

*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

Worship at 10:00 AM

[woodridgechurchri.org](http://woodridgechurchri.org)

January 21, 2024

[facebook.com/woodridgecongregational](https://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

Let My People Go

Ode to Joy

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Come Sunday

African American Spiritual, arr. Rick Hirsch

Ludwig van Beethoven, arr. Rick Hirsch

Traditional, arr. Jack Gale

Duke Ellington, arr. Rick Hirsch

Rhode Island Sax Quartet

Welcome and announcements

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Thomas A. Dorsey (1932)

Prime Time Chimers

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 (*Psalms 100, responsive*):

One: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

**All: Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

One: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

**All: For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.**

Opening hymn

# Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Early American Hymn

Come thou fount of ev-'ry blessing tune my  
raise my Eb - en - e - zer, clo - ser  
grace how great a debt - or dai - ly

3 heart to sing thy grace. Streams of mer - cy nev - er  
by thy help I'm come. And I hope, by thy good  
I'm con - strained to be, let that grace now like a

6 ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise. Teach me  
plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus  
fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee. Prone to\_\_

9 some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by\_\_ flam - ing tongues a -  
sought me when a strang - er wan - d'ring from the fold of  
wan - der Lord I feel\_\_ it, prone to\_\_ leave the God I

12 bove. Praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of  
God. He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter -  
love. Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it

15 God's posed for un - his - chang - ing love. Here I  
pre - cious life. O to  
courts a - bove.\_\_\_\_\_

Prayer of Confession (*Responsive*):

One: Good and merciful God, you give us the power to be your children, but we sometimes turn from your love.

**All: Forgive us, we pray.**

One: You challenge us to trust your presence with us, but we often have doubts.

**All: Forgive us, we pray.**

One: You call us to live with justice and inclusive love for others, yet we can seek to go our own way disregarding your will.

**All: Forgive us, we pray.**

One: Forgive us and renew in us a new and right spirit so that we may truly live as your children.

**All: Forgive us, we pray.**

Assurance of God's love and forgiveness

First Reading: Romans 12: 9 - 18 (NRSV)

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. <sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 4 - 11 (NRSV)

<sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Children's Message

Passing of the Peace

Sermon

"Like Children"

Rev. Scott Spencer

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

<sup>2</sup>He called a child, whom he put among them, <sup>3</sup>and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup>Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

- Matthew 18: 1 - 5 (NRSV)

