



United Methodist Church
of Westport and Weston

April 18, 2021
3rd Sunday of Easter

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

Outdoors & Livestream Worship – 10:00am

THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

Brandan J. Robertson, in “Living in a Postresurrection World”

Whether or not we believe in a physical or literal resurrection ultimately seems quite trivial when we reflect on the true call of the gospel to live a life modeling Jesus’ posture in the world. Our faith is not about a singular event in history – whether or not Jesus rose physically – but, rather, about whether we will allow Christ to rise within our hearts and lives as we seek to embody his path of self-sacrificial love in the world.

PRELUDE

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain
Ahyoung Son, piano

A. S. Sullivan

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

We have come to this holy place to worship our God;
a sanctuary is not always built by human hands.

Everywhere we go is a sanctuary,
every place a time to worship God!

When we live as if all creation, even ourselves, is a sanctuary,
filled with the Creator’s presence,
we walk differently upon this earth.

We are always on sacred ground.

**We move with reverence through all creation
and enter this holy place now to worship our Creator.**

O Great Spirit,

**whose breath gives life to the world,
and whose voice is heard in the soft breeze:**

We need your strength and wisdom.

**Cause us to walk in beauty. Give us eyes
ever to behold the red and purple sunset.**

**Make us wise so that we may understand
what you have taught us.**

**Help us learn the lessons you have hidden
in every leaf and rock.**

**Make us always ready to come to you
with clean hands and steady eyes,
so when life fades, like the fading sunset,
our spirits may come to you without shame. Amen.**

Trad. Native American prayer

OPENING HYMN

All Things Bright and Beautiful

UMH 147

Refrain

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: the Lord God made them all.

(continues on next page)

Verse 1

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings. *(Refrain)*

Verse 2

The purple-headed mountains, the river running by,
the sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky. *(Refrain)*

Verse 3

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden: God made them every one. *(Refrain)*

Verse 4

God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. *(Refrain)*

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:36b-49

Lauren Hisey

³⁶ While [the disciples] were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

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

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

“Jesus Is Here!”

Pastor Heather

SPECIAL MUSIC

Prayer of St. Francis

A. Pote

Chris Hisey, Heather Hisey, Lauren Hisey and Skip Sinclair, vocals

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SERMON

“You Are Witnesses”

Rev. Heather A. M. Sinclair

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 power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

UMH 304

Verse 1

Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven’s choices; heavenly music, let it ring:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.

(continues on next page)

Verse 2

Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below.
For our Lord empowers us to triumph over every foe.
Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.

Verse 3

Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song.
When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong.
Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.

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BENEDICTION & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SUNG BENEDICTION

Peace I Leave with You

Arr. G. Weigle

POSTLUDE

Thine Be the Glory
Ahyoung Son, piano

Harmonia Sacra
arr. from G.F. Handel



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 placed in the Offering Box, sent to the church office or given online through our website. Your generosity is a blessing. Thank you.

The Native American Ministries Sunday offering – one of six annual special UMC offerings – equips seminary students who honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. And empowers congregations to find fresh and culturally appropriate ways to minister to their communities with Christ’s love. For more information, go to UMCGiving.org.



Portions of the Order of Worship are adapted from:
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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 – 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.

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OUR MINISTERS

EVERY PARTICIPANT IN THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION
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