



The Baptist in Prison by Giusto de' Menabuoi

United Methodist Church of  
Westport and Weston

February 16, 2025

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

Hybrid Worship 10:00am

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



CENTERING PRAYER: *God of mystery, just as the crowds wondered about Jesus, we too, wonder about you. Who are you to us? Are you the one? Show us that you are God, mysterious, wonderful, mighty. Amen.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

PRELUDE

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

J. S. Bach

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 146

Come once more, with eager longing,  
to receive the promises of God.

**Out of the desert places of our lives,  
we gather with joy and gladness.**

Happy are those whose help is the Lord,  
whose hope is in God.

**Our God has promised that lonely places and deserts  
will be glad and blossom as a rose.**

The Lord has promised that the blind will be able to see,  
the deaf will hear, the lame will leap and dance,  
and those who cannot speak will shout for joy.

**Our God, who made heaven and earth and all that is in them,  
keeps faith forever.**

**God sets the prisoners free and brings healing to all who seek.**

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down  
and watches over strangers.

God upholds the orphan and the widow.

**Our God executes justice for the oppressed  
and gives food to the hungry.**

Come once more, with eager longing,  
and bless the holy name of our God.

\*HYMN

*I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath*

UMH 60

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God, source of all life, Lord of mercy and grace, hear our prayer:**

**We come before you in need of healing:**

**The healing of our bodies and souls,**

**The healing of our relationships,  
The healing of our pride and fear and apathy.  
We know that with you, nothing is impossible, not even our healing,  
not even the restoration of the whole world.  
We pray that you will heal us, that you will heal our world,  
So that we will be freed to serve and love and dream and be,  
as Christ calls us. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYERS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Siblings in Christ, hear this good news and see the grace of God:  
You are healed and made whole. You are free to go and live in the light of love.  
**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 7:18-35

Bob Searles

*‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’ Luke 7:27*

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

SERMON

“Are You the One?”

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

*God of All Unity*

(see insert)

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*Chancel Choir, vv. 1 & 3; Congregation, vv. 2 & 4*

\*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.*)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*For the Healing of the Nations*

UMH 428

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*O For a Heart to Praise My God*  
Ahyoung Son, organ

T. Haweis



*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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Narrative Lectionary 2024-25, WorkingPreaching.org  
© 2015-2024 Spirit & Truth Publishing, C+G (Worship) Lessons, Fall 2024  
Call to Worship -Richard J. Fairchild, Kir-shalom, rockies.net/~spirit/sermon.html  
Prayer of Confession - Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.*



**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.

**PASTOR HEATHER WILL BE ON FAMILY VACATION** from the evening of Sunday, February 16 through Monday, February 24. Rev. Martha Epstein, pastor at New Canaan UMC, will be available for pastoral emergencies. She can be reached at 914-830-6462. For non-urgent matters, the Church Office will be open Tuesday through Friday (closed for Presidents' Day).

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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

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