



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

with UCC Westerly

March 22, 2026 @ 9:45am

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5th Sunday in Lent

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

PRELUDE *Wondrous Love*

[Todd Kendall, on the tune by W. Walker in *Southern Harmony*, ©1999 by Lorenz Publishing Company. CCLI#3292264]

DEACON’S GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP – *from Psalm 130*

One: O Lord, hear my voice and be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

All: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.

One: My soul waits for the Lord,

All: More than those who watch for the morning.

OPENING HYMN – *All Things Bright & Beautiful*

W&R#30

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UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION [*The UCC Book of Worship*, p. 111-2]

O God, distant yet near, we gather as witnesses to your promise that if we seek you with all our hearts, we will find you. Be among us this day. Hear the confessions of our mouths and the yearnings of our hearts. Help us change the narrowness of our vision and the pettiness of our living. Make us new again with your holy grace. Grant us the maturity to accept your many gifts in humility and to use them with faithfulness. Grant to us your spirit that our worship may have integrity and energy, ever witnessing to your holy presence in our lives. We praise and give thanks to you, Eternal Presence; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

THE MORNING MESSAGE

Scripture Reading: John 11:45-57

Music Meditation – *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Message – *Breaking Bad*

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

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

Acknowledgement of Gifts & Offerings*

Anthem – *O God, Your Constant Love and Care*

Melissa Stratton, Soloist

[WORDS: H. Glen Lanier ©1976 The Hymn Society & MUSIC: Twila Paris, ©1985 StraightWay Music/Mountain Spring
Music CCLI#113288]

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 – *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

W&R#473

[©Public Domain]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION *from The UCC New Century Hymnal*

Let us go and meet the world which God loves and for which Christ died. Let us proclaim that God is worthy of our trust and Christ of our discipleship. Let us live as heirs of Christ and as the people of God in the midst of God's world. 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 – Verset

[Edouard Batiste ©Public Domain]

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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 is Lynn Murray.** 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!

**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.

**REMINDER! Today is the last day to sign up to be a reader for the Palm Sunday Symbols Service and/or the Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service!**

*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 11:45-57

Pew Bible p. 874

45 Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him. 46 But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. 47 So the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the council and said, “What are we to do? This man is performing many signs. 48 If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place^[a] and our nation.” 49 But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all! 50 You do not understand that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed.” 51 He did not say this on his own, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus was about to die for the nation, 52 and not for the nation only, but to gather into one the dispersed children of God. 53 So from that day on they planned to put him to death.

54 Jesus therefore no longer walked about openly among the Jews but went from there to a town called Ephraim in the region near the wilderness, and he remained there with the disciples.

55 Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves. 56 They were looking for Jesus and were asking one another as they stood in the temple, "What do you think? Surely he will not come to the festival, will he?" 57 Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that anyone who knew where Jesus^[b] was should let them know, so that they might arrest him.

*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
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