

Gathering Music *Change My Heart, O God* E. Espinosa

What's happening at Woodridge? *(see insert)*

Opening Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Ways to grow deeper as a faithful community ... *Show who you really are*

Call to Worship *(responsive)*:

One: Let us pray these familiar words,
recognizing in the Risen Christ our Good Shepherd:

People:

**Jesus, you are our shepherd. We shall never want.
You make us lie down in green pastures;
you lead us beside the still waters. You restore our souls.
You guide us in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake.
Even though we may walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
we fear no evil, for you, Christ, comfort us.
Jesus has prepared a table for us in the presence of our foes;
Jesus has anointed us with the oil of salvation; our cup runs over!
Surely, goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives,
And we will dwell in the house of our Holy Savior forever and
ever. Amen.**

Hymn *God Is Here! As We Your People Meet* NCH #70

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 2: 19-25 (NRSV)

¹⁹For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is

that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Prayer of Confession:

One: Merciful and Loving God, we ask forgiveness
because our consciousness of you is dimmed by everyday desires and needs.

ALL: **Raise our consciousness of you, O God.**

One: We forget that we are a reflection of your image.
We act as though you are a Sunday-only event.

ALL: **Increase our mindfulness of you, O God.
Awaken our awareness of you, O God.**

One: Open our eyes from surface focus to depth perception.
Turn our heads from shallow concerns to eternal truths.

ALL: **Awaken us from faint-heartedness, O God.**

One: Forgive us for our narrow and selfish ways.
Save us from cheap grace with your amazing grace.

ALL: **Forgive us, O God. We ask in Jesus' precious name. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Holy, Forgiving God, we are your sheep. You keep us awake and aware. You can increase our God-consciousness every day of our lives.

Bless you and praise you for forgiving us when we are barely mindful enough to ask.

Help us to enter by the door when we hear the voice of the Good Shepherd.

We hear your voice of pardon.
Through Christ's grace we are forgiven this morning, and we go in. Amen.
All: **We are forgiven!** (*People to one another.*)

Children's Message

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Reading: John 10: 1 - 10 *insert*

Sermon Open the Door to Reconciliation
Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose

Hymn *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* NCH #282

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

Anthem *What Does God Require of You* J. Stratdee
Woodridge Choir

Offering

Doxology *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, above ye heavenly hosts, Creator Christ and holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* Pilgrim Hymnal #327

Benediction

Benediction response *Lead Us from Death to Life* NCH #581
Refrain

Postlude

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

*An Open & Affirming Congregation and
A Caring & Welcoming Community*

Worship at 10:00 AM

April 30, 2023

woodridgechurchri.org

facebook.com/woodridgecongregational



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all



As a caring and welcoming community, using the Bible as a resource and the teachings of Jesus as our guide, we joyfully welcome everyone into our Christian community, regardless of race, ethnicity, class, age, mental status, family structure, physical or mental ability, religious background or theological perspective, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. As Christian disciples, we invite all to share in the life, leadership, ministry, worship, sacraments, blessings and joys of our congregation.

**Ways to grow deeper as a faithful community - for April:
SHOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE**

Show Who You Really Are. Our church is for "real" people. Bring your true self, including your joys, your sorrows, your fears, your strengths and your weaknesses. God loves you as you are. Don't hide your struggles, failures or problems.