



United Methodist Church
of Westport and Weston

September 20, 2020
16th 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

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

PRELUDE

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee
Ahyoung Son, organ

H. Percy Smith

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Chapman/Kirwan Family

The Israelites learned survival in Egypt.
They learned survival fleeing Egypt.
They learned survival in the waters on dry land.
They learned survival in the bitter wilderness.
By the time they got to the desert,
They had lost a sense of future,
And they fell apart.
I fall apart sometimes.
I need to know God cares.
O God, rain grace down from heaven this day!
I will collect your daily blessings and shape them into my hope.
I will worship you and give you thanks.

HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

UMH 121

Verse 1

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.

Verse 2

There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good!
There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.

Verse 3

For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

Verse 4

If our love were but more simple, we should rest upon God's word;
and our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of fruitful labor, work, at home, at school, in the workplace, sometimes brings out the worst in us. Even in our relationship with you, we too easily question what others do and get, instead of taking care of our own business. We worry that someone else might have too much and forget about those who do not have enough. Take away our bitterness. Teach us the art of the careful complaint and gratitude, even in our grumbling. Give us grateful hearts, we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news: what we do matters, but our salvation is God's doing. God hears our complaints and grumbings, but also our prayers and praises. God will not forget us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

“The Last Will Be First”

Pastor Heather

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 16:2-15

Jerry Eyster

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.

⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.”

⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?” ⁸And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD.”

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’” ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹²“I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Grumbling and Gratitude”

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 given online through our website. Your generosity is a blessing. Thank you.

God of grace and compassion, we give thanks for the lessons you teach us through the stories of the Israelites in the wilderness. You took care of their needs. You gave enough to meet the needs of the day and instructed them to look out for the weak and needy. Finally, you made clear that accumulating more than they needed would not end well. Help us to learn from these lessons in what you have given to us by your goodness. Guide us to being good and grateful stewards. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

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

UMH 95

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *[A brief silence.]*

Forgive us when we look for what is lacking rather than rejoicing in the plenty of our lives. Continue to bless us, not only with those things we need, but with a spirit of holy gratitude.

O LORD our God, when we are frightened, you are our courage.

When we are wandering, you are our guide. When our souls are hungry, you are our daily manna. When our spirits are thirsty, you are our eternal wellspring.

O God, lend your Spirit to hear our grief and longing, our despair over violence and devastation. We don’t know what to say or do or think in the aftermath of tragedy. Give us voices to speak, hearts for compassion and strength to find paths to new ways of peace.

Your blessings rain upon us from the heavens, O God. Shower us with your healing and surround each person who suffers, cloaking them with your presence and love. We lift up especially...

We follow the trail of your saints, stretching through miles of wilderness, over centuries of grace. Give us the faith which they showed, and patience when the way ahead seems unclear.

Bless us, O Lord, and these prayers which we raise to you. Give us assurance of your steadfast promises, and peace in your presence. We pray in Jesus’ name as he taught us:

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

Now Thank We All Our God

UMH 102

Verse 1

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

(continues on next page)

Verse 2

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed;
and free us from all ills, in this world and the next.

Verse 3

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven;
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Peace I Leave With You

POSTLUDE

When Our Confidence is Shaken

Chants Ordinaires

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
All music is in the Public Domain, unless noted.
ONE LICENSE # A-735187. All rights reserved.
umcdiscipleshipresources.org; ministrymatters.com

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

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

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