



United Methodist Church
of Westport and Weston
September 3, 2023
14th Sunday after Pentecost
Hybrid Worship with Holy Communion
10:00am

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Horas Apacibles Op. 8, No. 1
John Hoddinott, guitar

José Ferrer

*CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

O God, the Creator and Sustainer,
who gives all good things seen and unseen,
In you alone we put our hope.

O God, the Christ and Savior,
who died in wondrous love and rose again,
In you alone we put our hope.

O God, the Spirit and Comforter,
who guides and encourages us to follow the way,
In you alone we put our hope.

**O God, Creator, Christ and Spirit,
to you we lift our voice in praise and worship!**

*HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

UMH 451

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 19:16-28

Andre Lombard

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

SERMON

“When God Close a Door, God Opens a Window”

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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Ahyoung Son, piano

W. Runyan, arr. C. Berry

*HYMN OF THANKS

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**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).*

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Holy One be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God, in whose image we are made.

To the Creator of all, we give thanks and praise.

Divine Creator and Protector of Life, your love for this world is everlasting. As creation groans, our children wrestle with doubt, and too many neighbors live in fear, there is so much reason to despair. But you, O God, refuse to abandon us to destruction. Christ takes on flesh. In the midst of struggle, you are glimpses of hope, encounters of freedom, tastes of what satisfies when so much leaves us feeling empty. In these incarnate moments, we sense the closeness of your kin-dom.

**Holy, Holy, Holy One,
God of justice and love,
Heaven and earth are full of your wonder.
Blessed is your presence among us.**

You, O God, reorder the world into right-relationship.

You lift high those made low.

You humble the arrogant.

You hear the earth groaning under the weight of greed and hatred,
and your fire burns in the hearts of your prophets.

With hope and assurance, we turn to the witness of Jesus whose teachings reveal the way to freedom. We seek his wisdom. We practice his courage. We remember his radical commitment to love.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his friends. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said: "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying: "This cup that is poured out is the new covenant. Do this in remembrance of me."

In remembrance of the love that saves us, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ was born and died among us.

Christ rose to new life among us.

Christ will come again among us.

May the Spirit come and fill these gifts of bread and the cup, transforming them into a sacred and holy encounter. Reminding us that Christ is with us. That resurrection is a promise granted to us. That the kin-dom is always closer than we can possibly imagine.

May we be nourished, that we might nourish others. **Amen.**

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

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ. The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

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

Meditation in G
John Hoddinott, piano

J. Hoddinott

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Beloved One, if we grow weary in love, may this meal live on as a reminder of what sustains us. In seeking the flourishing you intend for us, our neighbors, and this planet, keep our hearts tender, our spirits alive, and our senses attuned to the beauty that surrounds. With gratitude for your abiding presence, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

Amazing Grace

UMH 378

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Standing on the Promises
Ahyoung Son, organ

R. Kelso Carter

Sunday School is on break during the summer months. Coloring pages and activity bags are in the Narthex. Children of all ages are welcome to remain in Worship. The Nursery is open and staffed for children under age five. If you are visiting, please share your contact information, so that we may contact you about Children, Youth and Family events.

WELCOME! It is a blessing to welcome you to worship today. If you are visiting, please sign the guestbook, introduce yourself to the worship leaders, 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.

TODAY WE WELCOME JOHN HODDINOTT, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC ENGAGEMENT. John is a multi-instrumentalist and music educator. Prior to coming to The United Methodist Church of Westport and Weston, he led music at The Congregational Church of Brookfield.

John plays guitar, piano, bass, and leads the choir. With broad musical interests ranging from traditional to contemporary, he is fascinated with using music to heighten the worship experience in church.

Outside of church, he plays in orchestras for musicals in the tri-state area as well as leads a jazz trio. John is a graduate of The University of Connecticut.

*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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re-worship.blogspot.com
John Birch, www.faithandworship.com
enfleshed.com/liturgy/communion-liturgies/*

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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OUR MINISTERS
EVERY PARTICIPANT IN THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION
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Announcements

for

Sunday, September 3, 2023



Welcome Sunday – September 10

10am – Worship with Music and Messages for all ages!

Lawn games, food and fellowship to follow. Dress casually and ready for fun!
UMCWW will provide hot dogs and dessert. Bring a salad or side dish to share.

- ★ **Stay tuned for details on Grace Connexion, Bible Study and Childrens & Youth programs this fall.**

- ★ **CIRI (CT Institute for Refugees and Immigrants)** will be settling over 50 people from Syria, Afghanistan, the Congo, and Sudan in New Haven and Bridgeport during the month of September. Your generous donations have provided bedding, cleaning supplies, toys, and more.

Help is needed with cleaning and setting up apartments and delivering supplies. Please sign-up via the emailed sign-up genius links. If you are not currently receiving the links or have questions, contact Brenda Maggio – bsm2004@sbcglobal.net.

- ★ **Are you receiving the church’s “E-News”?** Emails are sent every Thursday with the latest UMCWW news and information. We also keep you informed by sending additional updates on programs and special events. If you would like to be added to the all-church email list, please send your email address to Marilyn in the church office – office@westportumc.org.

- ★ **Booklets of Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex.** You are welcome to take one to facilitate giving of your weekly offering.