



United Methodist Church
of Westport and Weston

August 7, 2022
9th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Sanctuary & Livestream Worship – 10:00am

CENTERING PRAYER

God of grace, who are we that you should care for us? Yet, you surprise us with grace, infuse us with hope, and teach us a better way. Make us ever more faithful and ever more grateful as we seek to know, live and share the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRELUDE

Have Thine Own Way, Lord
Ahyoung Son, organ

G. Stebbins

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Our soul waits for the Lord, who is our help and strength.

Our hearts are glad because we trust in God's holy name.

O God, let your steadfast love be upon us, even as we hope in you.

Friends in Christ, in even our faithlessness, God loves us still and waits in mercy to forgive. Trusting in the promises given at our baptism, let us confess our sin before God and one another:

Holy God, you promise us a life full of blessing, but we do not always believe. You encourage us to hope, but we fall back in fear. You urge us to give freely, but we cling to what we have. You call us to watch at all times, but we grow impatient and self-absorbed. Forgive us. Increase our faith, kindle our hope, enlarge our hearts, and keep us alert to the wonders you work in the world every day. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

By faith we have been saved. By grace we have been forgiven. By love we are refreshed, renewed and empowered to live by the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God!

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*OPENING HYMN

Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom

UMH 508

A. Frostenson, F. Kaan, V. E. Copes, ©1976, 1988 Hope Publishing Company. One License Song #105818

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-12

Cindy Glover

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

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

“By Faith”

Rev. Heather A. M. Sinclair

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SPECIAL MUSIC

Hymn of Promise

N. Sleeth

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Harry Jordan, guitar & vocals

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR HOLY BAPTISM,
REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH AND RECEPTION INTO THE UMC OF WESTPORT & WESTON

INTRODUCTION AND PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE

Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy family, the church. We are named as a beloved child of God; incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All of this is God's gift, offered to us without a price.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE FOR BAPTISM

Lay Leader: On behalf of this congregation, I present for baptism

James Merritt Page-Fort

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor to Parents: On behalf of the whole church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? **I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? **I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? **I do.**

Will you nurture this child in Christ's holy church, that by your teaching and example he may be guided to accept God's grace for himself to profess his faith openly, and to lead a Christian life? **I will.**

Pastor to Congregation: Do you as Christ's body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ? **We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this child now before you in your care? **With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround this child with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow in his trust of God, and be found faithful in his service to others. We will pray for him, that he may grow to be a true disciple who walks to the way that leads to life.**

Let us together profess our faith through the word of the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The pastor prays: Eternal God, when nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised. In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and those who receive it, to wash away their sin and clothe them in righteousness throughout their lives, that dying and being raised with Christ, they may share in final victory.

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

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

As the child is baptized, the pastor says: I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *The pastor lights a candle and says:* May the Holy Spirit work within you and the light of Christ shine in and through you, that being born through water and the Spirit you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

Pastor to congregation: Now it is our joy to welcome our new sibling in Christ, *James Merritt Page-Fort.*

Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as a member of the family of Christ.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

Lay Leader: On behalf of this congregation, I present

*Ben & Penny Page-Fort
Dean & Kirsten Zarras*

to reaffirm their faith and be received as members of the United Methodist Church of Westport & Weston.

Pastor to Candidates: Through the Reaffirmation of our Faith, we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing in and through us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy church.

Will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church and this congregation, and do all in your power to faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness? **I will.**

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Pastor to Congregation: Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

We give you thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As a member together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace. **Amen.**

HYMN

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

UMH 611

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HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Give thanks to God, for God is good. **God's love is everlasting.**

Blessed are you, O God, who with your Word and Holy Spirit created all things and called them good. In Jesus Christ your Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Through Jesus' suffering and death you took upon yourself our sin and death and destroyed their power forever. You raised Jesus from the dead, who now reigns with you in glory, and poured among us your Holy Spirit, making us the people of your new covenant.

Remembering the Lord Jesus, we break bread and share one cup, announcing his death from the sins of the world and telling the good news of his resurrection to all people, until Christ comes again and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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

When the meal was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to God, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from 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."

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts, that in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup we may know the presence of the living Christ and be renewed as the body of Christ redeemed by his blood.

O God, who called us from death to life: We give ourselves to you, and with the church through all the ages, we thank you for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

SHARING THE BREAD & 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. At the direction of the ushers, you are invited forward to receive the gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice. If you prefer, pre-packaged communion is available. You may kneel for prayer after receiving or return to your seats by the side aisles. When you finish with your communion cup, please place it in the holders in the altar rail. 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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love* P. Scholtes
Words & Music, ©1966 The Lorenz Publishing Corporation. One License Song #525982
Harry Jordan, guitar & vocals

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*CLOSING HYMN *Blessed Assurance* UMH 369

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Victory in Jesus* E. M. Bartlett
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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.

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 Time in Fellowship Hall following the Worship Service.

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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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WESTPORT AND WESTON

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