



# **SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**

*with UCC Westerly*

## **FESTIVAL EASTER SERVICE!**

**April 20, 2025 @ 9:45am**

**In-person &**

**Broadcast live from our sanctuary**

**CCLI Streaming License #21022154**

*\*The Easter Processional of Flowers will take place during the prelude. If you wish to participate, please come to the back of the sanctuary as the Gathering Music begins.*

**Gathering Music** A selection by Doug Brummund. [WORDS & MUSIC: Doug Brummund, ©2020 B.R. Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.]

**INTROIT** *Hail Thee, Festival Day*  
[©Public Domain]

The Voice Choir

### **PASTOR'S WELCOME & THE ANCIENT EASTER GREETING**

**One:** Christ is risen!

**All:** Christ is risen indeed!

**PRELUDE** — *Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*

Organ & Tone Chimes Choir

[MUSIC: Edward Broughton, based on the tune "St. Kevin" by Sir Arthur S. Sullivan. ©1972 & 1993 Lorenz Publishing Company. CCLI#1706773. Arranged for Organ and Tone Chimes by David Cranmer.]

### **DEACON'S WELCOME**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP —**

[adapted from *Calling on God*, Bankson & Sokolove, Eds., ©2014, Skylights Paths Publishing, p. 177]

**One:** Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**All:** Alleluia! Christ is Risen indeed!

**One:** We come together on this joyful morning to celebrate the good news of resurrection!

**All:** We gather to see for ourselves this new promise of everlasting life.

**One:** We come to proclaim the mystery of our faith: Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

**All:** May God through the Holy Spirit make us one with Christ and in Christ that we might be a holy people.

**OPENING SONG** — *"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"*

W&R#288

[© Public Domain]

#### **UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION**

[Adapted from *Calling on God*, Bankson & Sokolove, Eds., ©2014, Skylights Paths Publishing, p. 302]

**God of past, present and future, we acknowledge this day that we have been tested and chastened in so many unexpected ways in recent weeks. So we gather here this morning to celebrate that fear and death are not the end, that we are not left alone and hopeless. You lead us here, to this place, where we know your presence, where we feel your compassion and your comfort. You invite us to turn away from fear and anger and toward you and the new life you offer. Hear now our prayers of praise and thanks because the Risen Christ has shared our earthly life and conquered death to reveal to us your truth that the impossible is always possible with your love at the center of our lives. In Jesus name we pray, Alleluia and Amen!**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC      *God Has Spoken***

[WORDS: Chris Anderson & MUSIC: Greg Habegger. ©2015 Church Media Works CCLI#7146732]

Erin Blake, Soloist

## **THE MORNING MESSAGE –**

**Scripture Reading: John 20:1-17**

**Message – *While It Was Still Dark ...***

***Meditation Music***

*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

## **OUR RESPONSE TO GOD**

Anthem – *Risen Indeed!*

The Voice Choir

[WORDS & MUSIC: Allen Pote ©2022 Hope Publishing Company. CCLI#7171718.]

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 SONG – *Thine Is the Glory***

*W&R#310*

[© Public Domain]

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION—**

[[Adapted from *An Iona Prayerbook*, Peter Millar, Ed., © 1998, The 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 love and serve the Lord, to see truth and pursue it. In the name of the Trinity of Love, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, we take His pilgrim way. Amen.

*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 21022161]

## **CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## **POSTLUDE – *Marche Jubilant***

[MUSIC: Robert W. Thygeson. ©1966. Lorenz publishing Company. Used by permission.]

~~~~~

**#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. Enjoy! 😊

**TO ANY VISITORS WITH US THIS MORNING, WELCOME!** We are so glad you decided to join us! We Hope you will take one of our *Welcome* brochures and leave the information tear-off in the offering plates at the rear of the sanctuary. And please join us for fellowship time if you are so

inclined! **ACTIVITIES FOR LITTLE ONES** are available in our Toddler Room at the rear of the sanctuary and on the table near the steps to that room.

**OUR DIACONATE PERSON for this week is Joann Spurley.** Please feel free to be in touch with her with your joys and concerns knowing that we care about you every day.

***\*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 located at each entrance to the sanctuary. Thank you!*

**OUR APRIL MISSIONS PROJECT** is our Annual “Babies and Ladies” donation drive. We are looking for the following items: **Babies:** Diapers (Large size), baby wipes, baby powder, shampoo, lotion. **Ladies:** Intimate supplies, feminine napkins, tampons, incontinence supplies, lotion.

**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. You will also find prayer candle tables at which you may light a candle for your own prayer concerns. In the front pews, you will also find prayer shawls and prayer bears to offer comfort to those struggling. For more information on our prayer ministries please speak with any Deacon or Rev. Ruth at any time.

~~~~~

## **JOHN 20:1-17**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was

Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

*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).*

THE UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTERLY, UCC  
9 Castle Hill Road, Pawcatuck, CT 06379  
860-599-1226 <> email: [uccwesterly@gmail.com](mailto:uccwesterly@gmail.com)  
[www.uccwesterly.org](http://www.uccwesterly.org) <> <https://www.facebook.com/UCCWesterly>

OUR STAFF:

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