

Gathering Music *Christmas Time Is Here* Vince Guaraldi; arr. Ralph Martin
Rhode Island Sax Quartet

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

Advent Candle Lighting – “Peace”

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.

Call to Worship *(Responsive)*:

One: Gather together, you are welcome here.

All: **We seek God's peace.**

One: In a world where there are so many discouraging and negative voices

All: **We seek God's peace.**

One: In a world where many need encouragement and love

All: **We seek God's peace.**

One: So lift up your hearts and rejoice.

All: **We seek God's peace.**

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9: 6,7 (NRSV)

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

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.

Prayer of Confession *(Responsive)*:

One: When we have not worked for peace with those we love.

All: **Lord, grant us your peace.**

One: When we have not worked for peace in our community.

All: **Lord, grant us your peace.**

One: When we have not worked for peace in our world.

All: **Lord, grant us your peace.**

One: When we have not sought the Prince of Peace.

All: **Lord, grant us your peace.**

Assurance of God's love and forgiveness

Words of Invitation

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution and Prayer of Consecration

Receiving of the elements

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Holy, gracious and loving God, you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink, the Body and Blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth, this day and evermore. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Reading: Luke 1: 26 - 38 (NRSV)

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He

will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Sermon “Characters in the Christmas Story - Mary”
Rev. Scott Spencer

Special Music *The First Noel* arr. Lennie Niehaus
Rhode Island Sax Quartet

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

Dedication of our offering:

One: Let us gather our gifts together and offer them in gratitude and praise to God.

All: Thank you God for your blessings.

Advent Doxology (insert)

Anthem *Christmas Communion Song* S. N. Callaway
Woodridge Choir

Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Pilgrim Hymnal #134

Benediction

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

Postlude *O Come, All Ye Faithful* arr. Lennie Niehaus
Rhode Island Sax Quartet

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



An Open & Affirming Congregation and A Caring & Welcoming Community



Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

Worship at 10:00 AM

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.