



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
with UCC Westerly

March 9, 2025 @ 9:45am
In-person & Broadcast live from our sanctuary
CCLI Streaming License #21022154

First Sunday of Lent
TIME CHANGE SUNDAY!
Move your clocks ahead 1 hour on
Saturday night!

Photo Credit: Microsoft Office Stock Image

GATHERING MUSIC — [WORDS & MUSIC: Doug Brummund, ©2024-25 B.R. Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.]

PASTOR'S WELCOME

PRELUDE — *Christ is the Way, the Truth, the Life*
[Todd Kendall, ©2005 Lorenz Publishing Company, used by permission]

DEACON'S WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP — adapted from Psalm 91

One: We have made the Lord our refuge, the Most High our dwelling place;

All: Our God commands the angels concerning us to guard all our ways.

One: On angels' hands we are borne up, over all those things that might cause us to fall.

All: God promises to answer when we call out, to rescue and honor us.

How blessed are we!

OPENING HYMN *I Sing the Almighty Mighty Power of God*

W&R#31

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UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

[adapted from *Calling on God*, Bankson & Sokolove, ©2014 SkyLights Paths Publishing, p. 290]

O God, we come this morning from many different places, bringing with us many different joys, pains and fears. We gather here as a band of pilgrims on the Way with Jesus. We gather, praying that your angels might bear us up, might comfort and strengthen us as we face uncertainties all around us. We ask that your Holy Spirit will bind us into one community as we seek, each in our own way, to answer your call to work and life in the midst of the fragile world in which we live at this moment. This we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

THE MORNING MESSAGE

Scripture Reading: Luke 4:1-13

Message – Just Say No

Meditation Music – There Is a Balm in Gilead

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Rev. Ruth

#A MOMENT TO BREATHE

A TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayer & Silent Prayers

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

Musical response

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS*

Special Music *If You Love Me*

The Voice Choir

[WORDS & MUSIC: Joel Raney. ©2019 & arrang. ©2020 Hope Publishing Company. CCLI#716654]

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 HYMN – *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

W&R#134

[WORDS & MUSIC: Doris Akers. ©1962. Ren. 1990 Manna Music, Inc. CCLI#18204]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION

[*Touch Holiness*, Duck & Tirabassi, Eds., ©1990, United Church Press. p. 243]

The way is long, let us go together. The way is difficult, let us help each other. The way is joyful, let us share it. The way is Christ’s for Christ is the Way, let us follow. The way is open before us, let us go, with the love of God, the grace of Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Sung Response – Let There Be Peace on Earth

W& R#614

[WORDS & MUSIC: Sy Miller & Jill Jackson, © 1955, Ren.1983 Jen-Lee Music. Used by Permission. CCLI Copyright License 93690]

PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE

Verset

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#A MOMENT TO BREATHE is an experience of Thich Nhat Hahn’s breath of 10 exercise. It is very simple, inviting you to breathe as you normally would but counting each breath in and each breath out until you reach 10. If you lose track of your count at any point, start over. This is a remarkably simple but highly effective breathing exercise that calms your mind and heart.

TO ANY VISITORS WITH US THIS MORNING, WELCOME! We are so glad you decided to join us! We would love to be able to connect with you after your visit today. If you are comfortable doing so, please find one of our *CONTACT* cards in the back of the sanctuary to fill out and leave in one of the offering plates. We also hope you will join us for fellowship time if you are so inclined!

Our Diaconate Person of the Week for this week is Christina Brummund. Please feel free to be in touch with her with your joys and concerns knowing that we care about you all the time, not just when you are here.

***ABOUT THE OFFERING.** *We offer our deepest gratitude to our members and friends who are so generous with their pledges and financial gifts to the church, both those here in person and those joining online. Online participants are invited to give online via our “Donate” button @ www.uccwesterly.org or mail your checks, made payable to UCC Westerly, to us at 9 Castle Hill Road, Pawcatuck, CT 06379. A REMINDER that offering plates are located at each entrance to the sanctuary. Thank you!*

OUR MARCH MISSIONS PROJECT is the collection of pet food and supplies for so many in our community who are struggling to provide for their own needs and even more so for their pets. Canned food, kibble, kitty litter, etc. – All are needed and welcomed! Please place in the baskets under the altar.

THE PRAYER MINISTRIES of this church are many and varied and you are welcome to participate in any or all of them. In the sanctuary, you will find prayer notebooks by either door within which to write specific prayer requests for Sunday worship. You will also find prayer candle tables at which you may light a candle for your own prayer concerns. You will also find prayer shawls and prayer bears in the front pews to offer comfort to those struggling. For more information on our prayer ministries please speak with any Deacon or Rev. Ruth at any time.

You are welcome to donate flowers for the chancel any week. Our sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or speak with Rev. Ruth for more information.

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’” Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

To request a copy of today’s message be sent to you, kindly contact the office @ 860-599-1226 or uccwesterly@gmail.com.

THE UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTERLY, UCC

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OUR STAFF:

The Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth, Pastor

David Cranmer, Organist & Choirs Director

Jerin Peloquin, Church Operations Coordinator