

Gathering Music

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: Listen, all who are seeking God;
God is calling us; God is calling us together.

**All: O give thanks to God, for God is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: God is eager to put loving arms around us.
God is waiting to satisfy our hunger and thirst for justice.

**All: God fills the hungry with good things.
Our thirsting souls are filled to overflowing.**

One: Let us set our minds on things that are above.
and strive to be obedient to God.

**All: God leads us to new life.
We seek renewal in the image of our Creator.**

Scripture Reading: Psalm 107: 1 - 9 (NRSV)

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

²Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble

³and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

⁴Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town;

⁵hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

⁶Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress;

⁷he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town.

⁸Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

⁹For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*):

Holy God, our lives are often far from holy. The thoughts we have held in secret may have sometimes erupted into hurtful words and deeds. We can give in to pessimism and cynicism. We can resent people whose lives seem easier than our own. We may resist the thought of passing on the blessings that you have so generously bestowed upon us. O God, we confess these sins and seek your mercy and forgiveness. Amen.

Assurance of God's love and forgiveness

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Reading: Acts 12: 1 - 11 (NRSV)

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. ²He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. ³After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) ⁴When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover.

⁵While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

⁶The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. ⁷Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his wrists. ⁸The angel said to him, "Fasten your belt and put on your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." ⁹Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real;

he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. ¹¹Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

Sermon "Can Suffering Deepen Our Faith?"
Rev. Scott Spencer

Special Music

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

Doxology:
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.

Offering dedication

All are invited to remain inside today, where we will sing these selections, which may be found in the black (New Century) hymnals in the pews.

Hymn *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* NCH #43

Hymn *Glory, Glory Hallelujah* NCH #2

Benediction

Sung Benediction *God Be With You Till We Meet Again* NCH #81

Postlude

Welcome to
Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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



July 31, 2022

• Worship at 10:00 AM

woodridgechurchri.org

facebook.com/woodridgecongregational



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

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.