

United Methodist Church of Westport and Weston

> March 30, 2025 Fourth Sunday in Lent **UMCOR** Sunday

Hybrid Worship –10:00am

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

### **CENTERING PRAYER**

Shepherding God, You look for us. You search for us. You turn every corner and climb every mountain. You call our name until your voice is hoarse. When we lose our way, you never stop seeking after us. So once again we pray, find us in this moment. Look for us. And then surround us with your presence so that we might feel you near. With hope we pray, with hope we listen for your voice. Amen.

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS** 

PRELUDE

Abide with Me Ahyoung Son, piano Pastor Heather

W. Monk, arr. T. Matthews

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Our God is a shepherding God. Our God knows us by name. Our God will never stop searching for us. So if you feel lost, then know that God is seeking you. If you feel found, then know that God will never leave. This is the promise of scripture. This is the promise of God's love. Let us worship our with-us God.

## \*HYMN

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

**UMH 381** 

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Friends, in the Christian tradition many have used "lost" and "found" labels to describe people "out there" versus people "in here." Many have used "lost" and "found" language to create a damaging dichotomy that Christians are found and non-Christians are lost. But the truth is, each and every one of us is a little bit lost and a little bit found from time to time. Each and every one of us needs the love of the Good Shepherd. Join me as we go to God in prayer:

If God is a painter, let us be the brush. If God is a musician. let us be the song. If God is an architect, let us be the tools. Let us be the hands. Let us be the builders.

(continued...)

But if God is a shepherd, who never stops seeking, let us be willing to be found, no matter how lost we feel. Our God is never far away. Forgive us for forgetting this good news. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS
Family of faith, we are all a little bit lost and a little bit found.
We grumble. We push back. We doubt God. We doubt ourselves.
We leave the flock and lose our way.
But fortunately for us, our God is a shepherding God who is always by our side.
So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
No matter how far we wander,
we can never wander from the bounds of God's grace.
We are loved. We are forgiven. We are not alone.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15:1-7

Chris Radu

"Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep." - Luke 15:6

Chill Rudu

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

SERMON

"lost & found"

Rev. Heather A. M. Sinclair

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
We believe in a seeking God,
a with-us and before-us God,
a chasing-after-us God.
We believe that no matter where we wander
or what mountains we climb, this God—
the God who walked the streets of Jerusalem,
shook hands with lepers,
patted children on the head,
and told stories of love—
is always close at hand.
So on the good days and the hard days,
on the mountains and in the valleys,
we believe that we are always being found.
Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

# 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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness Ahyoung Son, piano W. Runyan, arr. C. Berry

**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                      | Amazing Grace                                 | UMH 378, vv. 1-3, 6 |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------|
| BENEDICTION                |   |                     |
| As you leave this place,   |   |                     |
| may you find God in eve    | ry messy middle.                              |                     |
| May you know that the y    | vorld is bigger than two sides.               |                     |
| May you trust that you a   | re made in the image of God,                  |                     |
| and therefore, you contain | n multitudes.                                 |                     |
| So may you move throug     | this world with an open heart,                |                     |
| with a curious mind, and   | with the confidence that you do not go alone. |                     |
| God is with you in the m   | ountains,                                     |                     |
| in the valleys, and every  |   |                     |
| Believe that good news,    |   |                     |
|                            |   |                     |

| SUNG BENEDICTION | Peace I Leave With You<br>Chancel Choir | G. Weigle |
|------------------|---|-----------|
| Postlude         | Beneath the Cross of Jesus              | F. Maker  |

Ahyoung Son, organ

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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

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