



United Methodist Church  
of Westport and Weston

November 15, 2020  
24th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Outdoor and Livestreamed Worship – 10:00am

THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

Thessalonians 5:10-11 (The Message)

*Whether we're awake with the living or asleep with the dead, we're alive with Christ! So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind. I know you're already doing this; just keep on doing it.*

PRELUDE

*Thou Art Worthy*  
Ahyoung Son, keyboard

P. M. Mills

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lift your eyes to God:

**in the highest heavens, we see your glory, Great Creator.**

Reach out your hands to Jesus:

**in the compassion of an enemy, we know your love, O Christ.**

Feel the breath of the Spirit:

**in our bodies and in our souls, the Spirit whispers hope.**

Let us worship the God who reigns,

by entering the depths of our humanity

and setting the humble soaring on the wings of the Spirit.

**We lift our eyes, our hands, our bodies and our souls to worship God!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy One,**

**We long to be faithful stewards of your abundant grace.**

**To serve each other in love and humility.**

**To serve your world with wisdom and energy.**

**Forgive us when we stumble over pride,**

**when our words and actions are not guided by love.**

**Turn our hearts when we act carelessly.**

**Restore our energy when it is gone.**

**Sometimes, many times, O God, our efforts fail.**

**But your abundant grace is strong and eternal,**

**And forgiveness is ours through Jesus Christ.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Beloved, hear the good news:  
We have not been faithful in all things.  
But our God still welcomes us with patience and kindness.  
Therefore, as people of God's promise,  
let us receive forgiveness, embrace hope, and faithfully respond,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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)**

**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)**

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PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:14-30

Karol Brumit

<sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them;  
<sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’

<sup>26</sup> But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?’ <sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

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

SERMON

“Enter the Joy”

Rev. Heather A. M. Sinclair

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

GIVING THANKS FOR OUR GIFTS

*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.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God, whose giving knows no ending,  
we offer up the treasure that you have entrusted to us;  
we offer up the skills and time that you have graciously given to us;  
we offer up ourselves in service and praise.  
Receive these gifts by your grace.  
Multiply and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit  
to accomplish Christ’s work of love in the world. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Grace Alone*  
Ahyoung Son, keyboard

S. W. Brown  
and J. Nelson

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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.**

HYMN

*Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated*

UMH 399

*Verse 1*

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

*(continues on next page)*

**Verse 2**

Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.  
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.

**Verse 3**

Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.  
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be, ever, only, all for thee.

GOING FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*He Is Exalted*

Ahyoung Son, keyboard

T. Paris

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Joanna Harader, *Spacious Faith*, <http://spaciousfaith.com/>  
Anita Monro, *MAD-e-Lena*, <http://mad-e-lena.blogspot.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**  
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OUR MINISTERS

EVERY PARTICIPANT IN THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

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