



United Methodist Church
of Westport and Weston

March 19, 2023

4th 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

God of holy anticipation, you have promised that you would return at a time unknown to us. Make us always ready, so that when you return we might be welcomed into your kin-dom with open arms. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

PRELUDE

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

S. Townend, arr. C. Tornquist

©1995 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) CCLI Song #1558110

Ahyoung Son, piano

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Are you awake? Are you alert?

Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.

Are you watching the signs? Are you paying attention?

Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.

Do you see opportunities for ministry?

Do you see the lonely, the last, the least?

Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.

Come, let us worship and let us work in kin-dom of God.

Christ has extended the invitation:

let us work together in the kin-dom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

*HYMN

I Want to Be Ready

UMH 722

Trad. Afro-American spiritual, adapt and arr. By W. F. Smith

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God we confess that we struggle to be spiritually awake. Sometimes we confess we do not even know what it means to be awake. What is it we are being awake for? And we worry, will we recognize you when you return and knock on the door? Forgive us for not being ready to welcome you or others in your name. Forgive us when we turn church work into busy work. Remind us that paying attention and being ready is holy work. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the Good News: God is always ready to awaken us to the gifts of grace and forgiveness.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

“Be Prepared”

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.

**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).*

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

SERMON

“The kingdom of heaven is...stewardship.”

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

Zion's Walls
©1982 Boosey & Hawkes Ltd.
Chancel Choir

A. Copeland, arr. G. Koponen

*HYMN OF THANKS

O Love, How Deep

UMH 267, v. 6

OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Ah Creator, Source of all that is and all that is coming, thank you for letting us sense your presence.

Help us to harmonize our lives with all that you are doing in us, among us, and around us.

Give us the courage to follow where you lead.

Lure us into following you, both in our experience and in our imaginations.

Give us enough bread to live today. Encourage us to claim your forgiveness and to forgive each other.

Guide us away from temptations and strengthen us in our resistance to all that we know as evil.

We are deeply grateful for the life and world you have given us and stand in awe of what you have

done and are doing. We again direct our lives toward your glory and hope to find rest in your peace.

Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Awake, O Sleeper

UMH 551 (tune of UMH 57, *Azmon*)

Words: F. B. Tucker, ©1980 Augsburg Fortress Publishers, OneLicense Song #85993

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

In the Cross of Christ I Glory
Ahyoung Son, organ

I. Conkey

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

www.patconover.com/christian/APrayerInspiredByJesus.html

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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