



United Methodist Church
of Westport and Weston

Easter Sunday Hybrid Worship – April 20, 2025, 10:00am

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

PRELUDE

I Stand Amazed in the Presence
Sarah Uyar, trumpet; Ahyoung Son, organ

C. Gabriel,
arr. B. B. Dockery

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:1-12

*CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Friends in Christ, we have known grief. We have known loss.

We have known the long road, tired and winding.

We have whispered prayers on bended knees.

We have stared at the sky, empty of stars.

But today – today we know hope.

Today we know life.

Today we know the sound of Alleluias.

Today we know that death does not have the last word.

Today we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

On this Easter, may hope find you.

And may you know, deep in your bones, that today is a new day.

Alleluia! Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

UMH 302, vv. 1, 2, 4 & 6

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Pastor Heather

Children are welcome to join Pastor Heather for a brief message, then remain in the sanctuary for the service. Coloring pages and gift bags are available in the narthex. The Nursery is open, but unstaffed, for children and parents who need a break.

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8, selected verses

Dan Gelman

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

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

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
Chancel Choir

Latin hymn, 14th cen.,
arr. B. Slagle Mayo

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

T. Ken, G. H. Vieira ©1989 United Methodist Publishing House; One License# A-735187. All rights reserved.

***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!***

OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, God, when good news lands in our lap and we refuse to believe it. Forgive us, God, when grief and fear crowd out any room in our hearts for hope. Forgive us, God, when we dismiss the stories of others and minimize the voices of our neighbors.

Forgive us, God, when we doubt in the possibility of resurrection. In a world that teeters between grief and hope, show us how to be like Peter. Show us how to hold onto hope; to trust that we are never separated from your love. Show us how to run toward your promise of eternal life. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

God’s grace exists for us when we are hopeful and when we’re grieving – when we’re shouting and when we’re silent – when we’re full of faith and when we’re full of fear. God’s grace exists for us on the best days, the worst days, and every day in between.

Thanks be to God for this good news! Alleluia! Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

We lift up our hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of yesterday, tomorrow, and right now,
God of the sun, the moon, and the pink before dawn,
**God of our head, our heart, and our soul,
we are full of Alleluias.**

This morning the sun rose once again.
This morning, the birds sang for you.
This morning children laughed,
flowers bloomed, and hope was shared.
This morning, we heard how the stone was rolled away.
This morning we dare to believe that life is stronger than death
and love is stronger than evil.

So today, we are full of Alleluias.

Today we are full of hope.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your unending name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

God of resurrection,
we know that not every day feels like today.
Just two days ago, we walked the path to the cross.
Just two days ago, we remembered the capability of human violence.
Just two days ago, we remembered the cruelty that this world knows all too well.
So on this hopeful day, as well as on those grief-filled days, we ask that you would meet us here.
We remember that in the midst of troubling times, Jesus gathered his friends at table. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."
And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

O God, meet us in this sanctuary, in this community, at this table.
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and the cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world.

Roll back the stone, again and again,
as many times as it takes for us to see you.

Call us by name, again and again,
as many times as it takes for us to hear you.

Pull us from the trenches of our grief,
and give us reason to hope.

As you do,
**we will keep singing your praises,
we will come back to this Table,
we will continue to bring you our hope, our grief,
and everything in between until we feast with Christ at the heavenly banquet.**

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **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

In the United Methodist Church, all people, of all ages, and church affiliations, who love Jesus Christ, and seek forgiveness and peace are welcome to the Lord's Table. At the direction of the ushers, you are invited forward to receive the gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice. If you prefer, pre-packaged communion is available. You may kneel for prayer after receiving or return to your seats by the side aisles. If you are worshipping at home, be assured that God's blessing is upon the bread and cup which you bring to the online gathering.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Become to Us the Living Bread

UMH 630

M. Drury, ©1972 Presbyterian Publishing/Westminster John Knox/Geneva Press; OneLicense #121549

Christian People, Raise Your Song

UMH 636

C. P. Thompson, ©1989 Saint Andrew Press

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of the mountain, the valley, and every step in between, may this meal be a fresh start. May this moment, where all are fed and all are welcomed, be the start of something new. Show us how to carry the love we experience here from the walls of this church into the world we encounter in the days ahead. *(continued...)*

Show us how to leave breadcrumbs of good news along our path and everywhere in between. With deep hope in the Risen Christ, we pray, amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Lift High the Cross

UMH 159

Kitchin/Newbolt/Nicholson, ©1974 Hope Publishing Company; One License Song #101152

BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION

Amen

Danish Amen, Anon.

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

Crown Him with Many Crowns

G. Elvey

Sarah Uyar, trumpet; Ahyoung Son, organ

arr. B. C. Dockery



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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WELCOME! It is a blessing to welcome you to Worship 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 Worship.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, May 3, 9am in Fellowship Hall

UMM Breakfast hosted for YOU!

Dennis Castiglia presents: *What does Spirituality mean living within a world of materialism?*

Sunday, May 4, 3pm – Please arrive by 2:30!

The New York Connecticut District Conference

Darien UMC, 345 Middlesex Rd, Darien, CT 06820-2518

Sunday, May 18, 4pm

Jazz Vespers featuring Sabeth Pérez

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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