



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP *with UCC Westerly*

January 12, 2025 @ 9:45am

In-person & Broadcast live from our sanctuary
CCLI Streaming License #21022154

“Back to Basics”

Photo Credit: Dr. Hartmut Doerwaldt
“The Church at Sunrise”

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

PASTOR’S WELCOME

PRELUDE – *Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled*

[MUSIC: David Paxton. ©2005 Lorenz Publishing Company. Used by permission.]

DEACON’S WELCOME

A RESPONSIVE PRAYER CALL TO WORSHIP – Psalm 29

One: Ascribe to the Lord the glory of God’s name!

All: Worship the Lord in holy splendor!

One: May the Lord give strength to the people.

All: May the Lord bless the people with peace.

OPENING HYMN -- *Break Now the Bread of Life*

W&R#665

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UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

[adapted from *Calling on God*, Bankson & Sokolove, Eds., ©2014 Skylights Path Publishing, p. 270]

Holy, loving Mystery of Life, we gather here to celebrate the gifts you bring, the gifts you give to others, the gifts you are through your holy call upon our lives. We come to celebrate the blessing of your presence in this time and place. Living Spirit of comfort and renewal, we pray that we might know your presence with us in this hour. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

THE MORNING MESSAGE

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 43:1-7 & Luke 3:15-17; 21-23

Message – Who Is God Anyway?

Rev. Ruth

Meditation Music *Loving Spirit*

[MUSIC: David Gregof Corner, arran. By William Smith Rockstro. ©1987 the Hymn Society. CCLI#918926]

#A MOMENT TO BREATHE

A TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayer

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

Musical response

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS*

Anthem *Worthy of Worship*

The Voice Choir

[WORDS: Terry W. York ©1988 Van Ness Press (Admin. Geneva Music Group) & MUSIC: Mark Blankenship ©McKinney Music (Admin. Geneva Music Group). CCLI#82869]

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 HYMN – *Let All Things Now Living*

W&R#22

[WORDS: Katherine K. Davis MUSIC: Welsh melody. ©1966 E.C. Schirmer Music Company (Admin. By ECS Publishing Corporation) CCLI#4445649]

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 entire being be lifted upon you and grant you peace, this day and forever more. 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 *Thou Art the King*

[MUSIC: Chester Nordman. ©1970 Lorenz Publishing Company. CCLI#619517]

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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. If you lose track of your count at any point, start over. 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 Bethany Foster.** Please feel free to be in touch with her with your joys and concerns knowing that we care about you every day.

**A special reminder** that donations to the **Deacons Fund** can be made anytime but are especially received on Communion Sundays. Be sure to note "Deacons Fund" on the memo line if paying without a Deacons Fund offering envelope.

**\*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.

**Be sure to check the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall** for all sorts of sign-up sheets for upcoming events, group activities and volunteer opportunities here at church including:

- Ushers and Greeters through the end of February
- *Ladies Who Lunch* outing this Wednesday.

*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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Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, “Give them up,” and to the south, “Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

Luke 3:15-17; 21-23

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his work.

To request a copy of today's message be sent to you, kindly contact the office @ 860-599-1226 or uccwesterly@gmail.com.

THE UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTERLY, UCC

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860-599-1226 <> email: uccwesterly@gmail.com

www.uccwesterly.org <> <https://www.facebook.com/UCCWesterly>

OUR STAFF:

The Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth, Pastor

David Cranmer, Organist & Choirs Director

Jerin Peloquin, Office Assistant

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith in the form of a doxology

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.

Amen.

[Taken from the "What We Believe" section of www.ucc.org]