



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

with UCC Westerly

January 23, 2022 @ 9:45am

Broadcast live from our sanctuary**

CCLI Streaming License #21022154

Gathering Music –

[WORDS & MUSIC: Doug Brummund, ©2021 B.R. Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.]

PASTOR'S WELCOME

PRELUDE – "Face to Face"

by Steven Scott, on tune by Grant Colfax Tullar, ©2002 by Lorenz Publishing Company, CCLI # 3713293. Used by permission. CCLI Copyright License 21022161.

DEACON'S WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

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We look out our doors and windows onto the January landscape that is winter in coastal New England and we give thanks to God, the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all life. We give thanks that even the longest, darkest night gives way to the dawn, a daily reminder that God's promise of renewal and new life is real and true. We come this morning, scattered in our individual homes and yet miraculously gathered together in this time and space as God's Beloved people. We celebrate as one the excitement of life ever unfolding in God's presence that carries us forward through the arc of God's history.

OPENING HYMN – *Lord of All Hopefulness*

W&R#469, v.1-3

[WORDS: Jan Strather & MUSIC: Jack Schrader, ©1931 WORDS Oxford University Press & ©1989 MUSIC: Hope Publishing Company, CCLI Song #4971395]

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

[adapted from *Calling on God*, Bankson & Sokolove, Eds. ©2014, Skylight Paths Publishing. p. 146-7]

Source of Grace and Light, you are our unending source of love and blessing. You fill us with the miracle of living with every breath. We give thanks for the ancient stories of the Bible that tell us of your steadfast love for the women and men of every time and place who search for the meaning of your presence in their lives. Breathe your spirit into us, this day and every day, for you alone are our hope, our salvation, our purpose, and our joy. Amen.

THE MORNING MESSAGE – Exploring the Star Words: *Purpose & Excitement*

Scripture Reading: Acts 12:1-17

Message – *Just Too Excited!*

Rev. Ruth

Meditation Music - "Make Me a Servant"

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A TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayers & Silent Prayer

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

Musical Response

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM -- "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me"

by John E. Gould, arranged by Chester Nordman, ©1969 by Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation.

Acknowledgement of Gifts & Offerings*

Doxology: [©Public Domain]

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen."

CLOSING HYMN -- *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

W&R#59, v. 1, 2, 4

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION [Peter Millar, *An Iona Prayer Book*, ©1998, Canterbury Press, p. 71]

This is the day that God has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it. We will not offer to God offerings that cost us nothing. We go in peace to serve the Lord, to seek truth and pursue it. In the name of the Trinity of Love we pray. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE – "Prelude in F Major"

by J.S. Bach, Breitkopf & Haertel Edition. © Public Domain.

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## **Acts 12:5-17**

While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him. The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, "Fasten your belt and put on your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel

and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.” As soon as he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many had gathered and were praying. When he knocked at the outer gate, a maid named Rhoda came to answer. On recognizing Peter’s voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the gate, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the gate. They said to her, “You are out of your mind!” But she insisted that it was so. They said, “It is his angel.” Meanwhile Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the gate, they saw him and were amazed. He motioned to them with his hand to be silent, and described for them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he added, “Tell this to James and to the believers.” Then he left and went to another place.