



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP *with UCC Westerly*

August 2, 2026 @ 9:45am
In-person & Broadcast live
from our sanctuary
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#21022154

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GATHERING MUSIC – [WORDS & MUSIC:
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PASTOR'S WELCOME

PRELUDE *Andante Religioso*
[Felix Mendelssohn. © Public Domain]

DEACON'S WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP – excerpted from *The Iona Prayer Book*

One: We awake to this new day with all its promise and uncertainties.

All: **May we be able, through your strength,**

One: To move through this day free of anger, bitterness and fear

All: So that when we meet friend or stranger, we see your face in them.

OPENING HYMN *God Is Here!*

W&R#1

[WORDS: Fred Pratt Green & MUSIC: Cyril V. Taylor. © WORDS 1979 Hope Publishing Company & © 1942 & 1970. Hope Publishing Company. CCLI#223549]

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 – [excerpted from *Touch Holiness*, Duck & Tirabassi, Eds.]

In faith, we acknowledge that God has acted in the past, in a holy history.

In faith we confess that God seeks to direct and 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 toward its end.

In faith we imagine that end to be characterized by the traits we find in Jesus Christ: compassion, justice, and love.

In faith, we long to be part of that purpose. 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: Matthew 14:13-21

Message – *Unrestricted Compassion*

Rev. Ruth

Meditation Music – *There's A Wideness in God's Mercy*

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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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS*

Special Music *Lord, Hear My Prayer*

[Lani Smith. © 2006 Lorenz Publishing Company. Used by permission.]

Doxology *"Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creature here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore.*

Amen." [©Public Domain]

CLOSING HYMN – *God! When Human Hands Are Broken* W&R#416

[WORDS: Fred Kaan & MUSIC: William H. Monk. ©1989 Hope Publishing Company, CCLI#4968841]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION

Sung Response – Let There Be Peace on Earth

W&R#614

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PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE *Joyous Procession*

[Louise E. Stairs., ©1959. Lorenz Publishing Company. CCLI#4157717]

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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. This is a remarkably simple and calming breathing exercise.

**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. Please check out our *Welcome* flyer in the pew and fill out the information section and leave in one of the offering plates. We also hope you will 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 all the time, not just when you are here.

**\*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 OUR ANNUAL “IN-THE-MIDDLE” SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE** is now underway. Supplies list in the Beacon and at church. Donation basket on the chancel.

**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 worship. 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 in the front pews to offer comfort to those struggling. For more information on our prayer ministries please speak with any Deacon or Rev. Ruth at any time.

*Flowers for the chancel are always welcome. For information on how to do this, please speak with Jerin in the office.*

### **MATTHEW 14:25-31**

<sup>25</sup> And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. <sup>26</sup> But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

<sup>28</sup> Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” <sup>29</sup> He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he noticed the strong wind,<sup>[a]</sup> he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” <sup>31</sup> Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”

*A copy of today’s message can be sent to you by contacting the office.*

THE UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTERLY, UCC

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OUR STAFF:

The Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth, Pastor

David Cranmer, Organist & Choirs Director

Jerin Peloquin, Church Operations Coordinator