



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP *with UCC Westerly during Epiphanytide*

January 17, 2021 @ 9:45am
Broadcast live from our sanctuary

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

PASTOR'S WELCOME

Prelude — *“Be Lifted Up”*

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CALL TO WORSHIP —

[adapted from THE IONA PRAYERBOOK, Peter W. Millar, Ed. ©1998, Canterbury Press, UK. All rights reserved.]

Christ, the healer, we gather here to give you thanks for places of healing all over the world. Places where we can be still and discover afresh the wonder and immensity of your love. We give you thanks for this time to come together, when so much death and heartache has touched members and friends of our church family, so that we may comfort one another in these moments of loss. We come to hear God's word of hope to drive away our despair even as we rest in God's healing presence. Come, Sweet Jesus, come into our midst this day.

OPENING SONG — *“Abide with Me”*

[WORDS: Henry F. Lyte & MUSIC: W. H. Monk, © Public Domain]

- 1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide; the darkness deepens;
Lord with me abide. When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*
- 2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; earth's joys grow dim;
Its glories pass away; change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changes not, abide with me.*
- 3. I need thy presence every passing hour. What but thy grace
Can foil the tempter's power? Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.*
- 4. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless; ills have no weight,
And tears no bitterness. Where is death's sting?
Where grave thy victory? I triumph still, if thou abide with me.*

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

[adapted from THE IONA PRAYERBOOK, Peter W. Millar, Ed. ©1998, Canterbury Press, UK. All rights reserved.]

Healer of Galilee, you come, again and again, to permeate our human condition; to take upon yourself all that hurts us. Again in this moment you accompany us when our hearts are aching, our minds are confused, our confidence is lagging, our worries overwhelm, our faith falters, our relationships strain, and when in our loneliness we move beyond tears. Still, we trust that we are never closer to you than in these moments when we feel so lost and alone. Hold us tightly, Merciful God, especially in these days. Amen.

THE MORNING MESSAGE –

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23 & Psalm 139:1-12

Message – “The Valley of the Shadow of Death”

Rev. Ruth

Meditation Music – “Amazing Grace”

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A TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayer & Silent Prayers

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

Musical response

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 – “Hymn of Promise”

[WORDS & MUSIC: Natalie Sleeth, ©1986, Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE#A-734569]

- 1. In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*
- 2. There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There’s a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*
- 3. In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt, there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION

[Author Unknown]

May the God of peace be with you, stilling the heart that hammers with fear and doubt and confusion. And may the warm mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious. May the blessing of peace be on you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE – “Glory to Our God and King”

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## **PSALM 23**

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death, I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.

## **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?  
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.

*To request a copy of today's sermon be sent to you, kindly contact Carol in the office @ 860-599-1226 or [uccwesterly@gmail.com](mailto:uccwesterly@gmail.com).*