



United Methodist Church of Westport and Weston

May 18, 2025
5th Sunday of Easter

Hybrid Worship – 10:00am
Sacrament of Baptism



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

CENTERING PRAYER

God of amazing grace, with great joy we receive the gift of new and abundant life, which is ours not because of our own efforts, but because of the saving work of Christ. Grant us full access to the glory of your salvation, an abundance that is more than enough for all humankind, for the sake of our redeeming Christ. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

PRELUDE

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

J. S. Bach

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 139

O Lord, you have searched us and known us.

Before we move or think or speak, you know our actions and our words.

You breathed life into us, and shaped us in human form to serve your purpose
and sing your praise.

We praise you for the gifts of presence and spirit, of acceptance and abundance, of lineage and legacy.

How wonderful are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the expanse of your grace and love!

Praise the Lord!

The Lord's name be praised!

*PRAISE SONG

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

TFWS 2088

*By Rick Founds. © 1989 Universal Music – Brentwood Benson Publishing
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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, Creator of all, in these few moments of worship,
we come to you with the words and works, the desires, and hopes, and fears, that fill our everyday lives.

We come to give thanks in all things; to seek new perspective, to find new strength.

Jesus Christ, Beloved Child of God, help us today to find our hearts burning – with love and devotion to you, so that, kneeling at your feet, we hear the tender whisper of your call.

**Holy Spirit, Breath of God, open our minds to learn from Christ,
that in listening we might hear, and in hearing we might respond,
as he invites us, to follow and live into new and abundant life.**

Eternal God, Creator, Redeemer and Comforter,

**hear us as we hope our hearts to you to confess how we have strayed from your way. Often, we wear ourselves down with a pretence of righteousness.
Today, we humble ourselves before us and re-commit to follow the call of our baptism in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

WORD OF ASSURANCE

God is gracious and merciful and knows our needs even before they reach our lips. Still, we lift us to God all that rests uneasily in our hearts. Confident of God's love and grace, we assure each other that:

**In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

A MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Rev. Heather A. M. Sinclair

The children are invited for a time with Pastor Heather. Following the Sacrament of Baptism, they are welcome to stay in the sanctuary or the Nursery and Sunday School classroom are open, but unstaffed, for those who need a break.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION AND PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE

Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy family, the church. We are named as a beloved child of God; incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All of this is God's gift, offered to us without a price.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE FOR BAPTISM

Lay Leader: On behalf of this congregation, I present for baptism *Avery Lincoln Galvin*

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor to Parents: On behalf of the whole church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? **I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? **I do.**

Will you nurture this child in Christ's holy church, that by your teaching and example she may be guided to accept God's grace for herself to profess her faith openly, and to lead a Christian life? **I will.**

Pastor to Congregation: Do you as Christ's body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ? **We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this child now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround this child with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may grow in her trust of God, and be found faithful in her service to others. We will pray for her, that she may grow to be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

Let us together profess our faith through the word of the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

(continued...)

[who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.]

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

[the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.]

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The pastor prays: Eternal God, when nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised. In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and those who receive it, to wash away their sin and clothe them in righteousness throughout their lives, that dying and being raised with Christ, they may share in final victory.

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

As the child is baptized, the pastor says:

Avery Lincoln, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The pastor lights a candle and says: May the Holy Spirit work within you and the light of Christ shine in and through you, that being born through water and the Spirit you may be faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

Pastor to congregation:

Now it is our joy to welcome our new sister in Christ,

Avery Lincoln Galvin

Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as a member of the family of Christ.

May the God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace. **Amen.**

HYMN

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

UMH 611

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SCRIPTURE READING

Galatians 1:1-5, 2:19-21 (The Message)

Susan Gilder

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

HOMILY

"The Faith of Jesus"

Rev. Heather A. M. Sinclair

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

Just a Closer Walk with Thee
Ahyoung Son, piano

Trad. arr. C. Berry

*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*
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UMH 94

***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

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

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

UMH 133

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Ahyoung Son, organ

Ancient Irish melody



*Portions of the Order of Worship are adapted from:
The United Methodist Hymnal, The United Methodist Book of Worship, and The Faith We Sing,
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Narrative Lectionary 2024-25, WorkingPreaching.org; Call to Worship: Michael Morgan, liturgylink.net
Prayer of Confession: Rev Adam Hood, ChurchofScotland.org*



JAZZ VESPERS FEATURING SABETH PÉREZ IS AT 4PM TODAY!

MEET PASTOR JINHA CHOI – SATURDAY, MAY 24, 10AM

Gather at 9:30 for coffee and refreshments. Pastor Heather and Pastor Jinha will join together for an hour of facilitated conversation and questions about ministry and the pastoral transition on July 1.

PASTOR HEATHER'S LAST DAY IN WORSHIP – SUNDAY JUNE 1, 10AM

Sunday, June 1 will be the last day Pastor Heather will preach and lead Worship at UMCWW. After Worship, please gather for Fellowship Time to celebrate Pastor Heather's seven years at UMCWW and wish her well in her new position as Connecticut District Superintendent of the UMC.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WESTPORT AND WESTON

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REV. HEATHER A. M. SINCLAIR, PASTOR

JOHN HODDINOTT, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT • AHYOUNG SON, ORGANIST
STEVEN MAGDA, LIVESTREAM TECHNICIAN • MARILYN SMITH, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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