



United Methodist Church  
of Westport and Weston

May 4, 2025  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Hybrid Worship with  
Holy Communion – 10:00am



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

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CENTERING PRAYER

*Meet us, Lord, on the road to Emmaus,  
Guide us on the path toward our destination,  
and renew our strength as we continue to walk and commune with you.  
Open our eyes, so we see the signs of your presence around us;  
Open our hearts, so we may receive your peace and love;  
and empower us to pass on to others the grace you have shared with us so freely.  
Amen.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

PRELUDE

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

J. S. Bach

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

**Creator God made all that is, and proclaimed that “it is good.”**

Creator, help us to discover in Nature the good wisdom about  
the interconnectedness of all things, about balance and about living in harmony.

**We are not above Nature, we are part of Creation;  
We live by the same laws as all of Nature;  
and need to learn from that which God has made.**

Creator, help us to discover the power  
that lies in the wisdom and understanding  
of our role in the Great Mystery,  
and in honoring every living thing as a Teacher.

**Creator God, may our spirits be in harmony with Yours  
as we gather in Your worship!**

\*HYMN

*Christ Is Risen*

UMH 307

*By Brian Wren. Words ©1986 Hope Publishing Company. One License Song #106203*

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 24:13-35

Nancy Everson

*“Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him,  
and he vanished from their sight.” – Luke 24:31*

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

## OFFERING OUR PRAYERS &amp; 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).*

*If you lift up a prayer in Worship today and wish for that prayer to be included on the weekly enews prayer list, please fill out a blue prayer card and place it in the offering plate or speak to Pastor Heather.*

## MUSIC OFFERING

*I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

Anon.

*Piano arrangement by Stan Pethel. Tune: © 2016 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of  
The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services) One License Song #1029290*

Chancel Choir & Ahyoung Son, piano

\*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH 95

## OFFERING PRAYER

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## HOLY COMMUNION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of birth, God of joy, God of life, we come to you as a people hungry for good news. We have been so dead to miracles that we have missed the world's rebirth. We have preoccupied ourselves with pleasures and have overlooked the joy you offer us. We have been so concerned with making a living that we have missed the Life you set among us. Forgive us, gracious God. Open our eyes and hearts to receive your gift; open our lips and our hands to share it all with humanity, in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

## SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Even in our moments of doubt, when our lack of faith means we fail to see God amongst us, God is still at work. God is still healing. God is still forgiving. Even when you fail to recognize God, God still sees you, and still loves you.

Sisters and brothers, in the name of Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your 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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,  
brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.  
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection  
you gave birth to your Church,  
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.  
By your great mercy we have been born anew  
to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead  
and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.  
Once we were no people, but now we are your people,  
declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ,  
who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.  
When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always,  
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which Jesus was arrested,  
while he was at table with his friends,  
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 to you, 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.”

On the day you raised him from the dead  
he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread,  
and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued  
in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.  
**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
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,  
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours,  
Creator God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Maori & Polynesian, New Zealand Book of Common Prayer*

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe; The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world; Your heavenly will be done by all created beings; Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trial too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and 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

*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

UMH 632

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy, gracious, God, here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.

**We have rested in the depth of your love;**

**We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;**

**We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.**

**Together, at this table, you have offered us life.**

**Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.**

**And we give you thanks. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*Easter People, Raise Your Voices*

UMH 304

*By William M. James. Words © 1979, United Methodist Publishing House/Abingdon Press. One License Song #18255*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Thine Be the Glory*  
Ahyoung Son, organ

JUDAS MACCABEUS,  
arr. from G. F. Handel



*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.*

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*Narrative Lectionary 2024-25, WorkingPreaching.org*

*Call to Worship by Jeff Ramsland, Mohawk; Prayer of Confession: Ruth Duck, Bread for the Journey, 1981*

*Prayer after Communion: Joanna Harader, spaciousfaith.com;*

*Centering Prayer by Rev. Frank Schaefer and posted on the DesperatePreacher.com*

*UMC Special Sunday Resources, resourceumc.org*