



United Methodist Church
of Westport and Weston

March 12, 2023
3rd Sunday in Lent

Hybrid Worship – 10:00am

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

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION

Generous God, you have promised to open your kingdom to all people, despite their circumstances. Bring us close to you, and help us to proclaim the goodness of your generosity. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

PRELUDE

The Wonderful Cross
(see endnotes for copyrights)
Ahyoung Son, piano

C. Tomlin, arr. C. Tornquist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 16

Come, bless the Lord, in whom we find our refuge and safety.

You are our God; all the good things come from You alone.

Come, bless the Lord, who gives us a rich inheritance,
and surrounds us with abundance.

You are our God; our lives are in your hands.

Come, bless the Lord, who guides us on the path to eternal life,
whose presence strengthens and sustains us.

You are our God; we will not be shaken. Let's worship God together!

*HYMN

Take Time to Be Holy

UMH 395

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God we confess that sometimes you have to call us more than once. Sometimes we are the ones that do not hear you until close to dusk. We confess that we envision ourselves as the eager, early morning workers – but we are reluctant to fully welcome those who come after us. Your love is not a competition. Your love is justice, mercy and gratitude. Help us to remember that faith is always a gift; there is always enough; and you are always, always calling us by name. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The steadfast love of the Lord never changes, God's mercies never come to the end, they are new every morning. We are assured that God will always love, forgive and welcome us. Let us proclaim the Good News:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

“The Last Shall Be First”

Pastor Heather

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

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 20:1-16

Ralph Nebelung

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

SERMON

“The kingdom of heaven is...justice.”

Rev. Heather A. M. Sinclair

**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

In My Father's House
©2006 Beckenhorst Press, Inc. CCLI Song #5763849
Chancel Choir

C. Courtney and P. Martin

*HYMN OF THANKS

O Love, How Deep

UMH 267, v. 6

OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Our creator God, Ancient of Days, Holy Parent of all worlds and living souls:
Your arms, that once flung galaxies of stars, like grains of sand, are open wide,
and close enough to carry each of us like a parent cradles their child next to their heart.
May your sacred name be praised!
May your realm extend, a commonwealth of mercy, peace and justice.
Your love knits all created nature into one whole.
Your will for us always is love.
May your love be done on earth, in time, as it is in eternity.
Give all of us each day the bread we need, and hope to all who hunger for your life.
And as we share our bread along the way, pardon us the times we've broken faith.
Forgive our lack of loyalty and love; and move us quickly to forgiveness when wrongs are done to us.
Do not abandon us in the time of hard testing.
Save us from evil's every incarnation, From the powers that possess our spirits and our structures.
Forever bind us to your liberating joy!
For you alone are God of grace and glory, and Rock of our Redemption.
Let it be so, God, let it be so. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

For the Fruits of This Creation

UMH 97

BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION

Peace I Leave with You

arr. G. Weigle

POSTLUDE

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above
Ahyoung Son, organ

Bohemian Brethren,
harm. M. F. Bell

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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New Zealand Prayer Book, anglicanprayerbook.org.nz

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 • AHYOUYNG 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