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SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

with UCC Westerly

February 22, 2026 @ 9:45am

***In-person & Broadcast live
from our sanctuary!***

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THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

GATHERING MUSIC — A selection from the many songs written, performed and recorded by Doug Brummund.
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PASTOR'S WELCOME

PRELUDE *I Hear Thy Welcome Voice*

[Gerald Peterson. ©2006 Lorenz Publishing Company. CCLI#4757007]

DEACON'S GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP — adapted from *Psalm 32*

One: Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

All: I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity.

One: You, O God, are a hiding place for me, you preserve me from trouble.

All: You instruct me and teach me in the way I should go.

OPENING HYMN

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

W&R#96, v. 1, 2, 3, 5

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UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION — excerpted from *Calling on God*, Bankson & Sokolove, Eds.

God of ultimate compassion, we seek to know your loving presence in our midst.

Holy Lover of Reality, you carry us into the future filled with choices and

temptations. We come to be reminded that you are a holy hiding place for us.

You preserve us from trouble and surround us with glad cries of deliverance.

Reveal yourself to us as we gather to love, to serve and to celebrate your Son,

Jesus. Amen.

MISSION MOMENT — *Blessing of the Blankets*

One: Gracious God, you have given us so many good gifts. Help us to share these gifts with others.

All: God of love, grant our prayer.

One: Let us pray for the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the oppressed, the unemployed, and those in any need.

All: God of love, grant our prayer.

One: Gracious God, bless the givers of these blankets. May they demonstrate your love through the giving of these gifts.

All: God of love, grant our prayer.

One: Bless the blankets we have provided for the drop-in center for the homeless at Center Church in Hartford. Bless the lives of all who will receive these blankets as tangible reminders of God's love for them.

All: God of love grant our prayer. Amen.

THE MORNING MESSAGE

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

Message – Testing God

Rev. Ruth

Music Meditation – *“Take Up Your Cross,” the Savior Said*

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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

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

Acknowledgement of Gifts & Offerings*

Anthem – *O Lord, Have Mercy*

The Voice Choir

[Hal H. Hopson, choral setting. ©2000 Hope Publishing Company. Used by permission.]

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.”*

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CLOSING SONG – *How Can I Keep from Singing?*

W&R#424

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION Anonymous

May the God of peace be with you, stilling the heart that hammers with fear and doubt and confusion. Then, may the warm mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious. May the blessing of peace be upon you so that you can bring peace to others. 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 – *The Lord Is My Shepherd*

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

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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 JoAnn Spurley.** 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 joining us 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!

**THANK YOU for your generous support of this month's Missions Donation Project** collecting new and gently used blankets. In March we are asking for cash donations to the ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING, a denominational offering. *One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education, and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response.* Also, donations of nonperishable food for the food pantry at the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center are always gratefully received in the large bin near the rear door into the sanctuary from the upper narthex.

**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.

**A gentle reminder** that when the person or situation you have requested prayers for in the Pastoral Prayers has been resolved, kindly let Rev. Ruth know so that her prayer list for worship can be updated. Thank you!

*You are welcome to donate flowers for the chancel any week. Silk, dried or fresh flowers always welcome! The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall, or speak with Rev. Ruth for more information.*

## MATTHEW 4:1-11

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. 2 He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. 3 The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” 4 But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”7 Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, 9 and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” 10 Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ”11 Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

*To request a copy of today's message be sent to you, kindly contact the office  
(860) 599-1226 or [uccwesterly@gmail.com](mailto:uccwesterly@gmail.com)*

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### OUR STAFF:

The Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth, Pastor  
David Cranmer, Organist & Choirs Director  
Jerin Peloquin, Office Operations Coordinator