



STAR SUNDAY WORSHIP *with UCC Westerly*

January 4, 2026 @ 9:45am
In-person &
Broadcast live from our sanctuary
CCLI Streaming License #21022154

AN EPIPHANY CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION & STAR SUNDAY

GATHERING MUSIC – A selection from the many songs written, performed and recorded by Doug Brummund.
[WORDS & MUSIC: Doug Brummund, ©2022, 23,24,25 B.R. Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.]

PASTOR'S WELCOME

PRELUDE *Rejoice, Rejoice, this Happy Morn*

[Paul Taylor, based on the hymn tune *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*. ©2002 Lorenz Publishing Company, CCLI#3911765]

DEACON'S GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP – *from Psalm 147*

One: Praise the Lord all you peoples!

All: **For God strengthens the bars of your gates and blesses your children.**

One: God gives snow like wool and scatters frost like ashes., hurling hail and bringing cold.

All: **Then God's word melts it all, and the waters flow once more.**

OPENING CAROL – *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

W&R#233

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UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

[adapted from *Calling on God*, Bankson & Sokolove, Eds., ©2014, Skylights Paths Publishing, p. 16]

Holy Source of this new year, give us opportunities to reflect on what has gone before, on what we may encounter on the road ahead. Help us to take seriously your invitation to begin again. Come and fill us with the mysterious baptism of your love. Bind us together into one body as we gather to worship in the name of your Chosen One, who is Jesus Christ. 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.

An Affirmation of Faith – [adapted from an entry in *Touch Holiness*, p. 212]

In faith we acknowledge that God has acted in the past, in a holy history. In faith we confess that God desires to guide our lives today. In faith we affirm that God continues to send prophets and speak through willing vessels to guide the course of all history. In faith we celebrate that as followers of Jesus Christ we are to embody as he did compassion, justice, and love. In faith we long to be part of God's purpose for our lives and for the world. 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

Prayer of Thanksgiving [from *The New Century Hymnal*, p. 11]

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, newly nourished and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE MORNING MESSAGE

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-9; 14, 16-18

Message – A STAR WORDS CELEBRATION!

Music Meditation – *Wise Men, They Come to Look for Wisdom*

Rev. Ruth & All of us!

[©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

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

Acknowledgement of Gifts & Offerings*

Anthem – *One Special Star*

The Voice Choir with Erin Blake, Soloist

[WORDS & MUSIC: Janie Smith Nebeker. ©1990 Lorenz Publishing Company, CCLI#619139]

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 SONG – *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

W&R#248

[WORDS & MUSIC: Kathleen Thomerson © 1970 Celebration (Admin. The Copyright Company. CCLI#89848)]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION from 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 divine presence be lifted up upon you and give you peace, this day and forever more.

Amen.

Sung Response – Let There Be Peace on Earth

[WORDS & MUSIC: Sy Miller & Jill Jackson, © 1955, Ren.1983 Jen-Lee Music. Used by Permission. CCLI # 21022161]

*Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other, in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE – *Light Eternal*

[Lani Smith. ©1968, Lorenz Publishing Company, used by permission]

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**#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. If you lose track of your count at any point, start over. This is a remarkably simple but highly effective breathing exercise that can reset your mind and heart. Enjoy! 😊

**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 so we respectfully request that you fill out one of our visitor cards with a little information about yourself. And please join us for fellowship time if you are so inclined!

**Our Diaconate Person of the Week for this week is Bethany Foster.** Please feel free to be in touch with her with your joys and concerns knowing that we care about you every day.

**\*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 those joining online. Online participants are invited to give online via our “Donate” button @ [www.uccwesterly.org](http://www.uccwesterly.org) or mail your checks, made payable to UCC Westerly, to us at 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 marked baskets 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 CHRISTMAS FUND SPECIAL OFFERING** supporting retired clergy and missionaries without pensions will be received through next Sunday, January 11. Checks should be made payable to UCC Westerly with “Christmas Fund” on the memo line. Cash donations must be placed in the Christmas Fund envelope and left in the plate.

**THE PRAYER MINISTRIES** of this church are many and varied and you are welcome to participate in any or all of them. In the sanctuary, you will find prayer notebooks by either door within which to write specific prayer requests for Sunday. You will also find prayer candle tables at which you may light a candle for your own prayer concerns. You will also find prayer shawls and prayer bears to offer comfort to those struggling. For more information on our prayer ministries please speak with any Deacon or Rev. Ruth at any time.

*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.*

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JOHN 1:1-9; 14, 16-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him,

and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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, Office Operations Coordinator