



*“As they were watching, Jesus was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.” Acts 1:9*

## United Methodist Church of Westport and Weston

May 21, 2023  
Ascension Sunday

Hybrid Worship – 10:00am

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

### PRAYER FOR MEDITATION

*God of resurrection, you have promised new life to all who believe. Make us believers, and show us how to live into this new life. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior. Amen.*

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

### PRELUDE

*Ancient of Days*  
Ahyoung Son, piano

G. Sadler arr. C Tornquist

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 98

Here today there is love, freely available to all.  
Not our human loving, fragile and intermittent,  
but God’s supreme love.

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth,  
break forth into joyous songs of praise.**

Here today is love, higher than our loftiest hopes,  
deeper than the immensities of time and space,  
God’s inclusive love.

**Let the seas roar their praise,  
and everything in them.**

**Let the rivers clap their hands  
and the hills sing together their happiness.**

Here today there is love,  
Filling us with the joy of new life in Jesus Christ.  
**Let us worship God with heart and voice.**

### \*HYMN

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

UMH 57, vv.1-5, 7

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, when we hear your call to new life, sometimes we just feel weary. The anxieties, pains and sorrows of this life weigh us down. We hope for changes, but we don’t trust that will happen. We struggle to catch a glimpse of renewal and revitalization. We forget that nothing is impossible with you. Help us to truly believe that you can and do more than all we can ask or imagine. Forgive us and renew us.**

### SILENT PRAYERS

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

“When Jesus died, he took sin down with him. Now, alive, he brings God down to us. From now on, sin speaks a dead language that means nothing to us. Instead, God speaks our mother tongue, and we hang on every word. We are dead to sin and alive to God.” (Romans 6:10-11 *The Message*)

We give thanks for the Good News: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.**

*\*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 (black cover).*

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

“Going Up!”

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.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 6:1-14

Kirstin Zarras

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

SERMON

“Walk in Newness of Life”

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](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.*

MUSIC OFFERING

*Grace Alone*

TFWS 2162

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\*HYMN OF THANKS

*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

*O How I Love Jesus*

UMH 170

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*  
Ahyoung Son, organ

J. Ellor

**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.

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*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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“Worship Planning Eastertide 2023,”  
Rev. Jim Mossman and Rev. Lorinda Hoover  
Bruce Prewer, [bruceprewer.com](http://bruceprewer.com)  
Rev. Dr. Barb Hedges-Goettl, “Narrative Lectionary  
Seeds of Prayer,” [katyandtheword.com](http://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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JOHN COLLINGE, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & COMMUNITY OUTREACH  
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STEVEN MAGDA, LIVESTREAM TECHNICIAN  
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