



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
with UCC Westerly

May 18, 2025 @ 9:45am
In-person & Broadcast live from
our sanctuary
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#21022154

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5th Sunday of Eastertide

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

PASTOR’S WELCOME

PRELUDE – *How Firm a Foundation*

[setting of the hymn tune FOUNDATION by Don Hustad. ©1972. Boardman Press, assigned 1996 to Hope Publishing Company. Used by permission.]

DEACON’S WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP – adapted from *Psalms 148*

One: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights!

All: **Praise God, sun and moon and all you shining stars.**

One: Praise the Lord from the earth ... rulers of the earth and all peoples.

All: **Praise the name of the Lord for God’s name above all is exalted.**

OPENING HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth*

[©Public Domain]

W&R#40

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

[*Calling on God*, Bankson & Sokolove, Eds., ©2014 Skylight Paths Publishing, p. 187]

God of all Creation, we celebrate and give eternal thanks that you are love. We celebrate the power of new life filled with promise, the hopeful vision of a new heaven and a new earth. We watch our gardens, springing green, drinking in the rain, reaching for the sun. We hear the promise of summer in every nesting bird. Holy Maker of this day, you have shown mercy to our ancestors; you have remembered your holy covenant with all creation, you have given us the promise of new life in Christ. Bring us peace in the midst of our lives and know we are grateful for the call to serve you in the many ways before us. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

THE MORNING MESSAGE

Scripture Reading: Acts 11:1-18

Message – Step by Step

Rev. Ruth

Meditation Music – Think About His Love

[MUSIC: Walt Harrah. ©1987. Integrity’s Hosanna Music. CCLI#16299]

#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 *Lord I Want to Be a Christian*

The Tone Chimes Choir

[©Public Domain]

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 – *Blessed Assurance*

W&R#425

[©Public Domain]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION – based on *Philippians 4:8*

Brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about these things and make them the foundation of your life. 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# 93690]

PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE *The Trumpet of Faith*

James Southbridge. ©1967. Lorenz Publishing Company. CCLI#1878632.

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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. Please find one of our **WELCOME** brochures in your pew. It contains a contact card that you are invited 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 Joann Spurley. 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.

OUR MISSION DONATION DRIVE for this month is to invite your support of the *Strengthen the Church* offering of the United Church of Christ. Checks should be made payable to UCC Westerly with "*Strengthen the Church*" on the memo line. These funds are used by the denomination to fund, among other things, new church starts and youth ministry.

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.

ACTS 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So, when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance, I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely, I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat.” But I replied, “By no means Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has even entered my mouth.’ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, “What God has made clean, you must not call profane.” This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment, three men sent to me from Caesarea arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, “Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.” And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized you with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

*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
9 Castle Hill Road, Pawcatuck, CT 06379
860-599-1226 <> email: uccwesterly@gmail.com
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