

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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



Worship at 10:00 AM

January 14, 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.

Prelude

They'll Know We Are Christians and Blest Be the Tie

arr. Carol Tornquist
Sandy Nolan, organist

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

Hymn

Over My Head

African American Spiritual

next page

Over My Head

African American Spiritual

Congregation and Choir

Ov-er my head, I hear mus-sic in the air, ov-er my head,
I hear mu-sic in the air, ov-er my head, I hear mu-sic in the air, —
— there must be a God some - where.

choir
And when the world is si - lent; — And
And when I'm feel - ing lone - ly; — And
And when I fol - low Je - sus; — And
all
I hear mu - sic in the air. —

when the world is si - lent; — And when the world is si - lent; —
when I'm feel - ing lone - ly; — And when I'm feel - ing lone - ly;
when I fol - low Je - sus; — And when I fol - low Je - sus; —
all I hear mu-sic in the air. — all I hear

There must be a God some - where.
mu - sic in the air. — There must be a God some - where.

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*):

Leader: We are grateful, O God, for those whose lives inspire our own.

People: Guide us, we pray.

Leader: Help us to follow those leaders who follow your way of justice and mercy.

People: Guide us, we pray.

Leader: Let the spirit of Christ be in us all, to teach us truth and not error, and love and not hate.

People: Guide us, we pray.

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. 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.

Prayer of Confession (*Responsive*):

(adapted from a prayer of confession written by Martin Luther King, Jr)

One: Thou Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence the whole universe has come into being, we humbly confess that we have not loved thee with our hearts, souls and minds, and we have not loved our neighbors as Christ loved us.

All: Hear our prayer, O Lord.

One: We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses rather than by the life of sacrificial love as revealed by Christ.

All: Hear our prayer, O Lord.

One: We often give in order to receive. We love our friends and hate our enemies. We go the first mile but dare not travel the second. We forgive but dare not forget.

All: Hear our prayer, O Lord.

One: But thou, O God, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be. Give us the intelligence to know your will. Give us the courage to do your will. Give us the devotion to love your will.

All: Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Assurance of God's love and forgiveness

Communion Hymn

Let Us Break Bread Together

Pilgrim Hymnal #288

Words of Invitation

Communion Prayer

Pastor: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to God.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Consecration of the elements

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing of the Elements

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving:

God of Light and Love, we cherish this table in this season when the nights are long and cold. Through this meal, the Christ, and our neighbors, our hearts have warmed. May the comfort in our souls sustain us through winter and nudge us to create welcoming spaces for our neighbors. With gratitude, we leave here energized to kindle your love in this world. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 3: 1 - 10; 19, 20 (NRSV)

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." ¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

Sermon

"A Prophet of the Lord"

