



# **SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**

*with UCC Westerly*

**March 1, 2026 @ 9:45am**  
**In-person &**  
**Broadcast live from our sanctuary**  
**CCLI Streaming License #21022154**

**COMMUNION SUNDAY**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

*Microsoft stock image*

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

**PRELUDE**      *O Divine Redeemer*

[Charles Gounod, arrg. Robert W. Thygerson, edited for organ by Gilbert M. Martin. ©2006 Lorenz Publishing Company.  
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## **DEACON'S GREETING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** — *from Psalm 121*

One: I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?

**All: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

One: The Lord will keep you from all evil; the Lord will keep your life.

**All: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forever more.**

**OPENING HYMN** — *Break Now the Bread of Life*

*W&R#665*

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## **MUTUAL PRAYERS OF REFLECTION, CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

[from *The Iona Community*]

Pastor: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to turning away from God, in the ways I wound my life, the lives of others and the life of the world.

**Deacon & Congregation: May God forgive you, Christ renew you and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

**Deacon & Congregation: Before God, with the people of God, we confess to turning away from God, in the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others and the life of the world.**

Pastor: May God forgive you, Christ renew you and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.  
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 — [A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada]

**We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating; who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new; who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: To celebrate God's presence; to love and serve others; to seek justice and resist evil; to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death. God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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 [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 3:1-17

*Message – “Born of the Spirit”*

Rev. Ruth

Music Meditation – *Come to Me the Master 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 – *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

The Voice Choir

[WORDS: Isaac Watts, MUSIC Traditional folk melody. Arranged for choir by Tom Fettke & Thomas Grassi. ©2015 Lorenz Publishing Company. CCLI#7039640]

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 –** *Jesus Calls Us o'er the Tumult*

W&R#345

[©Public Domain]

## **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** – Postlude in E flat  
[Gustav Merkel ©Public Domain]

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**#A MOMENT TO BREATHE** is an experience of Thich Nhat Hahn'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 Allana Allik.** 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.**

**A REMINDER! The Missions Project this month is to encourage your support of the ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** offering of the United Church of Christ. Envelopes available near the offering plates OR write a check made payable to UCC Westerly with "OGHS" on the memo line! Details in March Beacon.

**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.*

## JOHN 3:1-17

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You<sup>[c]</sup> must be born from above.’<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>8</sup> The wind<sup>[e]</sup> blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you<sup>[f]</sup> do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.<sup>[g]</sup> <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.<sup>[h]</sup>

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through 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