



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP *with UCC Westerly during Epiphanytide*

January 24, 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 – “Canto”

[MUSIC: Gary Davidson, ©2001 Lorenz Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE#A-734569]

CALL TO WORSHIP –

[adapted from THE IONA PRAYERBOOK, Peter W. Millar, Ed. ©1998, Canterbury Press, UK. All rights reserved.]
Spirit of the Living Christ, we thirst for your presence; the wondering in our mind, the longings in our heart; truly, our souls are restless. Yet you understand, and it is your healing acceptance which enfolds us as we gather this morning, together in heart and mind though scattered in physical locations. We give you thanks for this time of sacredness and peace in our lives each week.

OPENING SONG – Gather Us In

[WORDS & MUSIC: Marty Haugen ©1982 GIA Publications. *Worship & Rejoice* #649. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE#A-734569]

- 1. Here in this place, the new light is streaming, shadows of doubt are
Vanished away. See in this space our fears and our dreamings,
Brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in,
The lost and forsaken; gather us in; our spirits inflame. Call to us now
And we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.*
- 2. We are the young, our lives are a mystery; we are the old,
Who yearn for your face. We have been sung throughout all of history,
Called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in,
The rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.*
- 3. Not just in buildings, small and confining, not in some heaven,
Light years away, here in this place the new light is shining;
Now is God present and now is the day. Gather us in and hold us
Forever; gather us in and make us your own; gather us in,
All peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

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

Lord Christ, you are the still center of every storm. In you is calm, whatever the wind outside. In you is reassurance, however high the waves that buffet our lives. In you is strength to carry on and move forward, however contrary the tide. We ask not for the answers to all the questions we hold in our hearts. Instead, we ask that you enter into the heart of all our questions that in pondering them, we will find you more deeply. This we pray in Jesus' name.

THE MORNING MESSAGE –

Scripture Reading: Ruth 2:1-12

Message – Gleaning Hope

Rev. Ruth

Meditation Music – “Jesus Calls Us”

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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 – “Lord I Want to Be a Christian”

[WORDS & MUSIC: African-American Spiritual. *Worship & Rejoice* #457. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE#A-734569]

- 1. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.*
- 2. Lord, I want to be more hopeful in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more hopeful in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more hopeful in my heart.*
- 3. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION

[adapted from *Touch Holiness*, Duck & Tirabsssi, Eds., ©1990 The Pilgrim Press, p. 244]

Go forth into the world in the knowledge that we are God's body, that hope for a new world is in the blood of our veins, the struggle for justice is the beat to which our hearts

respond, and that God's promise is the very stuff of which our bones are made. Go forth to praise God in everything you do and say. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE – “Go Out With Praise”

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## **RUTH 2:1-12**

Now Naomi had a kinsman on her husband's side, a prominent rich man, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, 'Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain, behind someone in whose sight I may find favor.' She said to her, 'Go, my daughter.' So she went. She came and gleaned in the field behind the reapers. As it happened, she came to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. Just then Boaz came from Bethlehem. He said to the reapers, 'The LORD be with you.' They answered, 'The LORD bless you.' Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, 'To whom does this young woman belong?' The servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, 'She is the Moabite who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. She said, "Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the reapers." So she came, and she has been on her feet from early this morning until now, without resting even for a moment.'

Then Boaz said to Ruth, 'Now listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. Keep your eyes on the field that is being reaped, and follow behind them. I have ordered the young men not to bother you. If you get thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn.' Then she fell prostrate, with her face to the ground, and said to him, 'Why have I found favor in your sight, that you should take notice of me, when I am a foreigner?' But Boaz answered her, 'All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. May the LORD reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!'

*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).*