church office, 860-599-1226. Do note that our worship capacity is 35 people, in addition to the people with us for worship leadership. We will not be able to admit anyone else once we reach 35.

□ *Prayer requests* should be sent into Rev. Ruth prior to Sunday @ 9am.

□ If you are joining us from home, you can access the service through the church Facebook page, @UCC Westerly, or the church website www.uccwesterly.org where you can click on the Facebook symbol to be connected with the service.

□ Beginning this week, this Resource will **NOT** include a sermon. Rather, it will include some questions for you to use in reflecting on the Scripture text and the featured hymn on your own. If you would like a copy of the sermon, kindly request one from me directly via phone or email OR through Carol in the office. Thank you!

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Light your candle as a reminder of God's presence with you

Gathering Music – “Immortal, Invisible”

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CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 100: 1-4*

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands! Serve the Lord with Gladness! Come into God's presence with singing! Know that the Lord, who made us, is God. We are the Lord's; we are the people of God, the sheep of God's pasture. Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise!

Opening Song – “When in Our Music God Is Glorified”

[WORDS: Fred Pratt Green & MUSIC: Charles Villiers Stanford, ©1972 Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE#A-734569]

1. *When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole creation cried Alleluia!*

2. *How often, making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound, as worship moved us to a more profound Allelulia!*
3. *So has the church in liturgy and song, in faith and love, through centuries of wrong, borne witness to the truth in every tongue, Allelulia!*
4. *Let instrument be turned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise! And may God give us faith to sing always, Allelulia!*

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION --

[adapted from *Touch Holiness*, Duck & Tirabassi, Eds., p. 112]

God of Abraham and Sarah, God of Jesus Christ, God of our mothers and fathers, God of our children and grandchildren, we give thanks that you are a God who acts in history. Yet we admit that we are often too busy with our own lives to perceive you at work in our time. We fall into fear and despair about our troubled world, as if you had no care for us. Forgive our lack of faith and help us to join you as you labor to bring new life on earth. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Morning Message

When in Our Music God is Glorified

1 Samuel 16:14-23

Rev. Ruth

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 – "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

[WORDS: Christian Henry Bateman & MUSIC: Benjamin Carr; Austin C. Lovelace ©1964 Abingdon Press. , All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE#A-734569]

1. *Come, Christians, join to sing: Allelulia! Amen!
Loud praises to Christ our King: Allelulia! Amen.
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
Praise is his gracious choice. Allelulia! Amen!*
2. *Come, lift your hearts on high: Allelulia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky: Allelulia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;
His love shall never end; Allelulia! Amen!*
3. *Praise yet the Lord again: Allelulia! Amen!*

*Life shall not end the strain: Allelulia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore: Allelulia! Amen!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION

[adapted from *Touch Holiness*, Duck & Tirabassi, Eds., p. 243]

God sends you forth from this church that is both gathered and scattered to be ambassadors for Christ. God looks for anyone who will lift instead of lean, help instead of hinder. Go to claim a corner of the world for God and may God's spirit go with you and abide with you, always. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Music as the Service ends – “Allegro con Brio”

[Music: Charles John Gray, Copyright is in the Public Domain.]

Points for Reflection

This is the first Sunday of 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: 1 Samuel 16:14-23 (see page 4 of Resource)

- ☐ Who is this text about? What is their relationship?
- ☐ What is the context of this story? What has happened before this story begins? Check out verse 14 if you are not sure.
- ☐ How is music featured in this story? Who is the musician and what does his musical talent allow him to accomplish?
- ☐ How does this story about the soothing power of music connect with the focus hymn for today – “When in Our Music God Is Glorified”?
- ☐ Which line of the hymn do you think captures the essence of this biblical story?

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.

1 Samuel 16:14-23

Now the spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him. And Saul's servants said to him, 'See now, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you. Let our lord now command the servants who attend you to look for someone who is skillful in playing the lyre; and when the evil spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will feel better.' So Saul said to his servants, 'Provide for me someone who can play well, and bring him to me.' One of the young men answered, 'I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a warrior, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence; and the LORD is with him.' So Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, 'Send me your son David who is with the sheep.' Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a kid, and sent them by his son David to Saul. And David came to Saul, and entered his service. Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer. Saul sent to Jesse, saying, 'Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight.' And whenever the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand, and Saul would be relieved and feel better, and the evil spirit would depart from him.