Hymn

Prayers of the People

Offering

Anthem

Doxology

Thomas Ken

*Lord, I Want To Be a Christian*

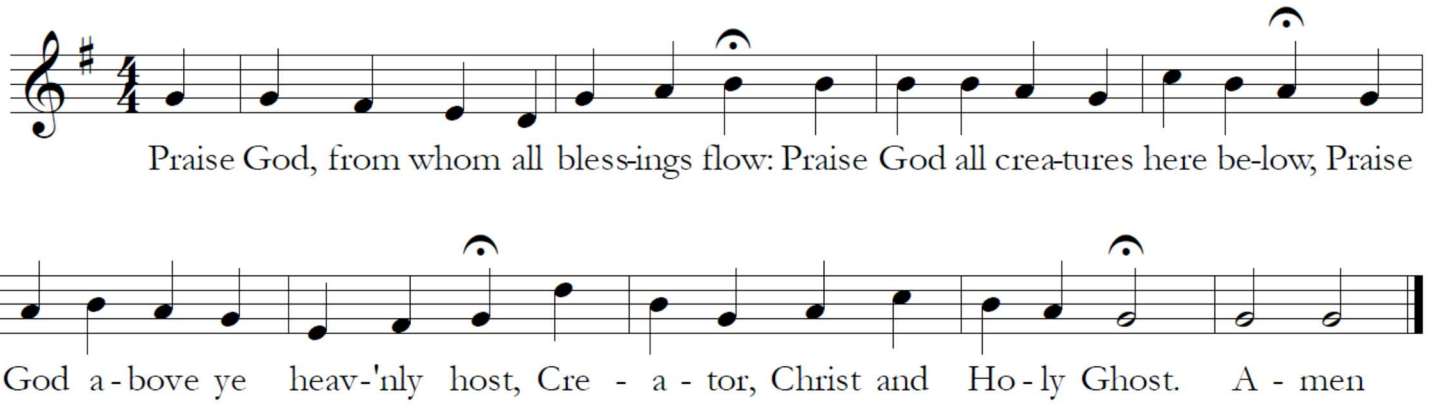
*Here I Am, Lord*

New Century Hymnal #454

D. L. Schutte

Woodridge Choir and Chimes

Old 100th  
Genevan Psalter

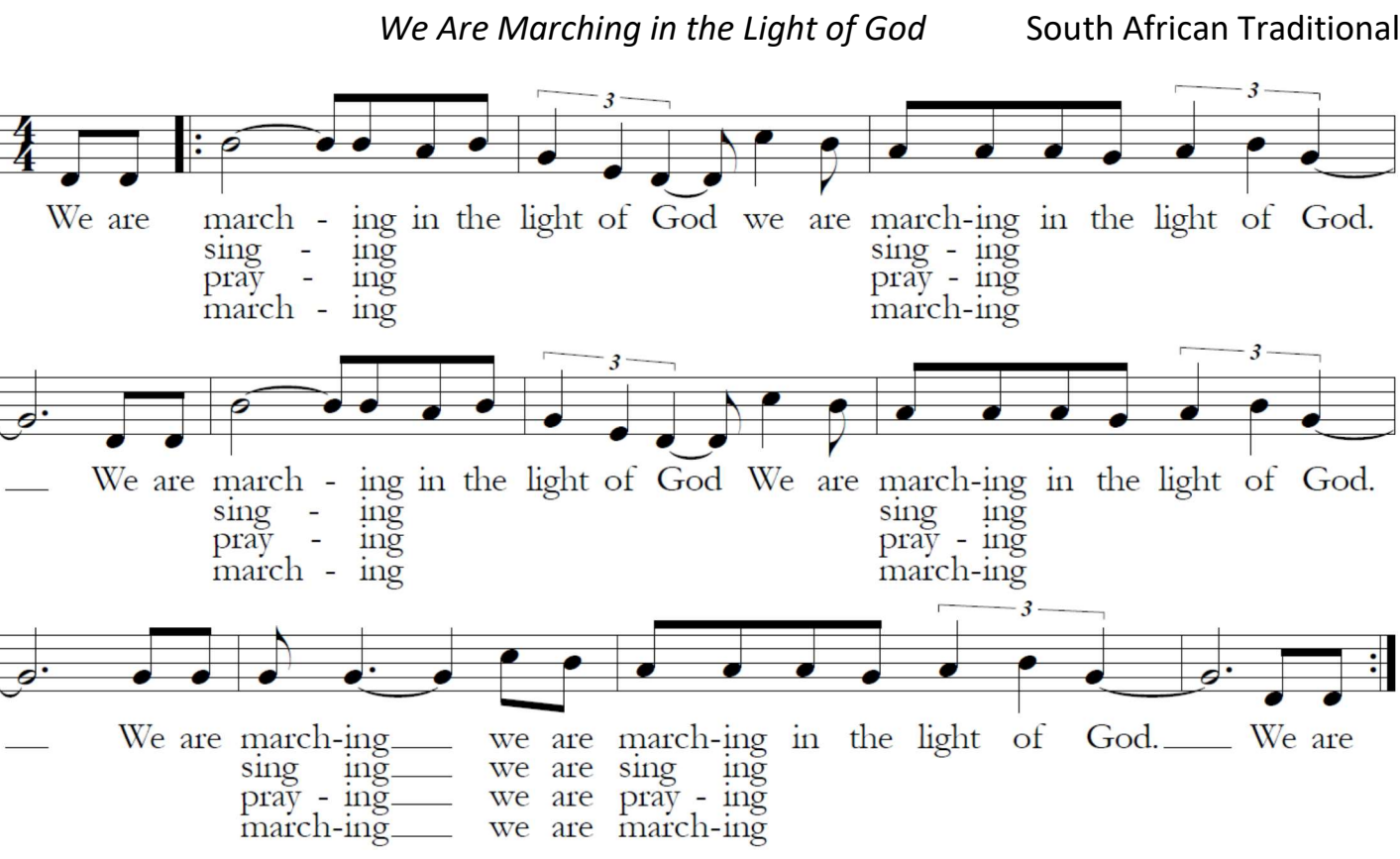


Praise God, from whom all blessings flow: Praise God all crea-tures here be-low, Praise  
God a-bove ye heav-'nly host, Cre - a - tor, Christ and Ho-ly Ghost. A - men

