



United Methodist Church  
of Westport and Weston

April 4, 2021  
Easter Sunday

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

In-Person, Outdoor &  
Livestream Worship – 10:00am

THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

Barbara Brown Taylor in “Holy Envy: Finding the Faith of God in Others”

*How wonderful of [Jesus] to come back undercover, so that even the people who knew him best had to look, then look again, before they got the crawly feeling that they had seen him somewhere before.*

PRELUDE

*In the Garden*  
Ahyoung Son, piano

C. A. Miles  
adapt. C. H. Webb

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!      **Christ is Risen! Alleluia!**  
This day dawns brightly!      **This day dawns brightly!**  
Hope is restored!      **Hope is restored!**  
Darkness and death do not have the last word!  
**Darkness and death do not have the last word!**  
We open our hearts and spirits to the joyous Good News!  
**We open our hearts and spirits to the joyous Good News!**  
Christ is Risen! Alleluia!      **Christ is Risen! Alleluia!**

OPENING HYMN

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

UMH 302, vv. 1, 2, 4, 6

**Verse 1** Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Earth and Heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

**Verse 2** Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!  
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

**Verse 4** Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

**Verse 6** King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia!  
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!  
Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia!  
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

John 20:1-18

Dennis Castiglia

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." <sup>3</sup> Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup> The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup> for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples returned to their homes.

<sup>11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup> and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup> They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." <sup>14</sup> When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

SERMON

"Love Perservering"

Rev. Heather A. M. Sinclair

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Living Lord,  
when we stand before the empty tomb  
we don't always feel the joy of resurrection.  
We feel fear, doubt, and distrust.  
We feel empty.  
Forgive the fear that paralyzes us at the brink of new life.  
Forgive our doubt of your love.  
Forgive our distrust of your surprising, joyous plan.  
Forgive us for not sharing the good news of resurrection,  
in word or deed, with our neighbors and the needy.  
Fill our emptiness with your glorious light.  
Raise us to abundant new life  
for the glory of your name.**

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*Please remain seated. Look around! Share the peace of Christ with a smile, a nod, praying hands or sign language.*

OFFERING

*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, placed in the offering box at the Welcome Table or given online through our website. Your generosity is a blessing. Thank you.*

MUSICAL OFFERING

*This Is the Day the Lord Has Made*  
Chancel Choir

M. Hayes

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HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH 94

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

BREAKING THE BREAD

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*In the United Methodist Church, all people, of all ages, and church affiliations, who love Jesus Christ, and seek forgiveness and peace are welcome to the Lord’s Table. You may eat the pre-packaged wafer bread and drink the juice in the presence of the congregation or bring it home. Trash receptacles will be at the exits. If you are worshipping at home, be assured that God’s blessing is upon the bread and cup which you bring to the online gathering.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CLOSING HYMN

*Lift High the Cross*

UMH 159

**Refrain** Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

**Verse 1** Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.  
The hosts of God in unity combine. **(Refrain)**

**Verse 2** Each newborn servant of the Crucified  
bears on the brow the seal of him who died. **(Refrain)**

**Verse 3** O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee. **(Refrain)**

**Verse 4** So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! **(Refrain)**

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BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION

*Let the Church Say "Amen"*

A. Crouch, arr. Joel Raney

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POSTLUDE

*He Lives*  
Ahyoung Son, piano

A. H. Ackley

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Special thanks go to trumpeter Brian Miller and to this morning's choir, Dennis & Paula Castiglia, Chris & Heather Hisey, and Skip Sinclair for sharing their musical gifts today.

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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Nancy Townley, MinistryMatters.com; Greg Scheer, gregscheer.com; UMCDiscipleship.org



**WELCOME!** We joyfully welcome all visitors to our worship service this morning. You are welcome to this community of faith by participating in worship or any activities. Check the website – [WestportUMC.org](http://WestportUMC.org) – or contact the church office to receive email updates.

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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