



United Methodist Church
of Westport and Weston

August 1, 2021
10th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion

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

Sanctuary & Livestream Worship – 10:00am

THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

“The Sound of Genuine” by Howard Thurman

There is something that waits and listens for the sound of the genuine in yourself. It is the only true guide you will ever have. And if you cannot hear it, you will all of your life spend your days on the ends of strings that somebody else pulls.

PRELUDE

Adagio from Op.16
Ahyoung Son, organ

J. André

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning God created all things,
and God saw that they were good.
At our beginning God created us,
and sees that we are unique, treasured, loved and good.
Along the journey, we have stumbled and disregarded the “good”
in creation, in each other, in ourselves.
We seek healing, wholeness, and forgiveness.
We hope to forgive as we have been forgiven.
We seek to love God, neighbor and ourselves.
**Let us worship the God who created us for relationship,
holds us in a loving embrace,
desires reconciliation, wholeness, and transformation.**

*OPENING HYMN

Just as I Am, Without One Plea

UMH 357, vv. 3-6

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O Lord, we seek your mercy—
yet we ourselves seek payback when we are wronged.
We think it’s “only fair” when we retaliate, use harsh words
and withdraw from relationships.
Although the forgiveness you offer on our account
is larger than we can comprehend, still we withhold forgiveness.
We carry grudges over petty grievances.
We are eager to replace your judgments with our own.
We delude ourselves,
trying to secure your forgiveness while avoiding honest repentance.
Forgive us for the sins we know in our hearts.
Save us from the sins we hide.**

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

**Indicates that those who are able
are invited to rise in body and spirit.*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Our God is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger, and has not dealt with us according to our sins. Instead, in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. This gift of forgiveness makes us able, in the power of Holy Spirit, to choose to forgive, renew, and live again in right relationship with each other and with our God.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Pastor Heather

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Old Rugged Cross

G. Bennard

GOSPEL READING

John 4:4-26

Paula Castiglia

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

SERMON

“The Gift of Forgiveness”

Rev. Heather A. M. Sinclair

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God our Creator!

With joy we give our thanks and praise!

Before anything was created, you were God.

You spoke into the darkness and called forth light from darkness;
by your Word you called order and beauty out of chaos.

You created us out of ordinary dust, claimed us as children made in your
image and breathed into us the breath of life.

You delivered us from captivity and made visible a path through the waters, making a way where there was
no way, sending nourishment where none could be seen, and leading us through wilderness, so we could
un-learn the ways of injustice and oppression.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

When we have needed reminders of your love, your grace, your truth, your
desire for justice, you have sent signs and wonders, judges and prophets, people who have spoken your
Word, who have proclaimed your vision for creation, who have taught us again and again to see with
your eyes.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join the
unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy God, our life, our mercy, our strength, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Praise and glory to our God, who saves us!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, and blessed is Jesus, who revealed to us your face, your nature, your love.

Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,

to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when your kin'dom was emerging within us, among us, and through us.

He saw those who had been outcast and invited them to the feast;
he healed those whose demons kept them outside the circle and lifted up the humble and lowly: women and children, the sick and unwanted, foreigners and oppressors.

He ate with all and taught us to see in each person the image of God, the Belovedness of Christ, and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

On the night before Jesus died, he had dinner with his friends. And taking the bread, he gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Even when we are broken, God blesses us with nourishment and new life. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you: as the covenants of old were sealed with blood, so my life’s energy and love have been poured out as a sign of a new covenant of forgiveness and healing available to all. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living
sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering of love, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and the cup.
Make them be for us the body and love of Christ, visible signs of your invisible grace,
a sacred mystery that we carry with us that unites us with you, with Christ,
and with each other as we pour ourselves out in love to proclaim your Good News throughout the world.

Through your Beloved Child Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, all-loving God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

SHARING THE BREAD & CUP

COMMUNION MUSIC

Freely, Freely

UMH 389

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, you have given yourself to us; now we give ourselves to others. As you have filled us with your love, help us to share our love with joy. Grant us the grace to glorify you in all things and to sing your praises wherever we go. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

UMH 474

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BENEDICTION

**Indicates that those who are able
are invited to rise in body and spirit.*

At the conclusion of the Postlude, you are invited to exit the sanctuary. You may greet each other outside on the walkways or lawn.

SUNG BENEDICTION

Shalom to You

UMH 666

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Ahyoung Son, piano

POSTLUDE

You Are My King (Amazing Love)

B. Foote

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Ahyoung Son, organ

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.



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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*Great Thanksgiving written/adapted from the UMC Book of Worship by Kerry Greenhill © 2007
and further edited by Heather A. M. Sinclair*



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WESTPORT AND WESTON

49 WESTON ROAD ♦ WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT 06880

OUR MINISTERS ARE EVERY PARTICIPANT IN THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION, AND
DAN GELMAN 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:
PASTOR:
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

OFFICE@WESTPORTUMC.ORG
HSINCLAIR@WESTPORTUMC.ORG
MAESTROCJH@AOL.COM

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