



United Methodist Church
of Westport and Weston

September 6, 2020
14th 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

Romans 13:11-14 (The Message)

Make sure that you don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-to-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work God began when we first believed...Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

PRELUDE

Be Still, My Soul
Ahyoung Son, organ

J. Sibelius

CALL TO WORSHIP

Don Roth and Nancy Everson

Praise the Lord and sing to the Lord a new song.

Let us lift our voices and praise the Lord!

Let the people rejoice in God and let all the children be filled with joy.

Let us lift our hands and praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord with dancing and music.

Let us lift our souls and praise the Lord!

Let the saints of God be joyful.

Let us lift our songs and praise the Lord!

Let there be high praises to God in our mouths and on our lips.

Let us lift our shouts and praise the Lord!

Praise God for mighty deeds of justice, righteousness, and honor.

Let us praise the Lord!

HYMN

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

UMH 127

Verse 1

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.

Verse 2

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.

Verse 3

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgiving and loving God, our hearts are filled today with pain, fear, anxiety and concern for the future – our own and that of all of humankind. Words of frustration and anger assail our airways. In our fear, we cry “Where are you, O Lord?” We wander around in the darkness of the spirit, seeking light and hope. Forgive us when we forget that you are always with us, through times of peace and times of struggle. Heal our souls. Embolden our spirits. Free us for joyful obedience. Help us to reach out to others with the assurance of your love and presence, for we ask this in Jesus’ name. AMEN.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Beloved in Christ, God hears our prayers and our cries. God leads us out of the darkness of the past into the bright promise of today. We are called to stand strong and confident in God’s love. Rejoice for that love which began before creation flows in and through you this day! AMEN.

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

Pastor Heather

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 12:1-14 (NRSV)

Harry Jordan

12 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: **2** This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. **3** Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. **4** If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. **5** Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. **6** You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. **7** They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. **8** They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. **9** Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. **10** You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. **11** This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. **12** For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. **13** The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

14 This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:15-20 (NRSV)

15 “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. **16** But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. **17** If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. **18** Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be

bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

SERMON

“Fear & Fighting”

Rev. Heather A. M. Sinclair

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.

Our God and our Deliverer, as you protected the Israelites in their times of trials, brought them out of Egypt and led them through the wilderness, so you have guided and protected us in our time of trials, anxiety, and uncertainty. In the bringing and blessing of our offering today, we remember that in the first Passover, it was the act of an offering that identified households as your people, protected by you. We give these gifts in thanksgiving for your care for us, in hope for your continued presence, and as a sign of our desire to follow. In our Savior’s name, we pray. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, 1st Movement: Allegro
Chris Hisey, strings

W. A. Mozart

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

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

UMH 629, vv. 1, 4 & 5

Refrain: You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat.
Come, give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.

Verse 1: As when the shepherd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice,
so when you call your family, Lord, we follow and rejoice. **(Refrain)**

Verse 4: The mystery of your presence, Lord, no mortal tongue can tell;
whom all the world cannot contain comes in our hearts to dwell. **(Refrain)**

Verse 5: You give yourself to us, O Lord; then selfless let us be,
to serve each other in your name in truth and charity. **(Refrain)**

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

How Firm a Foundation
Ahyoung Son, organ

Early USA melody;
harm. from *Tabor*

A BLESSING FOR THE TABLE

Holy Comforter, we gather in your name
invited by Jesus
bound together with your Spirit
in union with each other.

Feed our bodies and our spirits
with your comforting presence
so that we might be your comfort to others

Bless this food and break open our hearts.
Bless this drink and pour out your love.
Bless this table and all who we welcome to it in your name.

Sung to the tune of *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*, UMH 95
Be present at our table, Lord;
Be here and everywhere adored;
Thy creatures bless, and grant that we
May feast in paradise with Thee. Amen.



Portions of the Order of Worship are adapted from:

The United Methodist Hymnal, *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, and *The Faith We Sing*,

Nashville, TN: The United Methodist Publishing House

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Eugene Blair, *The Africana Worship Book: Year A, Discipleship Resources, 2006*

umcdiscipleshipresources.org; ministrymatters.com; bread.org/blog/prayer-labor-day

Dr. Marcia McFee, "Comfort Food: A Feast of Love," www.worshipdesignstudio.com/series

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OUR MINISTERS

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