



United Methodist Church  
of Westport and Weston

November 10, 2024  
25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Giving Sunday

Hybrid Worship – 10:00am

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

Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” John 20:21-23

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CENTERING PRAYER

*God of peace, we know you are near; we know you have never left our side; and we know you will always be with us. Calm our spirits; enlarge our heart capacity; and invite us to “do unto others” in ways that build up your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our steadfast center, and in the power of your transforming Spirit. Amen.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

PRELUDE

*Menuet I* from Suite 1 for Cello, BWV 1007  
John Hoddinott, guitar

J. S. Bach

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jonah 2

*Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from inside the fish:*

“I cried out to the Lord in my great trouble,  
and the Lord answered me.

**I called to you from the land of the dead,  
and Lord, you heard me!**

You threw me into the ocean depths,  
and I sank down to the heart of the sea.

**The mighty waters engulfed me;**

**I was buried beneath your wild and stormy waves.**

Then I said, ‘O Lord, you have driven me from your presence.

Yet I will look once more toward your holy Temple.’

**“I sank beneath the waves, and the waters closed over me.**

**Seaweed wrapped itself around my head.**

I sank down to the very roots of the mountains.

I was imprisoned in the earth, whose gates lock shut forever.

**But you, O Lord my God,  
snatched me from the jaws of death!**

**As my life was slipping away, I remembered the Lord.**

**And my earnest prayer went out to you in your holy Temple.**

Those who worship false gods  
turn their backs on all God’s mercies.

**But I will offer sacrifices to you with songs of praise,  
and I will fulfill all my vows.**

**For my salvation comes from the Lord alone.”**

*Then the Lord ordered the fish to spit Jonah out onto the beach.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Blessed are you, O God, who calls messengers to bring news of your love and mercy to your people who have not yet heard. You have created all people to know you so that you might bless them with abundant life. Yet, like Jonah, we often choose not to listen to your call. Sometimes we even run the other way.**

**Hear our confession:**

For the times we have ignored you...

**God love us.**

For the times we did not want to share good news with those who needed it...

**God hear us.**

For the times we have run the other way and left behind those in need...

**God put our feet on the right path.**

For the times we have disobeyed your call...

**God forgive us.**

For the times we have denied you...

**God help us.**

For the times we did not speak your words to those who needed to hear from you...

**God give us the words.**

**In the name of God’s Son, Jesus Christ, all of your sins are forgiven. Hear this good news for yourself and go forth in freedom to share this good news with others. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

As far as we may run, God will seek us and draw us close. God’s grace will not let us go.

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

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SCRIPTURE READING

“The Book of Jonah”

BibleProject.com

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

SERMON

“God Sightings: Jonah and the Big Fish”

Rev. Heather A. M. Sinclair

SUNG RESPONSE

*Let There Be Peace on Earth*

UMH 431

*By Sy Miller & Jill Jackson; ©1955. Renewed 1983 Jan - Lee Music; CCLI Song #93690*

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. You are invited to bring forward or place in the offering plate your 2025 Giving Commitment Card.*

*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

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*  
Ahyoung Son, piano

C. Converse, arr. J. Turner

\*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God, above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

UMH 95

OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

\*HYMN

*Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated*

UMH 399

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Eternal Father, Strong to Save*  
Ahyoung Son, organ

J. B. Dykes

*Portions of the Order of Worship are adapted from:*

*The United Methodist Hymnal, The United Methodist Book of Worship, and The Faith We Sing,  
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Concert at the Church Today - 3pm

United Methodist Church  
of Westport & Weston presents  
**FAIRFIELD COUNTY  
SYMPHONY SOCIETY**  
Conducted by Gunnar Sahlin

An afternoon of classical music from Bach, Brahms  
and modern day masters, John Rutter and Gwyneth Walker  
Walker's "Here to Stay" makes its world premier.

A Free Will Offering will be collected and shared  
by the Symphony and the mission and ministry of UMCWW.

FCSS - Come play with us  
fairfieldcountysymphonysociety.org

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WESTPORT AND WESTON

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OUR MINISTERS

EVERY PARTICIPANT IN THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

REV. HEATHER A. M. SINCLAIR, PASTOR

SUSAN GILDER, LAY LEADER

JOHN HODDINOTT, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT • AHYOUNG SON, ORGANIST  
STEVEN MAGDA, LIVESTREAM TECHNICIAN • MARILYN SMITH, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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