



United Methodist Church  
of Westport and Weston

January 19, 2025  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

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

*God of the nations, Show us how to love all the people of the earth, of all colors and kinds and gifts: those who make due with very little and who use many resources; those with formal education and without; those who call upon your name and who do not; so that all your children may be glorified in the name of the One who brought glory and liberty, Jesus Christ our salvation. Amen.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

PRELUDE

*Courante (Part 1) from Suite No. 2 for Cello (BWV 1008)*  
John Hoddinott, guitar

J. S. Bach

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 146

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!  
I will sing praises to God all my life long.  
**Blessed are those whose help is in God, creator of heaven and earth.**  
God, who is forever faithful,  
seeks justice for the oppressed and for the hungry;  
**sets prisoners free and opens the eyes of the blind;**  
lifts up those who are bowed down and loves the righteous.  
**The Lord protects strangers and upholds the orphan and widow;**  
but the way of the wicked is brought to ruin.  
**The Lord our God will reign forever, for all generations.**  
**Praise the Lord!**

*Let us pray:*

**We praise you, O God, for being not only the God of history but the God of our story. You have gathered us here today to remind us that you are the one to whom all power belongs, yet you care for the weak and powerless. You care for us. We praise you for joining your story to ours through Jesus Christ. He proved his great love for you and for each person in the way he lived – releasing what was captive, lifting up the burdened, empowering the powerless – and died and rose again to eternal and everlasting life.**

**God, source of lovingkindness and strength, we worship you.**

**Jesus, foundation of our faith, we worship you.**

**Holy Spirit, ground of our very being, we worship you. Amen**

\*HYMN

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

UMH 577

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

“Wilderness”

Based on Luke 4:1-13

Forty days alone,  
a wilderness of thoughts, tempting and inviting thoughts,  
which could so easily have distracted you  
from your task, your mission, your vision.

Yet you emerged, stronger and more attuned  
to all that had to be done, despite a time constraint  
that to our eyes would have seemed hopeless.

We too live in stressful times.  
Demands are made of our time,  
that leave so little for the important things of life.

We are easily distracted in the wilderness of our lives,  
by every call to go this way or that,  
to turn stone to bread  
leap from mountains,  
and do all that would keep us from the truth.

We listen to the voices of this world,  
and ignore the one who endured all this  
and so much more, and emerged triumphant,  
that we might not have to suffer so.

**Forgive us, God, when we get distracted from our task.  
Forgive us those times when we try to be all things to all people,  
and fail to be anything to anyone.**

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God has promised that whenever we repent and seek a new union with God, forgiveness is ours.  
That promise is true now and always.

**In Christ Jesus, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

#### SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

#### SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:14-30

Kirstin Zarras

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

#### SERMON

“Today”

Rev. Heather A. M. Sinclair

#### SUNG RESPONSE

*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

UMH 402, v. 4

*Adapt. & arr. by William Farley Smith, 1986.*

*Tune: © 1989, United Methodist Publishing House/Abingdon Press One License Song #29689*

***Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;***

***Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.***

***In my heart, in my heart,***

***Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.***

#### 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

*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*  
Chancel Choir

Afro-Amer. Spiritual  
adapt. & arr. W. F. Smith

\*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING *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.)*

\*HYMN

*Sent Out in Jesus Name*  
*Carmen Peña, Jorge Maldonado, Arreg. ©1996, Abingdon Press; Trad. ©1988 Abingdon Press;  
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TFWS 2184

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*I Want a Principle Within*  
Ahyoung Son, organ

L. Spohr



*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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Narrative Lectionary 2024-25, WorkingPreaching.org  
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Prayer of Confession – John Birch, faithandworship.com*



**✓ CHARGE CONFERENCE / MINISTRY TABLES will be held at 11:30am in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 26, 2025, to vote on 2025 budget and nominations.**

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## 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

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