



United Methodist Church
of Westport and Weston

May 11, 2025

4th Sunday of Easter

Hybrid Worship – 10:00am



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

“The Baptism of the Eunuch” Rembrandt van Rijn, 1626
Museum Catharijneconvent in Utrecht, Netherlands

CENTERING PRAYER

God of the prophets, with Scripture and water you claim people as your own. Claim us with water and the word, so that we may rejoice in the life given to us through the gift of the Holy Spirit, for the sake of the one whose spirit lives in us, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

PRELUDE

Prelude: Courante (Part 1) from Suite No. 3 for Cello, BWV 1007
John Hoddinott, guitar

J. S. Bach

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Beloved community, let us draw the circle wide!

And draw it wider still.

Each of us is here because something draws us to the Divine Jesus.

We come to explore what it is that draws us here, in community with neighbors who can teach us what it is that draws them here.

We come with questions, struggles, doubts.

We come with unique perspectives that enrich the whole community.

We come in vast diversity of mind, body, being,

to live into a unity that does not quell our differences, but celebrates them.

We come to abide in the love of Jesus,

and to learn to bear good fruit that lasts.

Come, let us join in worship of the God of love

Who teaches us what true love is.

*HYMN

Rejoice the Lord Is King

UMH 715

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus asks only this of us:

that we love one another just as he loves us —

a love without conditions, a love that liberates!

But again and again, we choose hate, or fear, or control,

not only with those we call enemies but even with our family and friends.

The love of God is a love that acts, a love that bears fruit that lasts,

but we continue to think of love in terms of simple words,

**saying “love” with our mouths but acting in ways that harm,
or failing to act at all.**

God’s Spirit bursts through all walls we build to separate “us” from “them,”

**but we build them back, unsure of what we’d be without an “other” on whom to project our
insecurities, on whom to blame our misfortunes or the consequences of our own crimes.**

Created for abundance, we live as hostages of scarcity.

**We steal from our neighbors and hoard whatever resources,
whatever power we can get our hands on.**

Forgive us, Loving God.

Teach us, again and again how to live into your love.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Siblings in the One who lived, died, and rose for us,

even when *we* fail to abide in God’s love,

still, still God abides in *us* –

chooses to call us friend, chooses to lift us up.

Thus we are redeemed – not through any effort of our own

but simply through love which is deeper and truer than we can imagine.

Empowered by this remarkable gift of grace,

Let us share Christ’s love, peace and forgiveness with one another.

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 8:26-39

Rev. Heather Sinclair

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

SERMON

“...And Went on His Way Rejoicing”

Skip Sinclair

SUNG RESPONSE

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

UMH 521

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.*

*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

Lift High the Cross
Chancel Choir

S. H. Nicholson,
arr. S. Mitchell Wallace

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

UMH 94

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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 – A LITANY FOR MOTHERS

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.

*HYMN

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

UMH 569

BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION

Go Now in Peace

N. Price, D. Besig

POSTLUDE

Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here
Ahyoung Son, organ

H. Carey



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.

*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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Call to Worship & Prayer of Confession – binarybreakingworship.com*

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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