

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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



Worship at 10:00 AM

April 07, 2024

woodridgechurchri.org

facebook.com/woodridgecongregational

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.

Gathering Music

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

Opening Prayer and The Lord's Prayer:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Thanks be to God who taught us to pray saying..

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.

Call to Worship *(responsive)*:

One: I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: I keep the Lord always before me; because his is at my right hand. I shall not be moved,.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. **All: Thanks be to God.**

One: For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful ones see the Pit.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

All: Alleluia, praise God forever.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 133

¹How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

²It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

³It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

Prayer of Confession (*responsive*):

Leader: Let us seek the forgiveness of God and of each other for the divisions that have hindered Christian witness: Lord we have sinned against you and against each other

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: O Christ, ore divisions are contrary to your will and have impeded our common witness to you.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Lord, we have not loved you enough in our brothers and sisters, created in your image, but different from us.

People: Lord, Have mercy.

Leader: Creator God, let us no longer liv *ief Silence* e beside each other as strangers. Satisfy the longing of our hearts, grant our rightful requests, and unite us soon in one holy church through your Son Jesus Christ who with you in communion of the Holy Spirit lives and reigns eternally.

Brief Silence

Assurance of Pardon (unison):

Hear the good news: if we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.

Passing of the Peace

Sermon Text: John 20: 18-31

¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them,

“Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Sermon “To Doubt is Human” Rev. Tom Meyer

*Hymn *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* Pilgrim Hymnal #234

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

(The pastor will pass a microphone to those who raise a hand to speak.)

Speaker response: “This is my prayer.” Congregation response: “**This is our prayer.**”

Offering

Offertory	O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing (vs 1)	Pilgrim Hymnal	191
	Fairest Lord Jesus (vs 1,3.)		227
	Rejoice the Lord is King (vs 1,2 with amen.)		204

Doxology *Give Thanks* H. Smith

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly one give

5 1 2

thanks— be-cause he's giv-en Je - sus Christ his Son. Give Son. And

10

now let the weak say, "I am strong" let the poor say "I am rich be-cause of

15

what the Lord has done for us" Give thanks! Give thanks!

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Our communion table is open to all who wish to receive, regardless of church membership or affiliation. We welcome all ages to receive communion today and leave the decision to parents at what age their children should participate. We are now offering bread and juice separately or both contained in the combined cup; please take either bread or the combined cup when it is served.

*Communion Hymn

As We Gather at Your Table

NCH #332

The Words of Invitation

Beloved in Christ, the gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, and on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

People: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and west, from the north and the south, and gather around Christ's table.

The Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts,

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling forth of creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being. We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when spring by all will mean scarcity for none. We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection, and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere

Holy, Holy, Holy, God of love and majesty,

The whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most high.

Merciful God, as sisters and brothers in faith, we recall anew these words and acts of Jesus Christ. Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; This is my body." Jesus took a cup, and after

giving thanks, gave it to the disciples and said: “Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

We remember Christ’s promise not to drink of the fruit of the vine again until the heavenly banquet at the close of history, and we boldly say what we believe:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died. Amen.

The Words of Distribution

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ. Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ Gives

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior’s presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ’s body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your church here and everywhere may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Benediction

Benediction response

Lead Us From Death to Life
Refrain

NCH #581

Postlude

Announcements

Save the date: Our (almost) **May Breakfast** will be on Saturday, April 27, 8 - 11 am. We hope you can join us. Watch this space – and our email messages – for all the details.

A **Grief Support Group** meets Thursday afternoons,

2:00 - 3:30 pm in the Conference Room.

This gathering is for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. For many people, a grief support group makes the process a little easier by building connections with others who are also grieving. For more information, please contact the facilitator, Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose at bbagbygrose@vnacarenewengland.org

A **Quilt Guild** has begun meeting the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 6-9 pm. Find all the details and help yourself to a note posted on sanctuary lobby and Fellowship Hall bulletin boards.

Thank you for your continuing donations of non-perishable food items to the Interfaith Food Pantry – in the narthex basket or the box outside the Jackson Road office entrance.

Worship Ministers for Sunday's Service:

Liturgist: Jay Bombardier Jr.

Ushers: Debbie Scipione, Eileen Phaneuf, Lou Beneduce, Richard Jordan

Stewards: Deb Moretti, Nancy Quintiliani, Richard Therrien, Deborah Therrien

Communion Preparation: Dianne Cavanaugh and Sharon Albert

Keep in touch and stay informed . . .

We send a weekly (Thursday) email with general information. Please contact the office if you would like to be added to our mailing list. Recorded Sunday services may also be found on our YouTube channel and through our website.

Our Staff:

Rev. Tom Meyer, Bridge Pastor

revtom10@gmail.com

Eric Van Dervort, Music Minister

ewvandervort1@gmail.com

Sandy Nolan, Organist

sanolan00@gmail.com

Dan Blackford, Administrative Assistant

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