



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
with UCC Westerly

March 16, 2025 @ 9:45am
In-person & Broadcast live from our sanctuary
CCLI Streaming License #21022154

Second Sunday of Lent

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GATHERING MUSIC – [WORDS & MUSIC: Doug Brummund, ©2022-25 inclusive B.R. Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.]

PASTOR'S WELCOME

PRELUDE – *Jesus, with Us Abide*

[James Southbridge. ©1998 Lorenz Publishing Company CCLI#2454467]

DEACON'S WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP – adapted from Psalm 27

One: The Lord is my light and salvation; whom shall I fear?

All: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One: One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after;

All: To live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

OPENING HYMN - *God of Grace and God of Glory*

W&R#569

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UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

[adapted from *Calling on God*, Bankson & Sokolove, ©2014 SkyLights Paths Publishing, p. 292]

Holy One, powerful Giver of life, we gather here this morning to rediscover and recover the love that binds us to each other and to you. Be present here among us, as we gather this morning. We come to rest and rejoice in your presence in this place where we find peace and renewal. We come in the name of that one who moved through death to find new life. We pray in his name, your beloved Son Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

THE MORNING MESSAGE

Scripture Reading: Mark 2:1-12

Message – Let's Talk About Friends

Rev. Ruth

Meditation Music – Beneath the Cross of Jesus - ©Public Domain

#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 - *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

The Tone Chimes Choir

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 HYMN – *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

W&R#473

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION - adapted from *The New Century Hymnal*

Jesus said we ought always to pray, as he did. But do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger people. Do not pray for tasks equal to your ability but for strength equal to your tasks. Then, the doing of your work for God will be no miracle. You will be the miracle, blessed, filled and guided by the grace of God.

Sung Response – Let There Be Peace on Earth

W& R#614

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PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE *Andante*

[E.L. Ashford. ©1925 Lorenz Publishing Company. CCLI#3943812]

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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 Lynn Murray. 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 in the rear of the sanctuary near the exit doors on either side. 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. We are also always happy to receive food donations for the PNC'S food pantry.

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.

Mark 2:1-12

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus

because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, “Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and take your mat and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” —he said to the paralytic— “I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.” And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

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

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OUR STAFF

The Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth, Pastor
David Cranmer, Organist & Choirs Director
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