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SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
with UCC Westerly

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 8, 2024 @ 9:45am
In-person &
Broadcast live from our sanctuary
CCLI Streaming License #21022154

Gathering Music –

[WORDS & MUSIC: Doug Brummund, ©2022 B.R. Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.]

PASTOR'S WELCOME

PRELUDE *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

[Edward Broughton, based on the tune VENI EMMANUEL. ©2004 Lorenz Publishing Company, used by permission.]

DEACON'S WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – *The Oil Lamp*

<https://www.lovetoknow.com/celebrations/christmas/christmas-wreath-meaning>

The 1st candle is relit.

Voice 1: An oil lamp shines into the night, a pinpoint of light in the midst of darkness. Our eyes will find even the tiniest spark of light when everything around is pitch black. Even a simple oil lamp reveals the power of light, exposing a path through the darkest spaces and the scariest moments. A lamp shining in the darkness welcomes us in from our wandering. Its warmth pushes our worries away and the darkness is rendered powerless.

All: But what is an oil lamp without hands to strike the match to light it? A lamp cannot light itself. What is a light without hands to hold it up, so it shines into all those dark corners where worries and fears await? What is a lamp without hands to open the door to let the lamplight shine out into the world?

Voice 1: A lamp needs a person to look into the darkness and see who needs the light. A lamp needs a person to light the wick and set it shining. A lamp needs a person to open the door and hold it high. A lamp needs a person that will welcome the stranger into the light, into the warmth and into the hearts of those who know the light already.

All: O God, shine your light into our lives in every moment of darkness and murkiness. Warm our hearts so that we will open our doors to your love. May we be the people to shine light into the dark corners of your world. May ours be the lives that welcome you to be born again in our midst this Christmas.

The 2nd candle is lit.

All: We light the second candle of the Advent wreath to symbolize the lamp and the light it brings into the world as it drives the darkness away. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it.

OPENING HYMN – *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* [© Public Domain]

W&R#154

THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Invitation to current and former Deacons to come forward

Invitation to the candidates

The receiving of the candidates

Congregational response: Eternal God, we praise you for calling us to be your servant people and for gathering us into the body of Christ which UCC Westerly represents. We thank you for bringing Daniel, Ede, Jennifer, Donald and Joshua to us that we may work together in serving the needs of others. Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn of Welcome – Blest Be the Tie that Binds [©Public Domain]

W&R#393

THE MORNING MESSAGE –

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:68-79

Message – *The Light of God’s Mercy*

Rev. Ruth

Meditation Music – *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* [©Public Domain]

#A MOMENT TO BREATHE

A TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayers & Silent Prayer

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

Musical Response

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM – *Blest Be the God of Israel*

The Tone Chimes Choir

[Hal H. Hopson. ©1983 Hope Publishing Company. CCLI#860627]

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.”

CLOSING HYMN – *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

W&R#153

[©Public Domain]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION 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 countenance be lifted up upon you and give you peace, this day and forevermore. Amen.

Sung Response – Let There Be Peace on Earth

W& R#614

[WORDS & MUSIC: Sy Miller & Jill Jackson, © 1955, Ren.1983 Jen-Lee Music. Used by Permission. CCLI Copyright License 21022161]

PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE – *Sortie in D*

[Benton Price. ©1969 Lorenz Publishing Company. CCLI#511048]

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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 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. 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!

**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!*

**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 speak with Rev. Ruth for more information.*

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### **Luke 1:68-79**

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

*To request a copy of today's message be sent to you, kindly contact Jerin in the office at (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 Assistant