



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
*with UCC Westerly
during Lent*

February 21, 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 — *“Postlude on ‘Fiducia’”*

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CALL TO WORSHIP —

[Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth. © 2021. All rights reserved.]

We come before you, O God, acknowledging that we do so in the shadow of the cross. Crosses adorn our church and our homes and even our bodies but so often we forget what the cross means, what it stands for. We gather today grateful for your expansive love for us, your unending mercy in forgiving us for all those times we are not our best selves before you and our fellow humans. Walk with us as we make our journey through Lent to recover once again the true meaning of the cross for each of us. Embolden us always to be open to your possibilities.

OPENING SONG -- *“Take Time to Be Holy”*

[WORDS: William D. Longstaff & MUSIC: George C. Stebbins. © Public Domain. *Worship & Rejoice #483*]

1. *Take time to be holy, speak oft with your Lord;
Abide in him always, and feed on his Word.
Make friends of God’s children; help those who are weak;
Forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.*
2. *Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like him you shall be;
Your friends in your conduct his likeness will see.*
3. *Take time to be holy, let him be your guide,
And run not before him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow your Lord,
And looking to Jesus, still trust in his Word.*

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

[Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth. © 2021. All rights reserved.]

Loving, gentle God, what a joy it is to come to you and rest in your presence for just a bit. We are so grateful for this time to reflect on our lives, how we

are living up to your hopes for us, and how we are not. We know we are sometimes too quick to complain and find fault, and too slow to offer praise and appreciation. We confess that we sometimes sidestep what we know you would have us do even as we take the easier way. We admit that sometimes the effort to understand how you would have us live each day is more than we are willing to do. Have mercy on us, All-Knowing God. Fill us with your Spirit as we struggle each day to be who you have always known we could be. In the name of Sweet Jesus we pray. Amen.

THE MORNING MESSAGE –

Scripture Reading: Galatians 5:22-23 & Romans 14:13-22

Message – Gifts of the Spirit & You

Rev. Ruth

Meditation Music – “I Need Thee Every Hour”

[MUSIC: Herbert S. Irons, ©Public Domain; *Worship & Rejoice #476*]

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.”*

[©Public Domain]

CLOSING SONG – “What A Friend We Have in Jesus”

[WORDS: Joseph M. Scriven & MUSIC: Charles C. Converse. © Public Domain. *Worship & Rejoice #473*]

1. *What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.*
2. *Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!*
3. *Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge – take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he’ll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION— [adapted from the Epistle to the Romans]

Go out into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold onto what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak. Help the suffering. Honor

all persons. Honor all Creation. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And may the love of God, the Light of Christ and the power and communion of that Spirit be with us all. Go in peace. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE – “Epilogue for Trumpet”

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### **Galatians 5:22-23**

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

### **Romans 14:13-22**

Let us therefore no longer pass judgement on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling-block or hindrance in the way of another. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. If your brother or sister is being injured by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. Do not let what you eat cause the ruin of one for whom Christ died. So do not let your good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. The one who thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and has human approval. Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual edification. Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for you to make others fall by what you eat; it is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that makes your brother or sister stumble. The faith that you have, have as your own conviction before God. Blessed are those who have no reason to condemn themselves because of what they approve.

*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).*