



# United Methodist Church of Westport and Weston

January 12, 2025  
Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Hybrid Worship – 10:00am

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



## PRAYER FOR MEDITATION

*Heavenly Parent, with joy and awe we praise you for claiming us as your sons and daughters and for pouring your Holy Spirit upon us. Help us to prepare this earth for your glory, and shine your light on all your faithful children, for*

*the sake of the one whose birth and baptism brought renewal and transformation to this world, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

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## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

## PRELUDE

*Allemande from Suite No. 2 for Cello (BWV 1008)*

J. S. Bach

John Hoddinott, guitar

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

*God calls us to repentance – to turn back to God. As we gather for worship, let us turn with our bodies, minds and spirits.*

*Make a quarter turn to your left. God, help us pause from the deadlines and to-do lists we carry; help us to lay our burdens down.*

**God, we turn back to you.**

*Make a quarter turn to your left. God, help us to truly see one another and make this a space for reconciliation and building relationships.*

**God, we turn back to you.**

*Make a quarter turn to your left. God, help us to find ways to share your promises with our neighborhood, town, and the world.*

**God, we turn back to you.**

*Make a quarter turn to your left. God help us to bring our full selves to you, our gifts, our flaws, all that we are. Help us to trust in your redeeming grace.*

**God, we turn back to you. Through Jesus Christ, your Promise, we pray. Amen.**

## \*OPENING HYMN

*When Jesus Came to Jordan*

UMH 252

*Words: F. P. Green ©1980 Hope Publishing Co.; harm. C. R. Young ©1989 United Methodist Publishing House  
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## GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:1-22

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

## SERMON

Rev. Heather A. M. Sinclair



#### REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Sisters and brothers in Christ:  
through the sacrament of baptism  
God's Spirit has been poured out upon water,  
water poured over and immersing us,  
water that flows freely for all who will receive it,  
water from the streams of God's saving power and justice,  
water that brings hope to all who thirst for righteousness,  
water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth.  
Today we come to the waters, to renew our commitments  
in each other's presence to Christ who has raised us,  
the Spirit who has birthed us,  
and the Creator who is making all things new.

#### RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

And so I ask you, will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

**We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,  
Reject the evil powers of this world,  
And repent of our sin!**

Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?

**We accept the freedom and power God gives us  
To resist evil, injustice, and oppression  
In whatever forms they present themselves!**

Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ, his body on earth?

**We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior,  
put our whole trust in his grace,  
and promise to serve him as our Lord,  
in union with the church which Christ has opened  
to people of all ages, nations, and races!**

Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?

**We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church  
And serve as Christ's representatives in the world.**

Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

**We affirm and teach the faith of the whole church  
as we put our trust in God Almighty,  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior,  
and in the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.**

#### THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Spirit of the Lord is with us.

**Even so, come Lord Jesus!**

*Let us pray.*

Almighty God, the life you birthed in us  
by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die.  
Your justice never fails.  
Your mercy is everlasting.

**Your healing river flows.  
Your Spirit blows where you will.  
We cannot stop you, God!**

But sometimes we try.  
We try to block the flow,  
we redirect the winds of the Spirit,  
or we walk so far away from the life-giving stream  
that we do not hear its sound, and we forget its power.  
We parch ourselves.  
**We are dry and thirsty, O God.  
Come, refresh us!**

*The pastor offers gestures of calling upon the Holy Spirit to come upon the people and the water. The people are invited to offer the same gestures as they respond.*

Come upon us, Holy Spirit!  
**Come upon us, Holy Spirit!**  
Come upon these waters.  
**Come upon these waters.**

Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.  
**Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.**  
Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.  
**Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.**  
Most Holy God, Creator, Almighty!

**Glory to you!**  
Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord!  
**Glory to you!**  
Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness!  
**Glory to you!**  
Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!  
**All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!**

*All who are baptized and have renewed their vows are invited to come to the font to use the water as a sign of refreshing. As each uses the water, another says to her or him:  
Remember that you are baptized and rejoice!*

#### SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Beloved of God, with whom God is pleased, may the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**



#### 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

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*  
Chancel Choir

A. Bruhn

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH 94

*Text: adapt by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978. Adapt. ©1989, The United Methodist Publishing House.  
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***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

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

\*CLOSING HYMN

*Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

UMH 500

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine*  
Ahyoung Son, organ

English melody  
arr. R. Vaughn Williams



*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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Baptismal Renewal from [www.umcdiscipleship.org](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org)*



**WELCOME!** It is a blessing to welcome you today. If you are visiting, please fill out a visitor card, introduce yourself to Pastor Heather or an usher, 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.



LOOKING FOR A WAY TO CONTRIBUTE  
DURING MLK WEEKEND?

**JAN  
19TH**  
5:30-7:00 PM

## HELP US, HELP OTHERS

COME TO A TEEN EVENT TO PACK MENSTRUAL  
HYGIENE PRODUCTS FOR "DIGNITY GROWS."

Sponsored by The Westport/Weston Interfaith Clergy Assn.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WESTON AND WESTPORT  
49 WESTON ROAD, WESTPORT

**PIZZA & SNACKS PROVIDED**

**PLEASE RSVP TO YOUR YOUTH LEADER or  
HSINCLAIR@WESTPORTUMC.ORG**

Benefiting:  
**dignitygrows**

Dignity Grows™ provides monthly personal and feminine products to women, girls and individuals assigned female at birth, who cannot afford them. Each bag costs \$10 and is funded by the Jewish Federation of Greater Fairfield County and private donations.

**Please share information** about this Interfaith Teen event taking place at UMCWW next Sunday.

**Scan the QR code to learn more about Dignity Grows:**  
(<https://dignitygrows.org>)



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## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WESTPORT AND WESTON

49 WESTON ROAD • WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT 06880

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

203.227.4707 • OFFICE@WESTPORTUMC.ORG • WESTPORTUMC.ORG

PASTOR HEATHER: HSINCLAIR@WESTPORTUMC.ORG • JOHN HODDINOTT: MUSIC@WESTPORTUMC.ORG