



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP with UCC Westerly

**November 30, 2025 @ 9:45am
In-person &
Broadcast live from our sanctuary
CCLI Streaming License #21022154**

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
& MISSIONS SUNDAY**

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GATHERING MUSIC – [WORDS & MUSIC: Doug Brummund, ©2022 B.R. Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.]

PASTOR'S WELCOME

PRELUDE – [©Public Domain]

DEACON'S WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP – Lighting of the First Advent Candle of HOPE

Pastor: Today is the beginning of Advent – the time when we in the church prepare for celebrating Christ's birth. We observe this sacred season as a way to remind ourselves that, as Christians, we believe that God's promises to our ancestors came true when Jesus was born. Each of the four Sundays of Advent is dedicated to one of four sacred themes of Advent. The first is Hope.

Deacon: The prophet Jeremiah reminds us: “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

One: We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world.

All: **With the coming of the light there is hope.**

One: Jesus gives us hope, assuring us that good is stronger than evil.

All: **God needs us to work for good in this world. For this God gives us the gift of hope.**

(The Deacon lights the first candle, then leads the Unison Prayer.)

Unison Prayer of Reflection

O God, we thank you that Jesus brought hope into our world. Through the Good News that is Jesus you are still bringing hope to people. Embolden and enlighten us to be ready to welcome the Holy Child once more as your beloved people inspired by and living hope into our world. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN -- Lord of All Hopefulness**

[WORDS: Jan Struther & MUSIC: Irish melody. ©1931, 1982 Oxford University Press, CCLI#2788717]

W&R#469

MISSIONS BLESSING PRAYER of the Food Donations

We bring before you, O God, our humble gifts and donations as one small thing we can do in the face of the troubles and perils so many people in our community face each day. Holy One, please bless all the families who will benefit from our gifts and all those working to distribute

these gifts. Bless us in our giving. Help us always to remember that in giving generously to those in need we receive far more. May we never forget that it is you who calls us to share from our abundance with those without enough. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE MORNING MESSAGE

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 2:1-4

Message – *The Poetry of Hope*

Meditation Music –

Rev. Ruth

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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 *Savior of the Nations, Come* Julie Grillo & Carol Gregg, Clarinetists
[© 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 – Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**

W&R#153

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION

from *Touch Holiness*, Duck & Tirabassi, Eds.

The way is long, let us go together. The way is difficult, let us help each other. The way is joyful, let us share it. The way is Christ's for Christ is the Way, let us follow. The way is open before us, let us go. With the love of God, the grace of Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sung Response – Let There Be Peace on Earth

W& R#614

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PASSING OF THE PEACE

HANGING OF THE GREENS!!

POSTLUDE [©Public Domain]

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR THIS MORNING are presented to the glory of God by Rev. Dr. Ede Steele in celebration of her wedding anniversary!

Our annual HANGING OF THE GREENS ritual will take place immediately following the Passing of the Peace, during the postlude! We need help trimming the Christmas Tree and placing the wreaths around the sanctuary!! Thanks in advance for your assistance!

A VERY SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUEST ORGANIST THIS MORNING!! We are very pleased to welcome Michael McCarthy as our Guest Organist this morning. Michael is playing for us

again this week as Dav takes his annual Thanksgiving vacation with close friends in sunny southern California!! Dav will be back next week.

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 cards in the pew to leave us your contact information in one of the offering plates. 😊

#A MOMENT TO BREATHE is an experience of Thich Nhat Hanh'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.

Our Diaconate Person of the Week for this week is Christina Brummund. 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.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE THAT CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORMS ARE DUE TODAY!!!! You may leave completed forms with payment in the offering plates in the rear of the sanctuary.

***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 online. Gifts can be made online 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!

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.

A REMINDER THAT THIS MONTH'S MISSIONS PROJECT IS the annual Adopt A Family program through Operation Fresh Start. Gift tags for our assigned family are on the small Christmas tree in the sanctuary next to the Pollinators Information table. Gifts are due back by Sunday, December 14. NOT GIFT WRAPPED! You may provide wrapping separately if you wish. Please attach your gift tag to the gift!

NEXT SUNDAY, December 7, we will have a Guest Preacher! The Rev. Leslie Jackson, the New Associate Conference Minister for our region of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ will be joining us for the Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 6 and then for worship on Sunday morning. We are very excited to welcome him to our church! He comes to us from Texas and is very excited to experience a New England congregational church bazaar and to see our beautiful mid-century modern church to see for himself all that I have told him about our church. I do hope you will come to meet him and hear his words of wisdom and inspiration for us all.

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.

ISAIAH 2:1-4

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:
In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

*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

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OUR STAFF:

The Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth, Pastor

David Crammer, Organist & Choirs Director

Jerin Peloquin, Church Operations Coordinator