



## **SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP** *with UCC Westerly*

**November 8, 2020 @ 9:45am\***  
**Virtual worship**  
**broadcast live from our sanctuary**

*Please note that spiking Coronavirus infection rates and changing guidance from CT have caused our Pandemic Response Team to make the difficult decision to return to only virtual online worship*

*effective immediately. We will return to limited in person worship when guidance from CT again makes it feasible.*

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### **Gathering Music -- “Don’t Deny the Lord”**

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### **PASTOR’S WELCOME**

#### **Prelude – “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”**

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### **DEACON’S GREETING**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP -** [taken from *The New Century Hymnal*, ©1995, The Pilgrim Press, #824]

Beautiful are the works of God! Beautiful are the skins of God’s people! Beautiful is the mind of God! Beautiful also are the hopes of God’s people! Beautiful is the heart of God! Beautiful also are the souls of God’s people! God made the heavens and the earth! To God be the glory for the things God has done.

#### **OPENING SONG – “In the Midst of New Directions”**

[WORDS & MUSIC: Julian Rush, ©1994, *The New Century Hymnal*, The Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE#A-734569]

- 1. In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,  
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?  
Refrain: God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, We  
your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever  
more.*
- 2. Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,  
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?  
Refrain*
- 3. As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,  
Grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams.  
Refrain*

4. *Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,  
May your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.*  
Refrain

**UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION** – The Prayer of St. Ingatius of Loyola  
[taken from *The United Methodist Hymnal*, ©1990, The United Methodist Publishing House, #570]

**Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not count the cost; to fight and not heed the wounds; to toil and not seek for rest; to labor and not ask for any reward, except that of knowing we do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Exodus 13:17-22**

**Morning Message** *In the Midst of New Dimensions*

Rev. Ruth

**Musical Meditation** – “*Chorale and Amen*”

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**A TIME OF PRAYER**

Pastoral Prayer & 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 of Grace and God of Glory*”

[WORDS: Harry Emerson Fosdick & MUSIC: John Hughes, ©Public Domain]

1. *God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;  
Crown thine ancient church’s story; bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.*
2. *Cure thy children’s warring madness, bend our pride to thy control; shame our  
wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom’s goal,  
lest we miss thy kingdom’s goal.*
3. *Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for thy salvation be our glory ever more.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,  
Serving thee whom we adore.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION**

[from *Touch Holiness*, Duck & Tirabassi, Eds., ©1990, The Pilgrim Press]

The way is long, let us go together. The way is difficult, let us help each other. The way is joyful, let us share it. The way is Christ's, for Christ is the way, let us follow. The way is open before us, let us go: with the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

### **Postlude – “Chorale Postlude”**

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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: Exodus 13:17-22 (see below)

- This story is part of the great story of the escape of God's people from slavery in Egypt. Moses was their deliverer, but this story is a description of a new kind of deity, of a God who is active in history. How is God active in this story? What does God do?
- How was God present to the people? Why did God do what God did?
- How do you imagine the people reacted to God's direction in this way?
- 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 on Monday. Please indicate if you would prefer a paper copy by regular mail or if a digital copy sent by email is satisfactory.*

## **Exodus 13:17-22**

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was nearer; for God thought, 'If the people face war, they may change their minds and return to Egypt.' So God led the people by the roundabout way of the wilderness towards the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of the land of Egypt prepared for battle. And Moses took with him the bones of Joseph, who had required a solemn oath of the Israelites, saying, 'God will surely take notice of you, and then you must carry my bones with you from here.' They set out from Succoth, and

camped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. The LORD went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.