



United Methodist Church
of Westport and Weston

January 22, 2023
3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

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

Hybrid Worship – 10:00am

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION

Loving God, your son Jesus taught many things that helped people know how deeply you love and bless humanity. Help us to live in your love, so that we might be blessings of light for others. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE

We Would See Jesus
Ahyoung Son, organ

H. Turner

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 1

Creator of the universe, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

Your Word brings life, O Lord, and we reflect on it day and night;

Blessed are we when we walk in your ways, O Lord.

You are a rich stream of living waters,
and we would immerse ourselves in you;

Blessed are we when we walk in your ways, O Lord.

You bring forth fruit in due season and establish the work of our hands;

Blessed are we when we walk in your ways, O Lord.

Who is like our God, the One whose ways are full of life?

Blessed are we when we walk in your ways, O Lord.

**We come before you with thanksgiving praise,
seeking peace and the quiet center of your spirit.**

*OPENING HYMN

Come and Find the Quiet Center

TFWS 2128

Words: S. E. Murray, ©1992, 2021 Hope Publishing Company, OneLicense Song #208116

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You have said that the poor in spirit are blessed,

Yet we pretend to be powerful and pursue the lie of self-sufficiency. Give us humble hearts and help us depend on your grace and goodness for every moment. O humble God, we need you.

You have said that those who mourn are blessed,

Yet we would often rather numb ourselves through movies and media than open ourselves to the reality of grief in the world and in our hearts. Help us look up from our phones toward you and give us strength to be present in pain. O comforting God, we need you.

You have said that the meek are blessed,

Yet we follow the call of advertisements and corporate ladders, pursuing the treasures of this world. Help us steward our earthly blessings well and find our true treasure in you. O generous God, we need you.

You have said that those who desire righteousness and justice are blessed,

Yet we are so easily lulled into the comfort of complacency. Fill us with your Spirit that we might flee from sin and fight for your justice. O holy God, we need you.

You have said that the merciful are blessed,

Yet we harbor anger and resentment in our hearts. Heal our bitterness, teach us to forgive, and help us work toward restoration in our lives and world. O merciful God, we need you.

**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).*

You have said that the pure in heart are blessed,

Yet we go about our days with mixed motives, sometimes of service and sometimes of selfishness. Purify our hearts and help us to be people of integrity and honesty. O present God, we need you.

You have said that the peacemakers are blessed,

Yet we live in a polarized world where it is easier to take sides than build bridges. Give us ears to humbly listen and tongues seasoned with grace that we might carry your non-anxious presence through the world. O God of peace, we need you.

You have said that the persecuted are blessed,

Yet we enjoy our places of privilege in our families, our city, and this world. Give us humble hearts ready to forsake our comforts and seek those on the margins. O blessed God, we need you.

O blessed God, God of blessings, forgive us. (Silent Prayers...)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: *“The LORD God is our sun and our shield. God gives us grace and glory. The LORD will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right.”* (from Psalm 84:11)

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

“Salt and Light”

Pastor Heather

Children are welcome to come forward for the Message, then children age five and up will be invited to Sunday School. The Nursery is open and staffed for children under age five.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:1-11

Paula Castiglia

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

SERMON

“A Beginner’s Guide”

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

As the Deer

M. J. Nystrom

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Harry Jordan, vocals and guitar

*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

We Are All One in Mission

TFWS 2243

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Christ Loves the Church

J. Marshall

Music: ©1986 Hope Publishing Company. CCLI Song # 336553

Ahyoung Son, organ

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