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SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

with UCC Westerly

April 19, 2026 @ 9:45am

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EARTH DAY 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 *Near the Cross*
[Sarah H. Poole, ©1959 by Lorenz Publishing Company. CCLI#417221]

DEACON'S GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP — *from Psalm 116*
One: Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.
All: The Lord preserves the simple; when I was brought low, the Lord saved me.
One: For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.
All: I walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

OPENING HYMN — *God, You Spin the Whirling Planets* *W&R#24*
[©Public Domain]

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION
[Bankson & Sokolove, Eds., *Calling on God*, ©2014 SkyLight Paths Publishing. p. 54]
Great Giver of all rich, blossoming life, on this day we celebrate your beloved Creation and call upon your holy name. Loving Parent God, we have come to be with each other in your presence. We have come because you call us. Fill us with your love for all Creation, O God of majesty and mystery, for we gather in the name of our Savior, who is Jesus the Christ. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE GARDENS AND THE GARDENING TOOLS
Lord, we thank you for the gift of Creation. Help us during this Earth Day celebration encompassing both work and prayer to use our bodies to express our appreciation for the beauty of the Earth which you have gifted to us. Enable us to do what we must to respect its resources, and to care for all living things as your handiwork. Bless these gardening tools, all the gardens they usually till, all the people who use them to care for your Creation. Bless especially our efforts here today as we labor together to care for the beautiful grounds of our church and all the pollinators we hope to provide for through our efforts in these gardens. Amen.

THE MORNING MESSAGE

Scripture Reading: Mark 11:12-14;20-24 & 13:28-33

Music Meditation – *Loving Spirit* [©Public Domain]

Message – *Blessed and Cursed*

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 – *Morning Has Broken*

Tone Chimes Choir

[Gaelic Melody arranged by David Evans ©1927 Oxford University Press]

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 – *Touch the Earth Lightly*

W&R#38

[WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray & MUSIC: Colin Gibson. ©1992 Hope Publishing Company. CCLI#1211141]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION from *The UCC Book of Worship*

God's peace go with you into the worlds in which you live. Be nurtured by this time of gathering; be faithful in the time apart. Love and serve each other in the name of the faithful God who calls us to be God's people; and the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier be with us always. 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 – *Allegro Moderato*

[Arthur Page ©1908 Lorenz Publishing Company. CCLI#1911293]

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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 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 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 RICAN** through the cash donation jars in Fellowship Hall and at Attic Treasures next Saturday. Please also bring in food donations for local food pantries as the need is dire!

**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.

*The flower vases this morning are given by Rev. Ruth and Peter Hainsworth in celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April 23. They can't believe it either ...*

*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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MARK 11:12-14;20-24

¹² On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. ¹³ Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see whether perhaps he would find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴ He said to it, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” And his disciples heard it.

In the morning as they passed by, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. ²¹ Then Peter remembered and said to him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.” ²² Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God.^[b] ²³ Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and if you do not doubt in your heart but believe that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you. ²⁴ So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received^[c] it, and it will be yours.

& 13:28-33

²⁸ “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he^[a] is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert,^[b] for you do not know when the time will come.

*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
Jerin Peloquin, Office Operations Coordinator

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