



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP with UCC Westerly

February 23, 2025 @ 9:45am
**In-person & Broadcast live from our
sanctuary**
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God Is Here!

Photo Credit: Microsoft Images

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

PASTOR’S WELCOME

PRELUDE *The Clarion Call*

[David Paxton. ©2004 Lorenz Publishing Company. Used by permission]

DEACON’S WELCOME

A RESPONSIVE PRAYER CALL TO WORSHIP – Psalm 37

One: Do not fret because of the wicked for they will soon fade like the grass.

All: **Trust in the Lord and do good so you will live in the land and enjoy life.**

One: Commit your way to the Lord; be still before the Lord and wait patiently.

All: **Refrain from anger and forsake wrath for it only leads to evil.**

OPENING HYMN *God Is Here!*

W&R#1

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

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

[adapted from *Calling on God*, Bankson & Sokolove, Eds., ©2014 Skylights Path Publishing, p. 282]

O God of unexpected welcome, we’ve come not knowing just quite what to expect. We come to rejoice in your generosity, to share with one another these brief and unexpected glimpses of your Good News that help us through dark times. We come to pray and sing and celebrate the hope that keeps us on the path with you. Come, Holy One, come let us know that you reach out to welcome us, for we gather to worship and praise you in the name of Jesus who is the Christ. Amen.

MISSION MOMENT – Blessing of our Mission Donation Gifts

We bring before you, O God, our humble gifts and donations as one small thing we can do in the face of the troubles and perils so many people in our community face each day. Holy One, please bless all those victimized by the California wildfires who will benefit from our gifts and all those working to distribute these gifts. Bless us in our giving and help us always to remember that those who receive these gifts are precious to you and that it is you who calls us to share from our abundance with them. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

THE MORNING MESSAGE

Scripture Readings: Genesis 45:3-11

Message – God’s Promises

Meditation Music *Hymn Tune ST. MICHAEL*

Rev. Ruth

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#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 *Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners*

The Tone Chimes Choir

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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 – *Hymn of Promise*

W&R#515

[WORDS & MUSIC: Natalie Sleeth. ©1986 Hope Publishing Company. CCLI#126529]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION *from Romans 12*

Go out into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold onto what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the Faint-hearted. Support the weak. Help the suffering. Honor all persons. Honor all creation. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And may the love of God, the Light of Christ, and the power and communion of that Spirit be with us all. Amen.

Sung Response – Let There Be Peace on Earth

W&R#614

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PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE *Thaxted* by Gustav Holst

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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 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.

*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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GENESIS 45:3-11

Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’

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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OUR STAFF:

The Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth, Pastor

David Cranmer, Organist & Choirs Director

Jerin Peloquin, Office Assistant