



**SUNDAY MORNING
WORSHIP
with UCC Westerly**

**September 14, 2025
@ 9:45am**

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

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

PASTOR’S WELCOME

PRELUDE *Prayer for Peace*
[MUSIC: Paul Taylor ©2005 Lorenz Publishing Company. CCLI#4755092]

DEACON’S WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP — adapted from Psalm 14

One: Fools say in their hearts, “There is no God.”

All: **Wise are the ones who seek after God.**

One: God’s gaze is upon them; God’s blessings surround them,

All: **Fools forget that God is with the generations of the righteous.**

OPENING HYMN *Amazing Grace* *W&R#422*
[© Public Domain]

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

[*Calling on God*, Bankson & Sokolove, Eds., ©2014 Skylight Paths Publishing, p. 227-8]

Holy One, you cry out to us urging us to hear your voice everywhere. You cry out that we might heed your counsel and live in your holy ways. The heavens tell of your glory; and the very sky tells the genius of your work. Day and night proclaim your message without a word and yet your message fills the earth. We have heard you and we gather now to share the good news of your presence within us, among us, around us. Grant that we may know ourselves once more to be the living body of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

THE MORNING MESSAGE

Scripture Reading: Joshua 2:1-21

Meditation Music *Rock of Ages* *W&R#384*
[©Public Domain]

Message – *Rahab’s Genius* 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*

Anthem *God of Great and God of Small*

The Voice Choir

[WORDS & MUSIC: Natalie Sleeth ©1978 Carl Fischer, Inc. CCLI#7185077]

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 – *Spirit of the Living God*

W&R#492

[WORDS & MUSIC: Daniel Iverson; WORDS v. 2 Michael Baughen. Words: 1982 Birdwing Music; Michael Baughen - The Jubilate Group (Admin. by Jubilate Hymns Ltd, sub to Hope Publishing for various regions); Music: 1935. Renewed 1963 Birdwing Music) CCLI#191468]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION *Anonymous*

May the God of Peace be with you, stilling the heart that hammers with fear and doubt and confusion. And may the warm mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious. May the blessing of Peace be with you this day and always. Amen.

Sung Response – Let There Be Peace on Earth

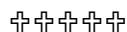
W&R#614

[WORDS & MUSIC: Sy Miller & Jill Jackson, © 1955, Ren.1983 Jen-Lee Music. Used by Permission. CCLI Copyright License 93690]

PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE -- *Crusader's March*

[MUSIC: Francis Howard MacKay. ©1952Lorenz Publishing Company. CCLI#3970294]



PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO NOTICE THE ALTAR THIS MORNING! You will see that we have received a lovely batch of thank you notes from the principal, teachers and students of Lynn's former middle school in Cranston, RI. They are beyond thrilled with all the school supplies we sent! *What we do does make a difference!*

#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 Allana Allik. 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!

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!

JOSHUA 2:1-21

Then Joshua, son of Nun, sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.” So, they went and entered the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and spent the night there. The king of Jericho was told, “Some Israelites have come here tonight to search out the land.” Then the king of Jericho sent orders to Rahab, “Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out the whole land.” But the woman took the two men and hid them. Then she said, “True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they came from. And when it was time to close the gate at dark, the men went out. Where the men went, I do not know. Pursue them quickly, for you can overtake them.” She had, however, brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax that she had laid out on the roof. So, the men pursued them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. As soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

Before they went to sleep, she came up to them on the roof and said to the men, “I know that the Lord has given you the land and that dread of you has fallen on us and that all the inhabitants of the land melt in fear before you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. As soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no courage left in any of us because of

you. The Lord your God is indeed God in heaven above and on earth below. Now then, since I have dealt kindly with you, swear to me by the Lord that you in turn will deal kindly with my family. Give me a sign of good faith that you will spare my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them and deliver our lives from death.” The men said to her, “Our life for yours! If you do not tell this business of ours, then we will deal kindly and faithfully with you when the Lord gives us the land.”

Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the outer side of the city wall and she resided within the wall itself. She said to them, “Go toward the hill country, so that the pursuers may not come upon you. Hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers have returned; then afterward you may go your way.” The men said to her, “We will be released from this oath that you have made us swear to you if we invade the land and you do not tie this crimson cord in the window through which you let us down and you do not gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your family. If any of you go out of the doors of your house into the street, they shall be responsible for their own death, and we shall be innocent, but if a hand is laid upon any who are with you in the house, we shall bear the responsibility for their death. But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be released from this oath that you made us swear to you.” She said, “According to your words, so be it.” She sent them away, and they departed. Then she tied the crimson cord in the window.

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
Jerín Peloquín, Church Operations Coordinator