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**SUNDAY MORNING
WORSHIP
with UCC Westerly**

September 7, 2025 @ 9:45am

*In-person & Broadcast live
from our sanctuary
CCLI Streaming License #21022154*

**COMMUNION
SUNDAY!**

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

PASTOR'S WELCOME

PRELUDE *Communion in Christ*

[MUSIC: Franklin Ritter ©2005 Lorenz Publishing Company. CCLI#4755009]

DEACON'S WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP — from Psalm 4

One: Know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for God's own self;

All: Our God hears when we call.

One: Let the light of your face shine on us, God!

All: You have put gladness in our hearts, more than when grain and wine abound.

OPENING HYMN

Eat this Bread and Never Hunger

W&R#692

[WORDS & MUSIC: Daniel Charles Damon. ©1993 Hope Publishing Company CCLI#1699172]

MUTUAL PRAYERS OF REFLECTION, CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to turning away from God, in the ways I wound my life, the lives of others and the life of the world.

Deacon & Congregation: May God forgive you, Christ renew you and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

Deacon & Congregation: Before God, with the people of God, we confess to turning away from God, in the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others and the life of the world.

Pastor: May God forgive you, Christ renew you and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.
Amen.

A CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Note: Ours is an Open Table meaning that anyone who finds meaning in the sacrament is welcome to partake. Do note that our elements are gluten and alcohol free.

The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith in the form of a doxology

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Song of Preparation – *Let Us Break Bread Together*

W&R#699, v. 1

[© Public Domain]

Words of Invitation, Explanation and Consecration

Partaking in the bread and cup together

Meditation Music –

Prayer of Thanksgiving: **May we find in this sacred meal renewal for our hearts and minds, sustenance for our bodies and courage for the journey ahead wherever it may lead us. As we move forward today may we never forget that we always have a place waiting for us at the Table of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

THE MORNING MESSAGE

Scripture Reading: Esther 2:8-10; 16-18 & 7:1-6

Meditation Music *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

[©Public Domain]

Message – *Esther's Table*

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

Doug Brummund, Soloist

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 – *Many & Great*

W&R#26

[WORDS: Joseph R. Renville; para. Philip Foster & MUSIC: Native American melody arr. Jack Schrader. Music ©2001 Hope Publishing Company. CCLI#3427455]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION Numbers 6:24-26

May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God's countenance enfold you and give you peace, this day and forever more. 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 93690]

PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE -- *Blessed Is the Nation*

[MUSIC: Roger C. Wilson. ©1966 & 1979 Lorenz Publishing Company. CCLI#3538832]

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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. 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 take one of our Welcome brochures in the pew and leave us your contact information, if you would like. 😊

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 on line. Gifts can be made on line via the "Donate" button @ www.uccwesterly.org or mail your checks, made payable to UCC Westerly, 9 Castle Hill Road, Pawcatuck, CT 06379. **A REMINDER that offering plates** are located at each entrance to the sanctuary. Thank you! **Kindly remember that on Communion Sundays we also receive our Deacons Fund offering in the specially marked baskets. These funds are used to provide emergency assistance to members of the church and the community as well as purchasing supplies used in worship. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.***

OUR MISSIONS DONATION DRIVE FOR SEPTEMBER IS ... SOCKS!! Any and all kinds! 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. These include prayer notebooks within which to write specific prayer requests for Sunday worship, prayer candle tables at which you may light a candle for your own prayer concerns. Prayer shawls and prayer bears are also available to take with you for support in your prayers at home. For more information please speak with any Deacon or Rev. Ruth at any time.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A PART OF WORSHIP??? *There are several ways. Check out these sign-up sheets on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall for details:*

- Flowers in memory or celebration of a person or special occasion! Fresh flowers or dried or silk arrangements are welcome! Check with Jerin in the office for details.
- Volunteers to light the candles as worship begins and then extinguish them as worship ends. Training provided! 😊
- Ushers and Greeters to make sure folks have a Worship Resource and that visitors have someone to answer their questions!

ESTHER 2:8-10; 16-18 & 7:1-6

When the king's order and his edict were proclaimed and when many young women were gathered in the citadel of Susa in custody of Hegai, Esther was taken into the king's palace and put in custody of Hegai, who had charge of the women. The young woman pleased him and won his favor, and he quickly provided her with her cosmetic treatments and her portion of food and with seven chosen maids from the king's palace, and he advanced her and her maids to the best place in the harem. Esther did not reveal her people or kindred, for Mordecai had charged her not to tell.

When Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus in his royal palace in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign, the king loved Esther more than all the other women; of all the virgins she won his favor and devotion, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. Then the king gave a great banquet to all his officials and ministers: "Esther's banquet." He also granted a holiday^[a] to the provinces and gave gifts with royal liberality.

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace, but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and an enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

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