



# **SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**

*with UCC Westerly*

*on*

**Christmastide Sunday**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!!!**

**December 29, 2024 @ 9:45am**

**In-person &**

**Broadcast live from our sanctuary**

**CCLI Streaming License #21022154**

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## **Gathering Music –**

[WORDS & MUSIC: Doug Brummund, ©2020 B.R. Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.]

## **PASTOR’S WELCOME**

## **DEACON’S GREETING**

## **OUR INVITATION TO THE PARTY or The Call to Worship**

[adapted from *Calling on God*, Peter Bankson & Deborah Sokolove, ©2014 Skylight Paths Publishing, p. 262]

We gather today to celebrate the great joy of your gift of presence in our midst. We ask that you draw our hearts together in this celebration of joy as we blend our voices into a vibrant note of thankfulness and hope. Enable us to know deep down in our bones that we are not alone, that you are here with us on the Way, for we’ve gathered to sing and pray and celebrate in the name of Jesus, newborn among us as the Messiah.

## **OPENING SONG – *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

*W&R# 185, v. 1&2*

[© Public Domain]

## **A CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

[adapted from *Calling on God*, Peter Bankson & Deborah Sokolove, ©2014 Skylight Paths Publishing, p. 263]

**God of life and love, holy Mystery of wildness and order, we listen for your call in these uncertain times. On this cold morning at the end of a turbulent year, we raise our voices with the angels and the seas, the mountains and the flocks. Help us remind each other that each one of us is part of your good news, part of your message of hope and mystery and wonder, part of the body of the living Christ. Amen.**

## **SHARING THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS REMEMBERED**

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

An invitation to conversation and celebration

Rev. Ruth

## **THE GIFT OF PRAYING TOGETHER**

Pastoral Prayer & Silent Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer in whatever words are most comfortable for you.

Musical response

## **OUR RESPONSE TO GOD**

OFFERTORY ANTHEM --

Acknowledgement of Gifts & Offerings\*

Doxology: [©Public Domain]

*“Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.”*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION** [Anonymous]

Loving God, grant us minds to know you, hearts to love you, hands to do your work and voices to sing your praise. Amen.

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**Postlude** – *The joyful sounds of the UCC Westerly church family!*

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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 but highly effective breathing exercise that calms your mind and heart. Enjoy! 😊

**TO ANY VISITORS WITH US THIS EVENING, WELCOME!** We are so glad you decided to join us! We would love to be able to connect with you after your visit today. If you are comfortable doing so, please find one of our *CONTACT* cards in the back of the sanctuary to fill out and leave in one of the offering plates. We also hope you will join us for fellowship time if you are so inclined!

**A REMINDER OF OUR CHRISTMAS CARD EXCHANGE in Fellowship Hall!**

*Please post one of your family’s Christmas Cards on the board AND leave a donation for THE CHRISTMAS FUND of the UCC which supports clergy facing dire financial distress.*

**Our Diaconate Person of the Week for this week is Christina Brummund.** 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!*

**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 in the front pews 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 you can check with Jerin in the office.*

THE UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTERLY, UCC  
9 Castle Hill Road, Pawcatuck, CT 06379  
860-599-1226 <> email: [uccwesterly@gmail.com](mailto:uccwesterly@gmail.com)  
[www.uccwesterly.org](http://www.uccwesterly.org) <> <https://www.facebook.com/UCCWesterly>

OUR STAFF:

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

*PLEASE NOTE that the church office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 for Christmas Day and on Wednesday, December 31 for New Year's Day.*

*MERRY CHRISTMAS*

*From the Staff!!*

*Rev. Ruth     Dav     Jerin*



**A REMINDER OF SERVICES HAPPENING AT UCC WESTERLY  
DURING THE REMAINDER OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIDE**

**Sunday, December 29 @ 9:45am** – A Birthday Party for Baby Jesus on the Christmastide Sunday!

**Sunday, January 5, 2025 @ 9:45am** – **EPIPHANY & our STAR SUNDAY CELEBRATION** Festive service of Communion, Light and Star Words for the coming year!

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**Matthew 1: 18-25**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.