



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP *with UCC Westerly*

November 15, 2020 @ 9:45am*
Virtual worship
broadcast live from our sanctuary
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

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 -- “Every Drop of Rain”

[WORDS & MUSIC: Doug Brummund, ©2020 B.R. Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.]

PASTOR’S WELCOME

Prelude – “Meditation on Crusader Hymn”

[MUSIC: Gordon Young, ©1968 Hope Publishing Co., Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE#A-734569]

DEACON’S GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP –

[taken from *Touch Holiness*, Duck & Tirabassi, Eds., ©1990, The Pilgrim Press, p. 97]

May the peace of God rest upon your busy lives so that you may be quieted into prayer. May the love of God flow through your worship words that they may be alive with opportunities for service. May the grace of God seek out your every need and may the restless gospel set your hearts afire. Amen and amen.

OPENING SONG – “God of the Ages”

[WORDS: Daniel C. Roberts & MUSIC: George W. Warren, ©Public Domain]

1. *God of the ages, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty
All the starry band of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
Our grateful songs before thy throne arise.*

2. *Thy love divine hath led us in the past; in this free land
With thee our lot is cast; be thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay
Thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.*

3. *From war’s alarms, from deadly pestilence, be thy strong arm
Our ever sure defense; thy true religion in our hearts increase;
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.*

4. *Refresh thy people on thy toilsome way; lead us from night
To never ending day; fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.*

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION –

[taken from *Touch Holiness*, Duck & Tirabassi, Eds., ©1990, The Pilgrim Press, p. 123]

Holy God, blessed and wise, you teach us the wisdom of work and the blessing of generosity. Grant us, who are called Christian, teachable spirits that we may remain loyal to you; courage that we may risk a new venture of love; and dignity that we may recognize your image in all people and so bring honor to the name of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 139:1-12

Morning Message

God of the Ages

Rev. Ruth

Musical Meditation – “And Can It Be”

[WORDS: Charles Wesley & MUSIC: Thomas Campbell, ©Public Domain]

A TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayer & Silent Prayers

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

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

Blessing of the Pledges for 2021

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.”*

[WORDS & MUSIC ©2013 Public Domain]

CLOSING SONG -- “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant”

[WORDS & MUSIC: Richard Gillard, arrang. Betty Carr Pilkington, ©1995, The Pilgrim Press, All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE#A-734569]

1. *Won’t you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.*
2. *We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.*
3. *I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shadow of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.*
4. *I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I’ll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow til we’ve seen this journey through.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION

[from *Touch Holiness*, Duck & Tirabassi, Eds., ©1990, The Pilgrim Press, p. 241]

There are, in our day, so many people who “cannot find God.” And I tell you: that God is in our future calling us; that God is in our past forgiving us; that God is the present loving us. There is no greater blessing. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Postlude – “Celebration”

[MUSIC: Lani Smith, ©2003 Hope Publishing Co., Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE#A-734569]

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: Psalm 139:1-12 (see below)

- This psalm describes what it means to know that we are, each of us, truly and completely known by God. How do you feel when you think about what it means for God to know *you* completely?
- In what ways does the psalm reveal how God knows each of us?
- This psalm is very clear in saying that we mere mortals can never escape God and God knowing everything about us? Is this a comforting thought or not? If not, why not? If it is, why is it? Could it be a mixture of both?
- 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.

Psalm 139:1-12

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.
Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
[continued on page 4]

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night',
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.