



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP with UCC Westerly

December 7, 2025 @ 9:45am

In-person &

**Broadcast live from our sanctuary
CCLI Streaming License #21022154**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
With COMMUNION**

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

PASTOR'S WELCOME

PRELUDE *The Coventry Carol*

[James Southbridge ©1970 Lorenz Publishing Company, CCLI#2162371]

DEACON'S WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP – Lighting of the Second Advent Candle of PEACE

Pastor: Today our journey through Advent continues. Last week we lit the Advent Candle of Hope. (*Re-light the candle*). This week more light is added as God's vision continues to spread.

Deacon: *From the book of Isaiah, chapter 9, verse 6: "For a child has been borne for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

One: We come to the Advent wreath today knowing that we are not perfect.

All: **We all make mistakes and do the wrong thing from time to time.**

One: Jesus knows our weaknesses as well as our strengths and still values each of us just as we are.

All: **To be fully known by Jesus, loved and cherished as we are is to find peace beyond understanding. This is how we are empowered to answer Jesus' call to live peace into our lives each day.**

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

Unison Prayer of Reflection

**Eternal God, we thank you that through all our struggles, you have always guided us toward the peace we need to live as you need us to live. From your peace we find the peace to be kind to others who are not themselves kind, to be just to others who are not just toward others themselves. Enfold us in your peace this Advent season that we may in turn make real your presence to the sick, the hungry, the homeless and the lonely. May the peace we know in you enable us to guide others to your peace which passes all understanding.
Amen.**

OPENING HYMN -- *As We Gather at Your Table

W&R#695

[WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr. & MUSIC: Attr. B.F.White, arrg. Jack Schrader. ©1989 WORDS Hope Publishing Company & ©1992 Arrg. Hope Publishing Company. CCLI#6271859]

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.

An Affirmation of Faith – [from *The New Century Hymnal Sampler* #4]

I believe in God who is love and who has given the earth to all people.

I believe in Jesus Christ who came to heal us and to free us from all forms of oppression.

I believe in the Spirit of God who works in and through all who have turned toward the truth.

I believe in the community of faith which is called to be at the service of all people.

I believe in God's promise to finally destroy the power of sin in us all and to establish the dominion of justice and peace for all humanity.

Song of Preparation – *Let Us Break Bread Together* W&R#699, v. 1

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Words of Invitation, Explanation and Consecration

Partaking in the bread and cup together

Prayer of Thanksgiving: **Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

THE MORNING MESSAGE

Scripture Reading: Psalm 85:8-13

Message – *Peace in the In-Between*

Meditation Music – *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Rev. Leslie Jackson

[Public Domain]

#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 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Voice & Tone Chimes Choirs

[WORDS: adapted from the Liturgy of St. James, 4th Century CE, arranged by Gerald Moultrie & MUSIC: 17th century French melody arranged by Joel Raney. ©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 – *O Come, O Come Emmanuel

W&R#154

[©Public Domain]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION

May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God's entire being be lifted upon you and grant you peace, this day and forever more. Amen.

Sung Response – Let There Be Peace on Earth

W&R#614

PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE *Contemplation*

[Rob Roy Peery, ©1950, 1965, Lorenz Publishing Company, CCLI#3966703]

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THIS MORNING WE ARE EXCITED TO WELCOME THE Rev. Leslie Jackson as our Guest Preacher and Co-Celebrant of Communion. Rev. Jackson is the New Associate Conference Minister for our region of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ and we are very pleased 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.

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 and 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 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 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! **Also kindly remember that the Deacons Fund offering is received on Communion Sundays in the baskets marked near the regular offering plates at the back of the sanctuary. The Deacons Fund is used to respond to requests for emergency financial assistance as well as to purchase supplies used for worship.**

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 NEXT SUNDAY, December 14. NOT GIFT WRAPPED! You may provide wrapping separately if you wish. Please attach your gift tag to the gift!

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.

PSALM 85:1-13

Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. *Selah*
You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.
Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us.
Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?
Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.
Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.^[a]
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness
will look down from the sky.
The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps.

*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