



United Methodist Church
of Westport and Weston

February 23, 2025

7th 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

Forgiving God, too often we take your forgiveness for granted. Too often we cling to our sin, believing that it is our right to harbor resentments and hatred. Be merciful to us and show us the depth of healing that is offered when you forgive, for the sake of the one who recognized total surrender to forgiveness and offered it willingly, Jesus Christ our healer. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dennis Castiglia, Lay Servant

PRELUDE

Sarabande from Suite No. 2 for Cello (BWV 1008)

J. S. Bach

John Hoddinott, guitar

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into God's presence with singing!
Know that the LORD, is God!
It is God who made us, and we are God's;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to God; bless God's name!
For the LORD is good;
**his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

*HYMN

Help Us to Accept Each Other

UMH 560

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Generous God, giver of the most expensive gift of all, help us to learn from you. May we, who are so comfortably skilled at catering to our own wants, make ourselves more vulnerable to the needs of others. Let us live unselfishly and more sensitively, so that we may spread love's fragrance wherever the odor of cynicism and despair hangs in the air. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Siblings in Christ, you are anointed and healed with grace, mercy and love.

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

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

**Indicates that those who are able are invited to rise in body and spirit. – Boldface print is read aloud in unison. – Assisted hearing devices are available from an usher. – "UMH" refers to The United Methodist Hymnal (red cover); "TFWS" refers to The Faith We Sing Hymnal (black cover).*

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 7:36-50

Paula Castiglia

“Your faith has saved you; go in peace.” Luke 7:50

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

SERMON

“An Uninvited Guest”

Dennis Castiglia

SUNG RESPONSE

I Love to Tell the Story

UMH 156, v.1 two times

***I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story because I know it’s true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.***

Refrain:

***I love to tell the story; ‘twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.***

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.

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

A Hymn of Love
Ahyoung Son, piano

T. Benitez

*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

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

TFWS 2241

BENEDICTION

Mighty God, You welcome us into Your Kingdom as honored guests. You give us water to wash our feet, You give us a kiss of greeting, and You anoint our heads with oil. Merciful God, You welcome us even though we are sinners who lose our focus on You.

You forgive our debts and give us a seat at Your table.

Wonderous God, we have come here to give You our praise. As we leave this place, let us do so with joy in our hearts as we continue to sing Your praise to those we meet. Amen.



*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
Prayer of Confession – bruceprewer.com*



MARCH 2 IS CELEBRATION SUNDAY

- 10am: Hybrid Communion Service, Praise Worship with Contemporary Music 🎸
- 11:00am: 🍷🍷🍷 Mardi Gras Pancake Brunch and Family Activities for Lent
- 4pm: 🎷 Jazz Vespers - featuring Sabeth Pérez, jazz vocalist & composer.

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

As the season of Lent begins, you are invited to pause for prayer,
reflection and repentance.

- 9am-12pm: Drop-by Ashes in the Sanctuary at UMCWW
- 7pm: Prayer Stations with Meditative Music by John Hoddinott at New Canaan UMC,
165 South Street, New Canaan

WOMEN’S RETREAT, MARCH 8, 10AM – 3PM



*Learn how to find your joy
Listen to inspiring life stories
Relax and refresh with meditative practices*

RSVP by Saturday, March 1 here:



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

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