



United Methodist Church
of Westport and Weston

May 1, 2022
3rd Sunday of Easter

Native American Ministries Sunday
Celebration of Holy Communion

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

Sanctuary & Livestream Worship – 10:00am

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION

May all I say and all I think be in harmony with thee, God within me, God beyond me, maker of the trees.
– Chinook prayer, Pacific Northwest Coast

PRELUDE

Prelude from Suite in G major
Brian Li, cello

J. S. Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

CALL TO WORSHIP

Inspired by Psalm 30

Sing praises to God, all you faithful ones.
God hears us in our fear and our sorrow.
Where there was no way,
God leads us in a new way.
Where there was no mercy,
God surprises us with fresh mercy.
Where there was weeping,
God invites us to step into a new dance.

*OPENING HYMN

Christ Has Risen

TFWS 2115

Graham Maule, John L. Bell; CCLI Song # 4561475
©1988 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland (Admin. by Wild Goose Resource Group)

GOSPEL READING

John 21:1-14

Dennis Castiglia

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

A MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

“A Surprising Catch”

Pastor Heather

All children are welcome to come forward for a special message. The Nursery is open and staffed by professionals to care for children under the age of five.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Courant from Suite in G major
Brian Li, cello

J. S. Bach

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 9:1-20

SERMON

“Surprising Connections”

Rev. Heather A. M. Sinclair

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

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYERS AT THE TABLE

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us honor God.

It is right to honor God.

It is right to honor God and to give our thanks.

We give our thanks to God.

We send to you, Creator God, our dreams, visions, and prayers.

For our mission: Let your Spirit move us to honor and respect one another – from the least to the greatest. May we treat everyone we encounter with dignity and love. May we affirm the image of the Creator within each one of us. May we help restore the image of the Creator on earth. May our words, thoughts, and actions nourish and sustain your creation.

For the Church: May it lead and dance with honor. Let all who join in the dance, follow its steps and rhythm know and feel righteousness and strength through the blessing of community. May its vision be clear and focused on following Christ with love and grace.

For the world: May the nations of the earth gather to listen to the heartbeat of God. May they sit in silence as the Great Peacemaker teaches and shows them how to walk upright. May the war clubs and instruments of destruction be transformed into life giving means of grace. (Isaiah 2)

For the hearts of the people: Created with your sacred fire burning within us, we confess that we struggle to live out of our great potential. When we do harm to your Creation, your creatures and fellow human beings, forgive us. When we fail to do all the good we can, in all the places we can, forgive us. When we turn away from your love and grace, forgive us.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Hear now the good news of Jesus Christ.

You are forgiven. I am forgiven. We are forgiven.

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

You are invited to rise and share the Peace of Christ.

Be glorified, Everlasting Light who ends our mourning. Be glorified, Planter of righteousness whose hands have formed us with strength. Be glorified! (based on Is. 60:19-21; 61:3)

All praise to the Holy Spirit who helps us in our weakness. All praise to the Sacred Spirit who teaches us how to pray and intercedes on our behalf. All praise! (based on Romans 8:26)

Jesus Christ, Creator's Son, our brother and friend,

with honor and respect, we remember the great sacrifice of your life for us and for our people.

With awe and humility, we remember the miracle of your resurrection from death.

With faith, hope and trust, we remember the promise you made to return and lead us home.

Creator God, Jesus, your son, understood the importance of community and relationship. On the night he gave himself up for us, he gathered his disciples from many tribes, and shared a meal with them in preparation for his death and resurrection.

As he stood in the midst of his friends, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After the meal, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples and said, “Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

As the grain was given by Creator God to all peoples of the world,

Jesus Christ was also given to nourish and sustain.

As the fruit of the vine was given by Creator God to all peoples of the world,

Jesus Christ was also given to bind us to God and one another.

As the women from many tribes knead, fold, and make the bread in holy stillness, so the women tended and cared for the broken body of Jesus Christ:

A sacrifice for us.

Spirit, help us now. Come and breathe into these gifts of bread and juice.

As we receive these gifts into our bodies, may our spirit become the one in the spirit of Christ, joining us in ministry in the world until we feast at the heavenly banquet table. All honor and glory to God, Creator, Christ and Spirit. **Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(You are invited to pray in the version and language of your heart.)*

SHARING THE BREAD & CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Lamb of God

T. Paris

©1985 Jubilee Communications Inc. / Mountain Spring Music; CCLI Song #16787

Surely the Presence

L. Wolfe

©1977 Lanny Wolfe Music; CCLI Song #7909

Jesus Remember Me

J. Berthier, Taizé

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PRAYER FOR THE JOURNEY

We have taken Jesus into us; we now go out into the different directions to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

We go out to correct what we did wrong, what others did wrong, and to sometimes carry the burden of another’s cross, as Jesus did for us. We go out to stand up for the powerless, voiceless, and invisible.

Gracious God, let your mercy and grace fall on us and give us courage to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Creator God, as we walk from this place with renewed strength for the journey before us, let us follow the path of Jesus, as the Spirit guides our steps. Help us to make wise choices in the days ahead, to serve those in need, and to remember our place in the circle of life. Remind us to listen to our elders, to teach our children the traditions of our people, to respect one another and all creation. As we wait for the day when we will be reunited with you and those who have gone before us, keep our hope alive and our footsteps on the path toward home.

As we depart from one another, remember, Creator God was here before we came and will be here after we depart. Creator God came in with us and will stay with us when we depart. We are all connected to each other and to our Creator. All praise to Creator God! **Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN

Where He Leads Me

UMH 338

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Peace I Leave with You

Arr. G. Weigle

POSTLUDE

And Can It Be that I Should Gain
Ahyoung Son, organ

T. Campbell



Your gifts, tithes and offerings allow us to continue the mission and ministries of this congregation and the connectional church. Checks may be brought to worship and dropped in the offering box in the narthex, mailed to the church office or given online through our website. Your generosity is a blessing. Thank you.

Portions of the worship service are adapted from:

Ministry Matters website,

Call to Worship: Rev. Susan A. Blain, Worship Ways, <http://uccfiles.com/>

Native American Ministries Sunday liturgies are from

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/native-american-ministries-sunday-ministry-article>

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Welcome! It is a blessing to welcome you to worship today. If you are visiting, please sign the guestbook, introduce yourself to Pastor Heather, an usher or greeter and check out WestportUMC.org to find out more about the mission and ministries of this community of faith.

All are invited to Fellowship Hall immediately after the service to enjoy refreshments and fellowship. We need volunteers to set up coffee, provide food or do clean-up for fellowship time on Sundays. Please look for the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Instructions are provided! Thank you.

Welcoming Statement

The United Methodist Church of Westport and Weston is a community of faith that is committed to growing in grace and supporting one another in love. We affirm the sacred worth of all of God's children and welcome people of all ages, races, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities and economic circumstances to join us in the membership, participation and leadership of our church.

Our hearts, our minds and our doors are open to all.



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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REV. HEATHER A. M. SINCLAIR, PASTOR

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