



St. Paul in front of St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City, Italy

United Methodist Church  
of Westport and Weston

May 7, 2023  
5th Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion  
Hybrid Worship – 10:00am

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

PRELUDE

*Just as I Am, Without One Plea*  
Ahyoung Son, organ

W. Bradbury

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 40

In times of need, we wait patiently for the Lord.

**God turns to us and hears our cries.**

God lifts me out of the dismal pit, out of the mud and mire.

**God sets our feet on a rock and gives us a firm place to stand.**

God puts a new song in our mouths.

**We sing a hymn of praise to our God!**

Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord.

**Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN

*To God Be the Glory*

UMH 98

OPENING PRAYER

**God of all humanity, you welcomed all – sinner and saints – into your kin-dom. Help us to be as welcoming as you. Fill us with gratitude for those who accompany us on the journey of faith. Instill in us perseverance and courage, so that we might not be ashamed of the good news we are called to share. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 1:1-17

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

HYMN

*Thank You, Lord*

UMH 84

*Adapt. & Arr. W. F. Smith, ©1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, OneLicense Song #18930*

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

“Thank You Notes”

Pastor Heather

*Children age five and up are invited to remain in Worship. The Nursery is open and staffed for children under age five.*

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](http://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.*

*\*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).*

MUSIC OFFERING

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

arr. G. Lanier

Ahyoung Son, piano; John Collinge, flute

\*HYMN OF THANKS

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH 94

OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Faithful God, you call us to be saints, but we are sometimes more comfortable with the role of sinner; you call us to be your servants, but we worry that we lack the skills to do your work; you put a new song of praise in our mouths, but we stumble on unfamiliar words; you show us the work to be tackled, but we turn away defiant, insisting we have more important things to do.**

**Put your song on our lips and in our hearts, and remind us of the joy that awaits us when we put our constant trust in you.**

**Guide us into the light of your unwavering, never-ending, and grace-filled love. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYERS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The God who knew us before our birth loves us still and strengthens us, that day by day we will be perfected in God's love.

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

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...and with the saints of every age, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Remembering our Lord's self-giving love, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

In the unity of the Holy Spirit, in gratitude for resurrection life, we praise you, God of all that is, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

**BREAKING & SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

*In the United Methodist Church, all who wish to receive the love and grace of Jesus are welcome at the Lord's Table. At the direction of the ushers, you will be invited forward to receive a cup of juice and piece of gluten-free bread. Move down the altar rail to eat the bread and drink the juice. Leave your empty cup in the altar rail. Please return to your seat by the side aisles.*

*If you prefer pre-sealed communion and/or for the bread and cup to be brought to you, please notify the servers. If you are worshipping at home, the blessing of the table extends to the bread and cup in your worship space.*

**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION**

*A Place at the Table*

W&S 3149

*Words: S. E. Murray ©1998 Hope Publishing Company, OneLicense #00003  
Music: L. Tune ©2001 GIA Publications, Inc., OneLicense #00002*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*How Great Thou Art*

UMH 77

*S. Hine © 1981 Manna Music, Inc. OneLicense #150224*

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*And Can It Be that I Should Gain*  
Ahyoung Son, organ

T. Campbell



**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](http://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.

**Welcoming Statement**

**The United Methodist Church of Westport and Weston is a community of faith that is committed to growing in grace and supporting one another in love. We affirm the sacred worth of all of God's children and welcome people of all ages, races, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities and economic circumstances to join us in the membership, participation and leadership of our church. Our hearts, our minds and our doors are open to all.**

*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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Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Year B, Volume 1, Westminster JohnKnox Press, 2014.*

**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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REV. HEATHER A. M. SINCLAIR, PASTOR  
JOHN COLLINGE, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & COMMUNITY OUTREACH  
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# **A COOPERATIVE PARISH WORKSHOP**

**at Darien UMC**

**Saturday, May 13, 2023**

**9:00am – Noon**

**Beyond Sunday School**

**Faith Formation in a New Era**

***Learn 5 Strategies for Your Immediate Application***

Presenter: Rev. Kristina Hansen

**QUESTION: *What can we do when?...***

- Sunday School is no longer viable
- Children's schedules are stretched to the limits with activities
- Non-church parents no longer bring children to church
- COVID took the wind out of current Christian Education programs

**ANSWER: *It's time to rethink how we support the faith formation of our children!***

In this 3-hour workshop you will gain valuable insights and learn 5 strategies which you can immediately apply to your church's faith formation program.

**BONUS MATERIAL: 12:30-1:30pm** Stay for lunch (provided) and continue to build up your Faith Formation toolbox with bonus insights and tangible steps.

**LOCATION: Darien UMC, 345 Middlesex Road, Darien, CT 06820**



**About the Presenter:** Rev. Hansen has a passion for faith formation and has worked diligently over the past decade to reimagine and reengineer faith formation for children. She will share her cutting edge and not yet published insights and offer tangible next steps that will enhance your programs – and even get stalled programs restarted. Her enthusiasm and sense of humor will make this workshop fly by.