

Worship Guide

Waterville United Church of Christ

May 4, 2025



Seeking to walk in the Way of Jesus, we are an Open and Affirming church, faithfully using who we are and what we have to serve those on the margins of our community. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Those we have served		
	This week	Year to date
Essentials Closet	0	3398
Loads of Love	2	38
Starfish Village	\$0	\$24,687

Welcome & Mission Statement

Prelude

Traumerie

Schumann

We Take the Cup

The Peace

Hymn

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

489

A Host of Halleluyahs! Children's Time

First Reading

Acts 9:1-6, 7-20

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision,

"Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

Our Freedom in Song

Brave

Sara Barellis

Gospel Reading

John 21:1-19

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they answered.

He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

Testimony to Freedom

Freedom to Follow

Prayers of the People

Prayer of Jesus *(said in whatever language or version is in your heart)*

Our Creator in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Do not lead us into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

Free to Receive: Earthkeeping Moment

Free to Respond: Gifts of Reciprocity

Invitation to Holy Communion

Prayer of Consecration

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, your people, and on these gifts of bread and cup.
Make us lovers and tellers of your Word. Make us healers and givers of your grace,

and make us one Body in Jesus Christ. All glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now, and for all time! Amen.

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Litany of Gratitude

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love had done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

An Offering of New Life Resolutions

Announcements

Hymn

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Benediction

I Can See Clearly Now

Johnny Nash

Postlude

Rev. Ian Lynch - *Pastor*
Pete Downing - *Liturgist*

David Dean - *Soloist/Pianist*
Jackie Kulik - *Deacon*

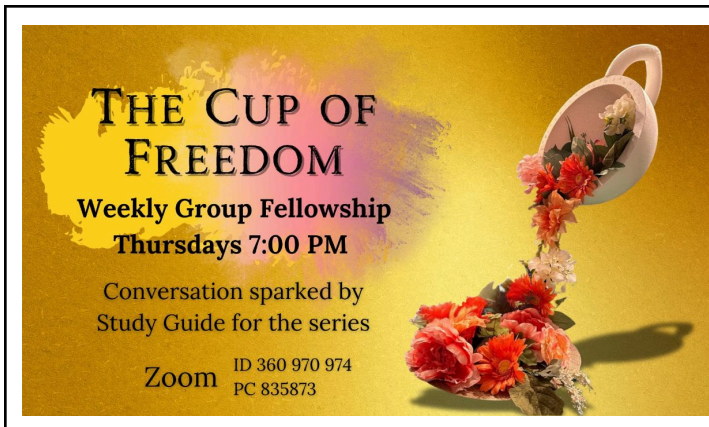
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© www.worshipdesignstudio.com/freedom
Cup of Freedom by Cynthia Cummins, performed by Chuck Bell

Whether joining the daily prayer check-in or attending Sunday worship via Zoom, the safest and most reliable way is to open the Zoom app on your device and enter the meeting ID and passcode listed below.

Daily Prayer Check-In - meeting ID: 914 158 897 passcode: 693668

Sunday Worship - meeting ID: 360 970 974 passcode: 835873

It is also possible to join with audio only by calling 1 929 205 6099



THE CUP OF FREEDOM
Weekly Group Fellowship
Thursdays 7:00 PM
Conversation sparked by
Study Guide for the series
Zoom ID 360 970 974
PC 835873



PLANTS

**PLANT/BOOK/BAKE
/CLOTHING SALE**

to Benefit Winslow Community Cupboard Food Pantry
8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sat, May 10, 2025