



United Methodist Church  
of Westport and Weston

July 19, 2020  
7th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Online Worship – 9:30am

THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

Walter Brueggemann, in *Virus as a Summons to Faith*

*The future, so claims biblical faith, is not an easy, convenient gift; it is not an automatic “next” that comes in “progress.” It is not a neat technological accomplishment akin to the solving of a puzzle. It is rather a mystery-shrouded gift of God that all the creatures are invited to receive in deep cost... The truth of newness from the human side is that God’s gift comes at huge cost, the cost of acknowledging that old creation has failed and is dysfunctional, the awareness that new creation requires disciplined, intentional reception.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

PRELUDE

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*  
Ahyoung Son, organ

W. S. Bennett

CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace Sinclair & Sophia Sinclair

We gather in the name of the living Christ to worship God.

**The living Christ is with us.**

Surely, God is in this place and calls us to worship in spirit and in truth.

**The living Christ is with us.**

God’s love is for you and for all people everywhere.

**The living Christ is with us.**

May we share God’s love and life.

**The living Christ is with us.**

May we be renewed in the refreshing Spirit of the living Christ.

**The living Christ is with us.**

**Praise the Lord!**

OPENING HYMN

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

UMH 117

*Verse 1*

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!

*Verse 2*

Under the shadow of thy throne, still may we dwell secure;  
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

*Verse 3*

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,  
from everlasting, thou art God, to endless years the same.

*Verse 4*

A thousand ages, in thy sight, are like an evening gone;  
short as the watch that ends the night, before the rising sun.

*Verse 5*

Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all who breathe away;  
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

*(continues on next page)*

*Verse 6*

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come;  
be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Based on Psalm 139

**God, You know everything about me.  
Every word I speak,  
every thought I think,  
every deed I do—  
You know them all, even before I do.**

**So take a good look at me now.  
Look deep into my heart and soul.  
Point out the things that displease You,  
the thoughts and actions I need to change.  
Show me how to live as You would want me to live.  
Amen.**

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Based on Psalm 139 and Romans 8

**For nothing is impossible with God.**

**There is no place you can go, no end of the earth to which you can run, where God cannot find you.**

**There is nothing on earth or beyond death that can separate you from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**You are forgiven. You are loved. You are reconciled to God.**

**Go and live with the love of God. Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

“God Knows Us”

Pastor Heather

EPISTLE READING

Romans 8:12-25

Cindy Glover

<sup>12</sup> So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— <sup>13</sup> for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

<sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup> it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

<sup>18</sup> I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup> for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

<sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup> and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?

<sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*The ministry of the church is ongoing during these days. Your gifts, tithes and offerings continue to allow us to “be the church.” Checks may be sent to the church office or give online through our website. Your generosity is a blessing. Thank you.*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*His Eye Is on the Sparrow*  
The Hisey Family: Chris, Heather, Grace and James

Words, C. D. Martin  
Music, C. H. Gabriel

## HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*  
Ahyoung Son, organ

UMH 95

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

*My Hope Is Built*

UMH 368

**Verse 1**

My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

**Refrain:**

On Christ the solid rock I stand,  
all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

**Verse 2**

When darkness veils his lovely face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale,  
my anchor holds within the veil. **(Refrain)**

**Verse 3**

His oath, his covenant, his blood  
supports me in the whelming flood.  
When all around my soul gives way,  
he then is all my hope and stay. **(Refrain)**

*(continues on next page)*

**Verse 4**

When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in him be found!  
Dressed in his righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before the throne!

**Refrain:**

On Christ the solid rock I stand,  
all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

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BENEDICTION

Pastor Heather

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*  
Ahyoung Son, organ

Thomas A. Dorsey



Portions of the Order of Worship are adapted from:

*The United Methodist Hymnal, The United Methodist Book of Worship*, Nashville, TN: The United Methodist Publishing House

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Walter Bruggemann, *Virus as a Summons to Faith: Biblical Reflections in a Time of Loss, Grief, and Anxiety*,  
Cascade Books: Eugene, OR, 2020.

re-worship.blogspot.com

Prayer of Confession and Pardon created/adapted by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, rev-o-lution.org

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.**

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WESTPORT AND WESTON**  
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OUR MINISTERS

EVERY PARTICIPANT IN THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

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