

Gathering Music

A Child Is Born

Thad Jones

Bob Ryan: Flugelhorn (& vocal)

Variations on a Theme

Erik Satie

Nancy Quintiliani: Flutes, Bob Ryan: Acoustic Guitar

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

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: God's light has come to reveal The Way in this New Year.

All: Arise! Shine!

One: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

All: Arise! Shine!

One: God's light enters the darkness that does not overcome it.

All: Arise! Shine! For the Glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 36: 5 - 10 (NRSV)

⁵Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. ⁶Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O LORD. ⁷How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. ⁸They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. ⁹For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. ¹⁰O continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your salvation to the upright of heart!

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: The coming of Christ was not, and is not, always widely welcomed.

All: Lord, forgive us.

One: Wherever there is light there will also be darkness: the darkness of old superstitions and dogmas which refuse to fade away easily.

All: Lord, forgive us.

One: the darkness of pride and selfishness in the half truths that have misled us.

All: Lord, forgive us.

One: the darkness of hatred and jealousy.

All: Lord, forgive us.

One: the darkness of indifference and apathy to those around us.

All: Lord, forgive us.

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:

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: Matthew 2: 1 - 12 (NRSV)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all

Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Sermon "Trusting God's Voice" Rev. Scott Spencer

Special Music *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*
traditional French carol

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

Offering dedication

Advent Doxology (insert)

Anthem *Christmas Lullaby* Medieval Carol
Woodridge Choir

Hymn *We Three Kings* verses 1-4, Pilgrim Hymnal #143

Hymn *The First Nowell* verses 1, 3, 5, Pilgrim Hymnal #141

Benediction

Postlude *Unto Us a Child is Born* arr. G. Shaw

Welcome to
Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



An Open & Affirming Congregation and A Caring & Welcoming Community



Epiphany Sunday

January 2, 2022

Worship at 10:00 AM

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.

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