Hymn

*We Are Marching in the Light of God*

South African Traditional



We are march - ing in the light of God we are march-ing in the light of God.  
sing - ing  
pray - ing  
march - ing

— We are march - ing in the light of God We are march-ing in the light of God.  
sing ing  
pray - ing  
march-ing

— We are march-ing — we are march-ing in the light of God. — We are  
sing ing we are sing ing  
pray - ing we are pray - ing  
march-ing we are march-ing

Benediction

Benediction response

*God Be with You*

New Century Hymnal #81

Recessional

When the Saints Go Marching In

Traditional, arr. Lennie Niehaus  
Rhode Island Sax Quartet

♦ ♦ ♦

## Announcements

Participants in Today's Service:

Carmen Steinbrecher – Woodridge leader

Rev. Ed Correia – Retired; Fall River Archdiocese

Rev. Carol Steinbrecher – Area Conference Minister;

North – Central Region

Rev. Yonghwan Noh – Pastor of the First Korean Church of RI

Rev Eunjung Yang – Pastor of Education of the First Korean Church of RI

Rev Stuart Spencer – pastor of the Moorestown Presbyterian Church – NJ

Members of the Rhode Island Sax Quartet:

David Neves, soprano sax

Joyce Harrington, alto sax

Dan Pedro, tenor sax

Martha Ryan, baritone sax

Ushers: Bob Cole, Grant Southard, Marsha Southard, Marianna Sarty

Stewards: Bob Cole, Ellen Hunt, Grant Southard, Marsha Southard

*The flowers Sunday morning are given by the Woodridge congregation,  
in celebration of the wonderful years Pastor Scott has spent with us.*

*We are grateful for the guidance, instruction, compassion, comfort, inspiration and love he has  
shown to us and we wish him the very best as he begins the next exciting chapter in his life.*

**Mark your calendars ...** the annual meeting will be held on January 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 are available in hard copy (in limited numbers) and via email.

**Thank you** for the support of the **Advent Giving Project**; donations totaled \$1435.00!

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

### ***Wintertime worship advisory***

If church services have to be changed to "live stream" or "zoom" due to snow and bad weather ... an email will go out to explain our plans 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). When bad weather is forecasted, please check your email on Saturday and first thing Sunday morning. The "live stream" option for worship can be accessed through our website and the weekly newsletter. The "zoom" option for worship can be accessed through a "zoom link" that will be sent via email on Saturday or Sunday morning. 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.

### ***COVID advisory***

Although many symptoms are mild, COVID cases are at high levels. If you have symptoms or don't feel well, please stay home and join in Sunday worship via our live-stream. If you attend in person and would feel more comfortable wearing a mask, please do so. We try to have masks available for anyone who would like one. And we continue to encourage all who are eligible, and in consultation with their healthcare provider, to get appropriate vaccines. Please stay safe!

### ***Prayer List***

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

***Keep in touch and stay informed . . .***

We send a 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:

<i>Rev. Scott Spencer, Pastor</i>	revscottspencer@gmail.com
<i>Eric Van Dervort, Music Minister</i>	ewvandervort1@gmail.com
<i>Sandy Nolan, Organist</i>	sanolan00@gmail.com
<i>Dan Blackford, Administrative Assistant</i>	

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

401 942 0662 or 942 0654

*Rev. Tom Meyer begins his ministry at Woodridge as our Bridge Pastor January 22.*

RevTom10@gmail.com

He plans to be in the office Tuesdays and Wednesdays.