

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

Easter
woodridgechurchri.org

Worship at 10:00 AM

March 31, 2024
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

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You (NCH #4)
words by Henry van Dyke (1907); music by Ludwig van Beethoven (1824)
Prime Time Chimers

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

The Heavens are Telling

by Josef Hayden
arranged by Lani Smith
Sandy Nolan, organist

Opening Prayer and The Lord's Prayer *(in unison)*

Giver of new life, we come this morning with our Alleluias, our flowers and trumpets and song. We come to worship in beauty and in truth because we have faith that Jesus Christ is raised from the dead, because we have hope that the resurrection will enter into each of our lives and transform them, and because, through Christ's spirit, we have come to love one another. Accept our worship, gracious God. Be present with us this day as the miracle and mystery of Easter unfolds before us once again. We offer this time to your honor and glory as we pray together 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:

One: O Christ, in your resurrection the heavens and earth rejoice.

All: Alleluia, Christ has risen!

One: By your resurrection you raised the dead, and brought us from death to life. Guide us in the way of eternal life.

All: Alleluia, Christ has risen!

One: By your resurrection you confounded your guards and executioners, and filled the disciples with joy.

All: Alleluia, Christ has risen!

One: By your resurrection you proclaimed good news to the women and apostles, and brought salvation to the whole world.

All: Alleluia, Christ has risen!

*Hymn

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Pilgrim Hymnal #187

Scripture Reading: Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 (NRSV)

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

²Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

¹⁵There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;

¹⁶the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly."

¹⁷I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.

¹⁸The LORD has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

²³This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Children's Message

Passing of the Peace

Sermon Text: John 20: 1-18 (NRSV)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go

in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” 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.

Sermon	“An Easter Heart”	Rev. Tom Meyer
*Hymn	<i>In the Bulb There Is a Flower</i>	New Century Hymnal #433

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.**”

Anthem	<i>Alleluia, Christ is Risen</i>	T. Alonso Woodridge Choir Bob Ryan - conga
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Offering Dedication

Doxology	<i>Doxology for Easter</i>	<i>next page</i>
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Doxology for Easter

J.H. Danner

R.V. Williams

Let trumpets sound and voices sing! Let all the earth their praises
bring! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! For Christ has conquered sin and
death, And given life eternal breath. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-
lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Benediction

*Hymn

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Pilgrim Hymnal #182

Postlude

March Romaine

by Charles Gounod
Sandy Nolan, organist

Announcements

We welcome everyone to our Easter Sunday worship service, in person or on YouTube.

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:

Liturgists: Laura & Lily Dillon

Ushers: Sharon Albert, Rebecca Rotondo, Carmen Steinbrecher, Les Steinbrecher

Stewards: Courtney Lombardi, Rebecca Rotondo, Carmen Steinbrecher, Les Steinbrecher

The Easter plants are given by many members and friends of Woodridge.

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

Office hours 9 am-1 pm M-F woodridgechurch@verizon.net

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