

Gathering Music *Good Christians All, Rejoice* 14th century German
Woodridge Chimes

Welcome and Christmas Greeting

Invocation & 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.

In the Bleak Midwinter G. Holst
Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming 15th century German
Bob Ryan - flugelhorn

Advent Candle - Lighting of the Christ candle

Call to Worship (*Responsive*):

One: Tonight new dreams and hopes come alive.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

One: Hope and peace and joy and love come together

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

One: The Light of the world has come.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

One: And this Light is a light for all people.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Opening Hymn O Come, All Ye Faithful Pilgrim Hymnal # 132

Time with children & youth – and the young in spirit!

Away in a Manger J. R. Murray
Special Christmas Choir

Passing of the Peace

Reading of the Christmas Story - Luke 2: 1 - 20 (NRSV)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

continued, over

¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Message "The First Gift Exchange" Rev. Scott Spencer

Hymn *Joy to the World!* Pilgrim Hymnal # 130

Christmas Prayers of Concern & Celebration

Offering

Doxology *Advent Doxology* based upon The Sussex Carol
insert

Lighting of the Christmas candles

*(to avoid dripping wax, keep lit candles upright,
tilt unlit candle to receive the light)*

Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent night, Holy night, All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night, Shepherds quake, at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, Holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Benediction

Woodridge Congregational Church United Church of Christ



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

December 24, 2022

Christmas Eve Worship at 5:00 PM



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.

**Ways to grow deeper as a faithful community - for December:
"Make Others at Home Here"**

Warmly welcome newcomers and visitors. Offer your name with a smile. Reach out and greet the person you don't know during and after worship and other church activities and events. Show a genuine interest in others.