



United Methodist Church  
of Westport and Weston

April 21, 2024  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Hybrid Worship – 10:00am

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

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CENTERING PRAYER

*Risen Christ, your followers established churches in communities near and far. Take us outside of ourselves and teach us to give away what you have given to us. Show us how to witness to your presence in places near and far. Amen.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*Valse No. 2*  
John Hoddinott

José Ferrer

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 66

Blessed are You, O God, full of faithfulness and steadfast love.

**How awesome are Your deeds! How glorious is Your name in all the earth.**

We celebrate who You are, and what You have done for us.

**You hold our lives in Your hands and keep our feet from stumbling.**

We've come together, led by Your Holy Spirit, to sing Your praise, to confess our failings, and to receive Your forgiveness and love, made possible through the life-giving grace of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

**To You be all glory,  
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,  
One God forever and ever. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*Easter People, Raise Your Voices*

UMH 304

*Contributor: William M. James; Text: © 1979, United Methodist Publishing House/Abingdon Press.  
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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of endless possibility, we confess that we do not always perceive the opportunities you place before us. Caught up in our own hopes, plans, and fantasies, and crushed when they disappoint us, we are slow to see the open pathways you set before us. Open our eyes, that we may accept the new life you offer us, and thus show forth the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Beloved of God, by the resurrection power of God through Christ, we are freed from our sins and redirected on the path of new and abundant life. **Thanks be to God!**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Pastor Heather

*Children ages five and up are invited to remain in Worship. The Nursery is open and staffed for children under age five. Coloring and activity pages are in the Narthex.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 17:1-9  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

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

SERMON

“Chaos in the Rear View Mirror”

Rev. Karen Eiler

SUNG RESPONSE

*Spirit of God, Bright Wind*  
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TFWS 2117

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

*Mighty to Save* R. Morgan, arr. C. Tornquist  
©2006 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) CCLI Song # 4591782  
Ahyoung Son, piano

\*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 94  
T. Ken, G. H. Vieira ©1989 United Methodist Publishing House; One License # A-735187. All rights reserved.

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Heather

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

\*HYMN

*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve* TFWS 2241  
Text: CM; Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939, © 1993, *The Sisters of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN. Published by OCP.*  
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*We Meet You, O Christ* C. Schalk  
Music: ©1989 Hope Publishing Company / The United Methodist Publishing House. CCLI Song # 1497439  
Ahyoung Son, organ

*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.*  
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Prayer of Confession: Ruth C. Duck, *Bread for the Journey*, United Church Press, 1981

**REV. KAREN EILER** first made Pastor Heather’s acquaintance at Yale Divinity School, and their friendship blossomed during the UMC ordination process. During her ministry career (which followed an IBM career) Karen pastored United Methodist churches in Ridgefield, Danbury, White Plains, Rowayton, and Milford, as well as serving as the Executive Director of Greenwich Chaplaincy Services. She has three adult children and is looking forward to a family wedding for the second year in a row!