



## United Methodist Church of Westport and Weston

January 15, 2023  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

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

Hybrid Worship – 10:00am

### PRAYER FOR MEDITATION

*God of strength, your son Jesus withstood many temptations because his love for you was greater than his earthly desires. Make our love for you so strong, that we might withstand anything that threatens to stand between us and your love. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

### PRELUDE

*Closer to Thee*

S. Vail

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 40

God has set our feet on solid rock and made our steps secure.

**With divine security we step forward to be part of restoring beloved community.**

God has given us a new song to sing.

**In praise we declare, "let freedom ring."**

God has multiplied wonderful deeds for us.

**We are inspired to share the abundance we have been given.**

God is generous with steadfast love and faithfulness.

**Encourage us to do the same in our worship today. Praise, God!**

### \*OPENING HYMN

*I Need Thee Every Hour*

UMH 397

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and merciful God, we confess to you our reluctance to enter the wilderness places where we are confronted with our true selves. The places where we are tempted to put worldly values before our desire for you, and when our hunger for power and wealth is greater than our hunger for seeking and doing your will:

**Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

When we are tempted to use the gifts you give us to benefit ourselves at the expense of serving others:

**Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

When we are tempted to use dramatic extremes to increase people's faith, rather than being guided by the humility of Christ:

**Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

When we are tempted to dishonestly influence and control people:

**Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

When we are tempted to manipulate you, O God, to satisfy our own needs:

**Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

Merciful God, save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

Forgive us our sins and fill us with the joy and peace of your salvation.

**Strengthen us with your Spirit, so that we put our whole trust in you as confidently as Jesus did.**

**This we pray in his name. Amen.**

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

SILENT PRAYERS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: As the Apostle Paul wrote: "...if you confess with your lips that Jesus Christ is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)

**These words contain the good news that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Pastor Heather

*Children are welcome to come forward for the Message, then remain in Worship. Coloring pages are available in the narthex. The Nursery is open and staffed for children under age five.*

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:1-17

Jerry Eyster

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

SERMON

“Lead Us Not into Temptation”

Rev. Heather A. M. Sinclair

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

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

T. Dorsey

*Words:©1938; Music:©1983, Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing.) CCLI Song #7205306*

Jae Jones, vocals; John Collinge, piano

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH 94

OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

\*CLOSING HYMN

*Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

TFWS 2112

BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION

*There Is a Balm in Gilead*

H. Burleigh



**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. All music is in the Public Domain, unless noted. ONE LICENSE # A-735187. All rights reserved. CCLI Stream Coverage License # CSPL086733; CCLI Copyright Coverage License #11173036 "Human Relations Sunday," Resourceumc.org, Moira Laidlaw, and posted on Liturgies Online. http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au/*

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, LAY LEADER

REV. HEATHER A. M. SINCLAIR, PASTOR  
JOHN COLLINGE, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & COMMUNITY OUTREACH • AHYOUNG SON, ORGANIST  
STEVEN MAGDA, LIVESTREAM TECHNICIAN • MARILYN SMITH, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

TELEPHONE: 203.227.4707 E MAIL, CHURCH: OFFICE@WESTPORTUMC.ORG  
FACSIMILE: 203.227.6979 PASTOR: HSINCLAIR@WESTPORTUMC.ORG  
WEBSITE: WESTPORTUMC.ORG MUSIC & OUTREACH: MUSIC@WESTPORTUMC.ORG