



United Methodist Church
of Westport and Weston

September 10, 2023
15th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome Sunday
Hybrid Worship 10:00am

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

CENTERING PRAYER

Holy Creator, you created all persons in your image to care for the earth and each other. Give us hearts to continue tending to all that you have made, so that the earth will sustain life for generations to come. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Sanctuary

J. Thompson & R. Scruggs

©1982 Kruger Organization Inc.; One License Song #119603

John Hoddinott, piano

*CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning God created all things,
and God saw that they were good.
At our beginning, God formed all of us,
**unique and irreplaceable, loved and wanted by God,
created to be helpers and partners to each other.**
In all our new beginnings, God creates something new,
**so we will seek God in the freshness of this morning,
in the laughter of friends,
in the colors of creation,
and in this beautiful place.**

God of Creation,
**open our eyes to see your presence,
our souls to sense your presence,
and our hearts to love your presence,
ever here in your creation, and ever beyond it in eternity.**

*HYMN

Morning Has Broken

UMH 145

Words: E. Farjeon, 1931; Music: harm by C. Young, ©1989 United Methodist Publishing House; One License #24827

John Hoddinott, guitar; Ahyoung Son, piano

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God invites us to unburden everything, come let us open our hearts in prayer.
God, we are your good creation, but we acknowledge that we are imperfect. When we feel alone or incomplete, walk with us, as you walked with Adam and Eve in the garden. Forgive us for the harm we do to creation and each other. Remind us that you are always there, calling our name, creating connections and companionship for us – walking with us wherever we go. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the Good News, Jesus calls us to him again and again, therefore we know the truth of God's love and grace.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN "Blessing of the Backpacks" Pastor Heather

SONG *This Little Light of Mine* UMH 585
Afro-American spiritual, Adapt. W. F. Smith; ©1989 United Methodist Publishing House; OneLicense Song #22794

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 2:4b-25 (NRSV) Nancy Everson
"Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.'" Genesis 2:18

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

SERMON "Adam & Eve; Barbie & Ken; All of Creation – Stronger Together" 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 *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* R. Jackson
Chancel Choir

*HYMN OF THANKS *Thank You, Lord* UMH 84
Traditional Words; Music adapt & arr, W. F. Smith ©1989 Abingdon Press; One License Song #18930

OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

*HYMN *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* UMH 150
C. Cameron, ©1967 Hope Publishing Company; OneLicense Song #11445

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Bless Thou the Gifts* adapt. by R. Vaughan Williams
Ahyoung Son, organ harm. by B. Harwood

Children of all ages are welcome to remain in Worship. Coloring pages and activity bags are in the Narthex. 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.

<p><i>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 All music is in the Public Domain, unless noted. ONE LICENSE # A-735187. All rights reserved. CCLI Stream Coverage License # CSPL086733; CCLI Copyright Coverage License #11173036 Narrative Lectionary at WorkingPreacher.org Image by Shamar Pka, pixabay.com "Liturgies of Creation," third-space.org.uk "Finding God: Garden of Eden," katyandtheword.com/2023</i></p>	<p>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 HODDINOTT, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC ENGAGEMENT AHYOUNG SON, ORGANIST STEVEN MAGDA, LIVESTREAM TECHNICIAN MARILYN SMITH, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT</p>
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