



United Methodist Church
of Westport and Weston

April 6, 2025
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Hybrid Worship with
Holy Communion – 10:00am



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

CENTERING PRAYER

*Loving God, week after week we return to this space, because we long to see you.
Like Zacchaeus who climbed a tree to get a peek at you as you walked by, we come to this sanctuary hoping
to get a peek of your goodness, joy, and light. Speak to us through the ancient words of scripture. Let us get
a peek of the love that lingers here. Gratefully we pray. Amen.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

PRELUDE

Prelude (Part 2) from Suite No. 3 for Cello, BWV 1007
John Hoddinott, guitar

J. S. Bach

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to worship because we long for mercy.

We long for community.

We long for God.

We come to worship because we need a good word.

We need connection.

We need moral reminders.

We come to worship because we are in between:

hope and grief,

faith and doubt,

joy and longing,

curiosity and conviction.

So we come to worship and God meets us here.

Surely, we are not alone.

Thanks be to God for meeting us in the middle!

*HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

UMH 400

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Friends, our faith calls us to live with both mercy and righteousness. Somewhere along the way, however,
we have forgotten that truth. We argue about who deserves mercy and whether or not they had acted with
enough righteousness to receive it. Fortunately, God does not act that way. No matter what mistakes we
have made or wrong turns we've taken, God consistently meets us with mercy and invites us to try again. So
let us lean into that good news, and go to God in prayer:*

**Merciful God, when we fail to be righteous, show us mercy.
When we fail to be merciful, show us what is right.
Again and again, bring us closer to you.
Again and again, show us the way. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, hear and believe this good news:
When we fail to be righteous, **God is merciful.**
When we fail to be merciful, **God invites us to try again.**
Again and again, God moves closer to us.
Again and again, God shows us the way.
Thanks be to God for this unending love.
Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 19:1-10

Cindy Glover

*“Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.
For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”*

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

SERMON

“righteousness & mercy”

Rev. Heather A. M. Sinclair

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**In a world that loves to cast blame and point fingers,
Jesus loved by different rules.
He offered mercy.
He invited people to dinner.
He told stories of love.
He chose to see the best in others.
We believe that small acts of mercy
and compassion have ripple effects in our lives.
We believe that small acts of righteousness
and justice are integral to a life of faith.
So like Christ, we believe in
offering mercy,
inviting people to dinner,
telling stories of love,
and choosing to see the best in others.
With God’s help, may it be so. 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

How Can I Keep from Singing

arr. C. Courtney

OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Come to this table because you want to celebrate
care in illness,
comfort in sorrow,
healing beyond curing,
peace in forgiveness,
hope in times of fear or threat.

Come to this table
because you claim your abundance,
as culture defines it or as your heart knows it.

Come to this table
because you have discovered
your own generosity and need to start giving.

Come to this table
because you are willing to be welcomed,
even when that is awkward,
and willing to welcome
to the limit of your resources,
and even to offer welcome
knowing it may be rejected.

Come to this teeter-totter table,
where the bakers and the starving,
touch elbows and hearts.

Come to this table where Christ
welcomes all who love him
and desire to receive his grace.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

We remember that Jesus Christ came
from a culture of oasis hospitality,
stories of manna, grain gleaned,
a raven feeding the prophet Elijah,
Abigail hurrying to offer a feast,
and a Passover meal
for which everything stopped

and all were fed.

We remember that Jesus came
from both celebrating family Sabbath evenings,
and the rule-bending of grain plucked from a field
when someone was hungry.

We remember that Jesus
lifted up a woman from her fever
and she responded by serving everyone
from the generosity of her wellness.
Jesus sat and ate at that table.

We remember that,
near the end of his ministry,
Jesus called a short man from a tree
into a forgiveness so abundant
it became a meal for the least and lost.
Jesus sat and ate at that table, too.

And we remember that Jesus knew,
when it was the last Passover,
how important healing
and turning lives around was,
so he blessed unleavened bread.
and poured wine and love freely,
inviting us always to share
both brokenness and grace.

In remembrance of all that Jesus said and did, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union for Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Almighty God, rest upon us as you rested upon water and light, earth and creatures, human beings, all in your image, and even the cooking pots and serving bowls of those who love you. Send your Spirit of life and love, power and blessing upon us, your children, that this bread may be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you. Breathe in us, that we may breathe in you. Amen.

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.

BREAKING THE BREAD

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

The United Methodist Church offers an open table. All who wish to receive the love and grace of Jesus Christ are welcome to the Lord's Table, regardless of age or religious affiliation. You are invited to come forward at the direction of the ushers to receive the gluten-free bread and cup of juice. You may pause for prayer at the altar rail and return to your seats by the side aisles. If you need communion to be brought to

you, please notify an usher. If you are worshipping at home, the bread, crackers, juice, water or wine which you bring to your worship space is blessed in the presence of God and the gathered community.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

One Bread, One Body

UMH 620

Text and music © 1978, John B. Foley, S.J., and OCP. All rights reserved. One License Song #80673

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Spirit of Christ, we give thanks for the grace offered at this table. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing or hope, and let us become your compassionate hands, your safe refuge. May we be lifted up to serve you by inviting all your children to the table of grace. Amen

*HYMN

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

TFWS 2158

BENEDICTION

As you leave this place,
may you find God in every messy middle.
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,
and therefore, you contain multitudes.
So may you move through 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 mountains,
in the valleys, and everywhere in between.
Believe that good news, and go in peace.

SUNG BENEDICTION

Peace I Leave With You
Chancel Choir

G. Weigle

POSTLUDE

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above
Ahyoung Son, organ

MIT FREUDEN ZART,
harm. by J. F. Bell



*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
All music is in the Public Domain, unless noted.
One License # A-735187. All rights reserved.
CCLI Stream Coverage License # CSPL086733;
CCLI Copyright Coverage License #11173036
Narrative Lectionary 2024-25, WorkingPreaching.org
Prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed, Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org,
Everything in Between, Words for Worship*



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 FOR FELLOWSHIP TIME in Fellowship Hall after the worship service.



The Easter Egg Hunt on Rabbit Hill will be held at 2pm TODAY, and there may be some last minute tasks to finish before our guests arrive. If you can stay after worship, please ask Bob Trinko or George Hanze how you can help.



Save the Date

The next Jazz Vespers will be
on Sunday, May 18 @ 4pm

**Legacy Concert
RSVP Required**



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