



United Methodist Church  
of Westport and Weston

July 26, 2020  
8th 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

Matthew 13:31

*Jesus put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone too and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

PRELUDE

*Just as I Am, Without One Plea*  
Ahyoung Son, organ

W. B. Bradbury

CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 105

The Hisey Family

Give thanks to the Lord; call on God’s name;  
make God’s deeds known to all the people!

**For God is faithful to a thousand generations!**

Sing God’s praises; tell of God’s wonderful works!

**For God is faithful to a thousand generations!**

Let those who seek the Lord rejoice!

**For God is faithful to a thousand generations!**

Search for God, and for God’s strength.

Never stop looking for God.

**For God is faithful to a thousand generations!**

**Praise God!**

OPENING HYMN

*O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

UMH 480

*Verse 1*

O Love that wilt not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
that in thine ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.

*Verse 2*

O Light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
my heart restores its borrowed ray,  
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.

*Verse 3*

O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow thru the rain,

*(continues on next page)*

and feel the promise is not vain,  
that morn shall tearless be.

*Verse 4*

O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
and from the ground there blossoms red  
life that shall endless be.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace and God of glory, forgive us when we forget that nothing can separate us from your love in Jesus Christ our Lord. We confess that the distractions of life and the fear of death cause us to lose our trust in you. Too often we live and act as if you are against us rather than for us. Loving God, forgive our sins. Help us to put our trust in you through Jesus Christ, whose great love was witnessed in his life, death and resurrection. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

If God is for us, who is against us? God who gave us Christ, now gives us the Holy Spirit in power and truth. The Holy One is in our midst, equipping us for life in the service of Christ. In Christ we are more than conquerors, for nothing in creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

“The Love of God”

Pastor Heather

EPISTLE READING

Romans 8:26-39

Bob Searles

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup> We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

<sup>36</sup> As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## 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

*Nearer My God to Thee*  
Chris Hisey & Lauren Hisey

S. F. Adams

## 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

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Words: C. Wesley  
Tune: Hyfrydol

**Verse 1**

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down:  
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown:  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

**Verse 2**

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest:  
take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its Beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

**Verse 3**

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

**Verse 4**

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be:  
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

BENEDICTION

Pastor Heather

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Chris, Heather, Grace & James Hisey

POSTLUDE

*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

*Nettleton*

Ahyoung Son, organ

*Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813*



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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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**  
49 WESTON ROAD • WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT 06880

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OUR MINISTERS

EVERY PARTICIPANT IN THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

JAY LUDY AND CINDY GLOVER, LAY LEADERS

REV. HEATHER A. M. SINCLAIR, PASTOR

CHRISTOPHER HISEY, MUSIC DIRECTOR • AHYOUNG SON, ORGANIST

MARILYN SMITH, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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TELEPHONE: 203.227.4707  
FACSIMILE: 203.227.6979  
WEBSITE: WESTPORTUMC.ORG

E MAIL: CHURCH: OFFICE@WESTPORTUMC.ORG  
PASTOR: HSINCLAIR@WESTPORTUMC.ORG  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: MAESTROCJH@AOL.COM