



United Methodist Church
of Westport and Weston

February 26, 2023
1st Sunday in Lent

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

Hybrid Worship – 10:00am

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION

Forgiving God, as you encouraged your people to forgive, you modeled forgiveness by releasing us from our bondage to sin. Help us to forgive others, so that we might live in harmony with all your children. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

PRELUDE

O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done
Ahyoung Son, organ

I. Woodbury

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 32

Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven.

Blessed are those whose sin is covered.

Our God is the God of mercy and forgiveness.

Our God is our hiding place in times of trouble.

Our is our refuge in times of need.

Have faith our God will deliver us!

*HYMN

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

UMH 269

Music: arr. Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, I confess that I do not always understand this forgiveness thing, how do you do it? How am I supposed to do it? Can I forgive when I am still angry? Is there such a thing as forgive and forget? Is Jesus' teaching to forgive seventy-seven times per person, or a metaphor or what? Forgiveness seems to be a complicated thing. Please cover me in grace, so I might better glean the beginnings of a forgiveness practice and learn to forgive as I have been forgiven. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news, you are forgiven. As soon as you confess, Jesus has made it so, and hopefully, we can learn how not to make the same mistakes again. **In love, we can proclaim the good news to one another:**

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

“Forgiveness Math”

Pastor Heather

Children are welcome to come forward for the Message, then children age five and up are invited to remain in Worship. The Nursery is open and staffed for children under age five.

SONG

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

TFWS 2219

Tune: © 1996, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Text: Original text by Desmond Tutu; adapt. by John Bell; © Desmond Tutu One License Song #02636

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:21-35

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

**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).*

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

Father, Forgive Us

Music: Craig Courtney, Lyrics: Pamela Martin. Text: © 2005, Beckenhorst Press, Inc. One License Song #73526

Chancel Choir

*HYMN OF THANKS

O Love, How Deep

UMH 267, v. 6

OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*from the New Zealand Anglican Prayer Book*)

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.

*CLOSING HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

UMH 121

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

My Faith Looks Up to Thee
Ahyoung Son, organ

L. Mason

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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“Narrative Lectionary Seeds of Prayer,”
katyandtheword.com
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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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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 • AHYOUANG SON, ORGANIST
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