

Westport Presbyterian Church—September 17, 2023 11 a.m.
(A Unique Place and Space on the Planet Earth)



Mary Magdalene saying goodbye to Jesus
Mural St Baume Chapel near Marseilles, France by Frederic Montenard

PRELUDE: Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation (WESTMINSTER ABBEY) Stan Pethel

CALL TO RETURN TO OUR SOULS: Psalm 103 selected verses

Leader: Bless the LORD Yahweh, O my soul, and all that is within me bless
God's Holy name

People: **Bless the LORD, O my soul and do not forget all God's benefits**

Leader: Who forgives all your iniquity, who redeems your life from the pit,
Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

People: **The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**
God made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the People of Israel

ALL: **The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast
Love. Bless the LORD, O my soul.**

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN (please stand as you are able):**

#401 Glory to God

Gather Us In

**CALL TO CONFESS OUR WEARINESS, DISCOURAGEMENT, DESPAIR,
THEN COMMIT TO TRANSCEND THESE SELF DEFEATING MINDSETS:**

Leader: In the stillness of the quiet, if we listen
we can hear the whisper of the heart
giving strength to weakness,

People: Courage to fear, hope to despair,

Leader: There is something in every one of us
that waits and listens
For the sound of the genuine in ourselves.

People: It is the only true guide we will ever have,

Leader: And if we cannot hear it
then all of our life
we will spend our days
on the end of strings
that somebody else pulls.

**People: Listen to the long stillness:
New life is stirring.
New dreams are on the wing.
New hopes are being readied.**

Leader: God is at work.

People: This is the season of Promise. Amen.

--Dr. Howard Thurman

AFFIRMING OF HEALING, SAVING POWER OF GOD:

591 Glory to God

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (refrain only, sing twice)

PASSING OF PEACE:

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us share the peace of Christ with each other.

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

451 Glory to God

Open My Eyes That I May See

BIBLE READINGS: Genesis 50: 15-26; Exodus 14: 19-26, 15: 19-21

CHORAL ANTHEM: Create in Me

John Leavitt

MESSAGE: "You Can't Say Hello, Until You Have Said Goodbye"

Susan Hartley

CONGREGATION HYMN:

726 Glory to God

The Summons

WELCOMING

SUNG PREPARATION FOR PRAYER:

#851 Glory to God

Come, Bring Your Burdens to God (SING TWICE)

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY SOLO: My Father... I Go On
Joshua Stark, bass

Leonard Bernstein

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

May all beings everywhere plagued with suffering of body and mind

Quickly be freed from their illnesses.

May those frightened cease to be afraid,

And may those bound be free.

May the powerless find power,

And may people think of befriending one another.

May those who find themselves in trackless, fearful wilderness ---

The children, the aged, the unprotected –

Be guarded now and always. Amen.

--Buddhist prayer

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:

727 Glory to God

The Servant Song

BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION RESPONSE:

740 Glory to God

Lead Me, Guide Me (refrain only, sing TWICE)

POSTLUDE: Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit
Carter

setting by John

A WESTPORT WARM WELCOMING!!

- We are mourning the sudden death, August 26, of our beloved pastor REV. SCOTT MYERS. We welcome REV. SUSAN WESLEY HARTLEY to lead our worship service today. Rev. Hartley was Associate Pastor, part-time at Westport Presbyterian from 1989-1991, moved back to the area June 28, and has been attending WPC worship many Sundays since July 2 and participating in our Zoom Bible study.
- If you need pastoral care, please contact the church office. Rev. Eric Garbision has volunteered to be on call and available to the congregation.
- Bread, Buns, Fruit, Water, Meat, Peanut Butter are needed for our INTERRUPT HUNGER work. WESTPORT SHOWERS happens on Sundays & Thursday nights. Men's boxer brief underwear needed. Men's and Women's shoes. Backpacks!
- Children's Sunday School is back in action in the redesigned 2nd floor Children's Space, teaching & learning will emphasize Care for the Earth, Sky and all God's creation 11:00 am.
- Friendship Time before and after worship with snacks and coffee. Starts at 10:20 am in the main hallway. Continues after worship. Time for spontaneous friendship interaction. Smile.
- Scott was delighted to display Stan Morgan's art exhibit at our church. Tell your friends, neighbors, family, co-workers to come and see the amazing lifetime works of this great artist and human being!

THIS WEEK:

- FREDitation—a centering prayer experience—is Monday, Sept. 18 at 4:30 p.m. in the Chapel (20 minutes)
- THE GIFT OF TROOST ARTIST SHOWCASE continues through this week featuring local Aspiring Black Artists (who have received Troost 39 Community Grants) Show runs Sept. 15-22. Monday-Friday 5-8 pm, Saturday 11am-6 pm, & Sunday 2-5 pm.



Rev. Susan Hartley at St Baume Chapel mural with St. Mary Magdalene lifted up by angels in twice daily contemplative prayer.

Fresco by Frédéric Montenard , France