



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP **with UCC Westerly**

December 14, 2025 @ 9:45am

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

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Photo Credit: Microsoft Office Stock Image

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

PASTOR'S WELCOME

PRELUDE — *Now the Green Blade Riseth*

[David Paxton, based on a medieval French carol., ©2005 Lorenz Publishing Company, CCLI# 4755140]

DEACON'S WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP — Lighting of the Third Advent Candle of LOVE

Pastor: The weeks of Advent are passing by; the birth of the Christ Child draws closer. We are illumined by the candles of Hope and Peace and today God's light shines brighter still. (*Re-light the 1st & 2nd candles.*)

Deacon: *From the First Letter to John, the 4th chapter, verse 11: "Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another."*

One: Today we pause to rejoice that Christmas is a time of hearts being open as songs and prayers are lifted to God.

All: Christmas is also a busy time when commitments feel overwhelming and life is crazy.

One: We light this candle to proclaim the coming of God's light into the world. With the coming of this light there is love, joining with hope and love as our Advent journey continues.

All: Such great love empowers us to love God and to love one another.

(The Deacon lights the third candle and then leads the Unison Prayer.)

Unison Prayer of Reflection

O God, we thank you that Jesus teaches us what it means to love for each person who is already beloved of you. We are to love babies and children, old people and young, sick people and those who are healthy, rich people and those who are poor. Open our hearts in this Advent season and fill us with your love for all people, especially those who seem the most unlovable. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** -- *People, Look East*

W&R#161

[WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon & MUSIC: French melody arrang. Martin Shaw. © WORDS 1960 David Higham Assoc. Ltd. & MUSIC: 1928 Oxford University Press. CCLI#3011380]

BLESSING OF THE ADOPT-A-FAMILY GIFTS

THE MORNING MESSAGE

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:46-55

Message – *Unforgettable*

Meditation Music – *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding*

[Public Domain]

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 *Blessed Be the God of Israel*

The Tone Chimes Choir

[MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson. ©1983 Hope Publishing Company, CCLI#860627]

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

[from *The Benedictine Handbook*]

Most amazing God, you have prepared for those who love you what no eye has seen, no ear has heard. Fill our hearts with your love, so that loving you above all, and in all, we may come to the inheritance you promise us which exceeds all our hearts can desire. Amen.

Sung Response – Let There Be Peace on Earth

W&R#614

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PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE

The Lord Is My Shepherd

[Bernhard Klein. ©1924 Lorenz Publishing Company. CCLI#4223689]

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 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

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, if you have not yet completed a pledge for 2026, there are pledge forms and envelopes on the back pew.

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 TODAY IS THE FINAL DAY TO RETURN GIFTS PURCHASED FOR the Adopt A Family program through Operation Fresh Start. You may provide wrapping separately if you wish. Please attach your gift tag to the gift! Moving forward, we will return to our weekly donations of non-perishable foods for local food pantries.

LUKE 1:46b-55

“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”

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.

*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 Cranmer, Organist & Choirs Director
Jerin Peloquin, Church Operations Coordinator



Schedule of Remaining Worship Services for Advent and Christmas 2025

Thursday, December 17 @ 4pm – Longest Night Service

- A unique service of light and darkness taking place outside at our labyrinth. This service will be especially appropriate for all those struggling to find the Christmas spirit this year.

December 21 @ 9:45am – 4th Sunday of Advent Worship

- Lessons & Carols Service

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Service @ 4pm

- Traditional festive service of candles, carols, special music and Communion with a Christmas message from Rev. Ruth

Sunday, December 28 @ 9:45am – Christmastide Service

- A joyous birthday party for Jesus with games and cake!!!

Sunday, January 4, 2025 @ 9:45am – EPIPHANY & our STAR SUNDAY

CELEBRATION Festive service of Communion, Light and Star Words for the coming year!

**Remember to make time for Jesus
this Christmas Season!!!
You'll be very glad you did...**