



United Methodist Church
of Westport and Weston

May 24, 2020
Ascension Sunday

Our Vision is to Know, to Live and to Share the Love of Jesus Christ.

Online Worship – 9:30am

THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

Excerpted from 1 Peter 4:12-19, The Message

Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner...So if you find life difficult because you are doing what God said, take it in stride. Trust God. God knows what God is doing, and God will keep on doing it.

GATHERING THE PEOPLE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
Ahyoung Son, organ

J. Roberts

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Psalm 68

The Brumit Family

Let God rise up. Let us rejoice before God and be jubilant.

Sing to God! Sing praises to God!

God is the protector of all God's children.

God showers blessings in abundance.

Sing to God! Sing praises to God!

Blessed be the Lord, who lifts us up and carries our burdens.

Our God is a God of salvation.

Sing to God! Sing praises to God!

Listen! God sends out God's mighty voice.

God's power and majesty is over all.

Sing to God! Sing praises to God!

Our God is an awesome God!

God gives power and strength to God's people.

Sing to God! Sing praises to God!

OPENING HYMN

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

UMH 312

Verse 1

Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!
to his throne above the skies, Alleluia!
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluia!
Reascends his native heaven, Alleluia!

Verse 2

There the glorious triumph waits, Alleluia!
lift your heads, eternal gates, Alleluia!

(continues on page 2)

Christ hath conquered death and sin, Alleluia!
take the King of glory in, Alleluia!

Verse 3

See! the heaven its Lord receives, Alleluia!
yet he loves the earth he leaves, Alleluia!
Though returning to his throne, Alleluia!
still he calls the world his own, Alleluia!

Verse 4

See! he lifts his hands above, Alleluia!
See! he shows the prints of love, Alleluia!
Hark! his gracious lips bestow, Alleluia!
Blessings on his church below, Alleluia!

Words: Charles Wesley

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, as we gather this day, we are aware that your Spirit is always present offering peace. As we affirm this, we also confess that we do not always fully trust in the peace you offer. We do not call upon it, nor do we rely on it, choosing instead to be dependent on what we define as safety and security. As a result, we do not experience the fullness of the healing grace you offer. We pray that we may listen to our own words and respond differently. We pray that we may be inspired by the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in and through us. We pray that we may open ourselves to you in ways that allow us to be empowered by you, that we may offer your healing hope, love, and grace which heal and transform the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The God of all grace, who calls you to eternal glory in Christ, will forgive, restore, support, strengthen and transform you.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

MOMENTS OF JOY

Pastor Heather

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 1:1-14 (NRSV)

Carolyn Orr

1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

SERMON

“A Whole New World”

Rev. Heather A. M. Sinclair

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SPECIAL MUSIC

Divertimento in F Major Movement 3: Presto
Chris Hisey, strings

W. A. Mozart

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
Grace Sinclair & Sophia Sinclair, piano

UMH 95

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE—A PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY

THE LORD’S PRAYER *You are invited to pray in the version and language of your heart.*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the kingdom, and the glory, forever. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE

CLOSING HYMN

America the Beautiful
Paula Castiglia, Don Hazard, Chris Hisey, Lauren Hisey, Grace Hisey,
Grace Sinclair, Skip Sinclair & Sophia Sinclair, vocals

UMH 696

Verse 1

O beautiful for spacious skies,
for amber waves of grain;
for purple mountain majesties
above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea.

Verse 2

O beautiful for heroes proved
in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved,
and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness,
and every gain divine.

Verse 3

O beautiful for patriot dream
that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam,
undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control,
thy liberty in law.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

O Jesus, I Have Promised
Ahyoung Son, organ

A. H. Mann

Portions of the Order of Worship are adapted from:

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Our Mission is:
To Know the love of Jesus in personal ways through worship, prayer and study
To Live the love of Jesus through acts of compassion, gentleness and justice
To Share the love of Jesus in our homes, our community and the world
To Welcome all of God’s children regardless of age, race, ability, sexual or gender orientation, and economic circumstance.

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OUR MINISTERS

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