



January 1, 2023
10:00am Hybrid Worship
Epiphany Sunday
Covenant & Communion

United Methodist Church of Westport and Weston

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

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION

O God, Searcher of all our hearts, you have formed us as a people and claimed us for your children. As we come to acknowledge your power and grace, and to enter into a new covenant with you, reveal any stumbling blocks within us. Let your Spirit write your truth on our hearts, and receive us in mercy, in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRELUDE

In Christ Alone
Ahyoung Son, piano

S. Townend
arr. C. Tornquist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-12

*HYMN

We Three Kings

UMH 254

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

O God, our Covenant Friend, you have been gracious to us through all the years of our lives. We thank you for your loving care, which has filled our days and brought us to this time and place.

We praise your holy name, O God.

You have given us life and reason, and set us in a world filled with your glory. You have comforted us with family and friends, and ministered to us through the hands of our siblings in Christ.

We praise your holy name, O God.

You have filled our hearts with a hunger after you, and have given us your peace. You have redeemed us and called us to a high calling in Christ Jesus. You have given us a place in the fellowship of your Spirit and the witness of your Church.

We praise your holy name, O God.

You have been our light in darkness and a rock of strength in adversity and temptation. You have been the very Spirit of joy in our joys and the generous reward in our labors.

We praise your holy name, O God.

You remembered us when we forgot you. You followed us even when we tried to flee from you. You met us with forgiveness when we returned to you. For all your patience and overflowing grace –

We praise your holy name, O God.

EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

A MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN "New Year – New Creation"

Pastor Heather

**Indicates that those who are able are invited to rise in body and spirit. "UMH" refers to The United Methodist Hymnal (red cover); "TFWS" refers to The Faith We Sing (black cover). Assisted hearing devices are available from an usher.*

OFFERING OUR PRAYERS & GIFTS

Through our baptism and membership in the church, we covenant to give of our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Financial gifts, tithes and offerings support the mission and ministries of this congregation and the connectional church. Online giving is available at WestportUMC.org.

Prayer cards may be placed in the offering plates to be lifted up during the Prayers of the People and/or added to the weekly Prayer List.

MUSIC OFFERING

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

UMH 206

Words & Music Kathleen Thomerson, ©1970 Jubilate Music. OneLicense Song #123319

Ahyoung Son, piano

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Tune: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God, all Spirit messengers below.

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

OFFERING PRAYER

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 forever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

Sung Responses: *This Is a Day of New Beginnings*

UMH 383

Words: Brian Wren, Music: Carlton R Young; Text: ©1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Company.

Tune: ©1987 Hope Publishing Company. OneLicense Song # #93174

Christ invites to this table all who are ready to move beyond the limitations of the past, all who are eager to move into the "new thing" that God is doing in our midst, all who are willing to let go of the pain that's gone.

***This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.***

And so this is an open invitation to come and receive the bread that will sustain us as we embark on this new calendar year. All are invited to receive the sweetness of the cup as a sign of God's promise of abundant possibilities. All are invited to this meal, for all are forgiven their past regrets and invited into God's grace-filled future.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts in this new day.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Creator and Renewer of all life. Time and again you seek us out, breathing again the breath of life into the deflated places our lives. And so, we come to your table again to praise you and taste again what your steadfast love can do.

***In faith we'll gather round the table to taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.***

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. He healed the sick, fed the hungry and ate with those others considered unworthy. Through him, faith and hope were born again for so many...

***For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.***

On the night Jesus gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, 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."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, 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."

And so, as we remember these words and acts of Jesus, we offer our own lives, leaving behind what we do not need, seeking new paths full of risen life in you. As followers of Christ, we proclaim and live out this holy mystery: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

***Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.***

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 blood of Christ, so that we may be for the world the body of Christ, breaking ourselves open to your future. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

***Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new!***

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

In the United Methodist Church, all who wish to receive the love and grace of Jesus are welcome at the Lord's Table. At the direction of the ushers, you will be invited forward to receive a cup of juice and piece of gluten-free bread. Move down the altar rail to eat the bread and drink the juice. Leave your empty cup in the altar rail. Please return to your seat by the side aisles.

If you prefer pre-sealed communion, please notify the servers. If you are worshipping at home, the blessing of the table extends to the bread and cup which you bring to your worship space.

HYMN

Covenant Prayer
Music ©2008 Jay D. Locklear & Adam Seale
John Collinge, piano

(See projection for words)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

UMH 160 vv. 1, 3 & 5

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Christ Is the World's Light
Ahyoung Son, organ

Paris Antiphoner





*Portions of today's Order of Worship are adapted from:
 The UMC General Board of Discipleship, www.gbod.org/worship and the UMC Book of Worship
 Marcia McFee, WorshipDesignStudio.com
 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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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.



Welcoming Statement

The United Methodist Church of Westport & 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
 JOHN COLLINGE, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & COMMUNITY OUTREACH • AHYOUNG SON, ORGANIST
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