



United Methodist Church  
of Westport and Weston

May 8, 2022  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

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

Sanctuary & Livestream Worship – 10:00am

THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

*We are learning from the teaching and example of Jesus that life itself is a religion, that nothing is more sacred than a human being, that the end of all right institutions, whether the home or the church or an educational establishment, or a government, is the development of the human soul.* – Anna Howard Shaw, a leader in the women's suffrage movement in the United States. She was also a physician and one of the first ordained female Methodist ministers in the United States.

PRELUDE

*The Power of the Cross* S. Townend, arr. C Tornquist  
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Ahyoung Son, piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

CALL TO WORSHIP

Inspired by Psalm 23

Loving Shepherd, you know our names; **you care for us.**  
When we face darkness and death, **you walk beside us.**  
When we hunger for your love, **you fill us with your presence.**  
When we are fearful and in need, **you feed us at your table.**  
As we gather to worship and give you praise, **we are grateful that you welcome us to dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives.**

\*OPENING HYMN

*He Lives* UMH 310  
©1933 Homer A. Rodeheaver. Renewed 1961 Curb Word Music (Admin. by WC Music Corp.); CCLI Song # 17597

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we confess that we have strayed from your paths of right relationship and peace. We have dishonored you, ourselves, and your creation with what we have done and left undone. We repent of these hurtful ways and ask for your divine guidance. Forgive us we pray, as we learn to imitate your graciousness and forgive others as we have been forgiven. Open our eyes to see the surprises of resurrection. Guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Though we may walk through shadows, we are assured that God's mercy overflows as a healing spring to cleanse us and restores us to new and abundant life.

**In the name of the Risen Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PSALTER

Psalm 23

UMH 754

A MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

“The Lord Is My Shepherd”

Pastor Heather

*All children are welcome to come forward for a special message. Children over the age of five will then be invited to Sunday School. The Nursery is open and staffed by professionals for those under the age of five.*

SPECIAL MUSIC *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* D. A. Thrupp, W. B. Bradbury

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 9:36-43 Pastor Heather  
The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “Nevertheless, She Persisted” Rev. Heather A. M. Sinclair

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *A Litany for Mothers & Women of Faith*

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

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.**

*~ The New Zealand Book of Prayer | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa*

\*CLOSING HYMN *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve* TFWS 2241  
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BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION *Make Us One* C. Cymbala  
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POSTLUDE *Rescue the Perishing* W. H. Doane  
*Ahyoung Son, organ*



*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:  
*www.inspiringquotes.us/author/5128-anna-howard-shaw*  
*Call to Worship* written by Mary Petrina Boyd, and posted on Ministry Matters. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>  
*Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Year C, Volume 1, Westminster John Knox Press, 2012*

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

**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](http://WestportUMC.org) to find out more about the mission and ministries of this community of faith.

**ALL ARE INVITED** to enjoy a time of fellowship and refreshments after worship in Fellowship Hall. Thanks go to all who provide food, make the coffee, set up and clean up. It's a team effort every Sunday! Please look for the sign-up board in Fellowship Hall.

## *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** 49 WESTON ROAD ♦ WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT 06880

#### OUR MINISTERS

EVERY PARTICIPANT IN THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

DAN GELMAN AND CINDY GLOVER, LAY LEADERS

REV. HEATHER A. M. SINCLAIR, PASTOR

CHRISTOPHER HISEY, MUSIC DIRECTOR ♦ AHYOUNG SON, ORGANIST

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