



**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**  
*with UCC Westerly*

**March 23, 2025 @ 9:45am**  
**In-person & Broadcast live from our sanctuary**  
**CCLI Streaming License #21022154**

**Third 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** – *The Mystery of God*

[Paul Taylor. ©2005 Lorenz Publishing Company. Used by permission]

**DEACON’S WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** – adapted from Psalm 63

One: O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you.

**All: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.**

One: I think of you on my bed and meditate on you in the watches of the night.

**All: My souls clings to you; your right hand upholds me.**

**OPENING HYMN**      *Now Thank We All Our God*

*W&R#14*

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**UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION**

[adapted from *Calling on God*, Bankson & Sokolove, ©2014 SkyLights Paths Publishing, p. 294-5]

**Most Gracious and Loving Creator God, our hearts leap as we experience the stirrings of spring. Help us to tend lovingly to your Creation and to your beloved people as we gather this morning to celebrate the goodness of your unfailing love for us. Help us listen; help us hear; help us to learn to care for this world and for others as you would have us do. Help us answer your call to love and action. Hear us now as we offer our prayers and praise to you as we long to be made whole. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

**THE MORNING MESSAGE**

**Scripture Reading:** John 6:1-14

*Message – Family Picnic!*

Rev. Ruth

Meditation Music – *Glory Be to Jesus*

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**#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      *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

The Tone Chimes Choir

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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** –      *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

W&R#496

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

May God’s Holy Spirit lead you. May God’s strength protect you. May God’s peace be with you. Go now in the name of God, by the grace of Christ, and with the presence of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Sung Response – Let There Be Peace on Earth*

W&R#614

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## PASSING OF THE PEACE

**POSTLUDE**      *Voluntary*

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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 Allana 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](http://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. *NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 30 is the final Sunday of this drive!* We are also always happy to receive food donations for the PNC’S food pantry in the donation basket at the rear of the sanctuary near the exit door to the upper parking lot.

**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.*

### **John 6:1-14**

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

*To request a copy of today's message be sent to you, kindly contact the office @ 860-599-1226 or [uccwesterly@gmail.com](mailto:uccwesterly@gmail.com).*

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OUR STAFF:

The Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth, Pastor  
David Cranmer, Organist & Choirs Director  
Jerin Peloquin, Church Operations Coordinator