Rev. Scott Spencer

Hymn

I Will Trust in the Lord

New Century Hymnal #416

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

Offering

Offertory Anthem

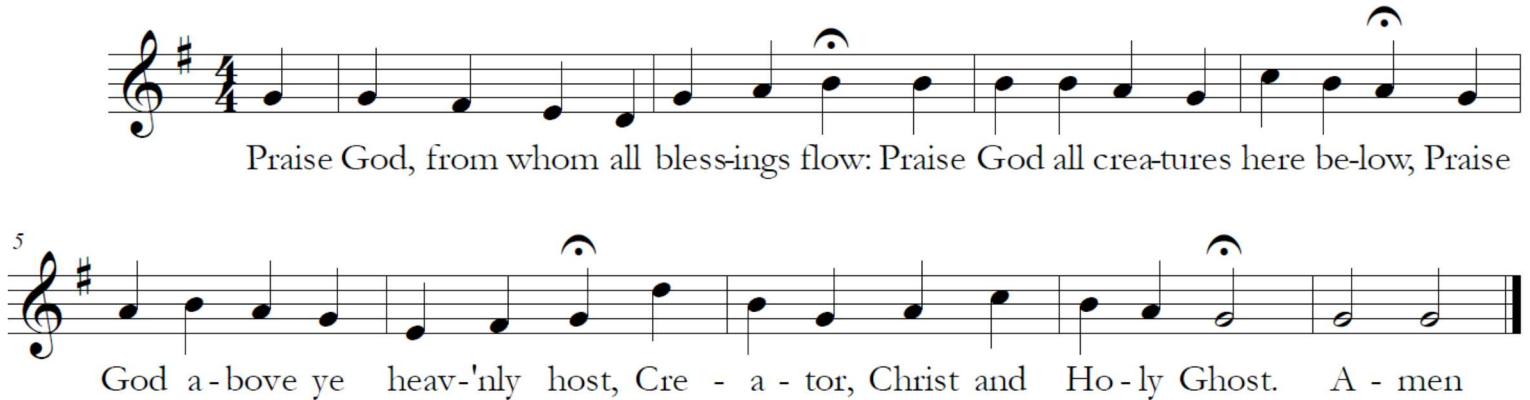
Precious Lord, Take My Hand

T. A. Dorsey
Woodridge Choir

Doxology

Thomas Ken

Old 100th
Genevan Psalter



Hymn

We Shall Overcome
verses 1 - 4

New Century Hymnal #570

Benediction

Benediction response

God Be with You

New Century Hymnal #81

Postlude

Postlude, G minor

by Johann Sebastian Bach
Sandy Nolan, organist

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What's happening @ Woodridge?

Mark your calendars ... the annual meeting will be held on Jan 28 (Sunday) immediately after worship in the sanctuary. We hope everyone can stay for a relatively brief meeting that will cover any questions about team reports; vote on the 2024 church budget; and any other business to come before the meeting. Annual reports will be available in hard copy on Sunday, Jan 14 and via email.

Advent Giving Project: extended to Sunday, Jan. 14 - \$30 gift envelopes are available to support a student from a church-run school in the West African country of Sierra Leone. Each \$30 donation provides a student with a uniform; book bag; school supplies; and other necessary items as needed. **If you would like to support more than one student – you may use one envelope to support multiple children.**

Envelopes can be found on the “Giving Tree” in the lobby of the church sanctuary and the collection will continue until on Jan 14. Checks should be made out to “Woodridge Congregational Church” and returned in the envelopes provided on Sunday morning or it may be dropped off or mailed to the church office. Cash donations are also welcome. Thank you for your generosity and support.

The **Grief Support Group** meets Thursday afternoons, 2:00 - 3:30 pm in the Conference Room. Contact for info: Rev.Burton.Bagby.Grose@gmail.com

Thank you for any donations of non-perishable food you may be able to make, to the Interfaith Food Ministry. Items may be placed in the sanctuary lobby basket on Sunday morning or in the Jackson Road box (next to the Parish House entry door) at any time. Please avoid items in glass containers, especially if they are subject to freezing.

If church services have to be cancelled due to snow and bad weather ... an email will go out on the same list as the weekly newsletter no later than between 7 and 8 am on Sunday morning (or earlier if a decision can be made). In addition, those with assigned roles, including the music ministry, will be notified via a separate email. Finally, feel free to contact pastor Scott with any additional questions at 508 - 838 - 6035. Thank you for your cooperation. As always, we urge people to use caution and please do not attend worship if you feel it is not safe to do so.

Worship Ministers for Sunday's Service

Liturgist: Rev. Tom Meyer

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

Stewards: Deb Moretti, Nancy Quintiliani, Deb Therrien, Rick Therrien

Prayer List

Prayers of joy and concern lifted up on Sunday morning or brought during the week are shared in a weekly email message every Tuesday: *Today's God Moment*

Keep in touch and stay informed . . .

In addition to prayer concerns, we send a Thursday email with general information. Please contact the office if you would like to be added to these mailing lists. Recorded Sunday services may also be found through our website.

Our Staff:

<i>Rev. Scott Spencer, Pastor</i>	revscottspencer@gmail.com
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