

*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)

March 10, 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

*My Father's World*

J. Krug

Woodridge Chimes

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

Opening Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

**God of infinite goodness and mercy, we cannot escape your presence. Your promise remains with us in every situation. When we are desolate, your Spirit comes to comfort us. Amid our tribulation, your Chosen One remains our firm hope. We shall forever give thanks for the gift of your grace. You are God, who never forsakes us. To you be praise and glory in Jesus name we pray...**

**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)*

*(from the poem, "Come Unto Me", in Ann Weems' Kneeling in Jerusalem):*

One: When the journey gets too hard, when we feel depleted, when our compassion turns to complaining,

All: **You are with us, O God.**

One: When our efforts toward justice and mercy seem to get us nowhere, it's time to remember the humility part

**All: You are with us, O God.**

One: It is God who has made us and not we ourselves; that the saving of the world or even one part of it is not on our shoulders.

**All: You are with us, O God,**

One: It is then we come unto him and he will give us rest. With rest we'll remember what it is we are about.

**Many: You are with us, O God**

Scripture Reading: Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22 (NRSV)

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

<sup>2</sup>Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble

<sup>3</sup>and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

<sup>17</sup>Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction;

<sup>18</sup>they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

<sup>19</sup>Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress;

<sup>20</sup>he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.

<sup>21</sup>Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

<sup>22</sup>And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

\*Hymn

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

New Century Hymnal #25

Children's Message

Passing of the Peace

Sermon Text: Numbers 21:4-9 (NRSV)

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Sermon

"Not to Condemn"

Rev. Tom Meyer

\*Hymn

*Amazing Grace*  
verses 1, 2, 4, 5

New Century Hymnal #547

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."**

Offering

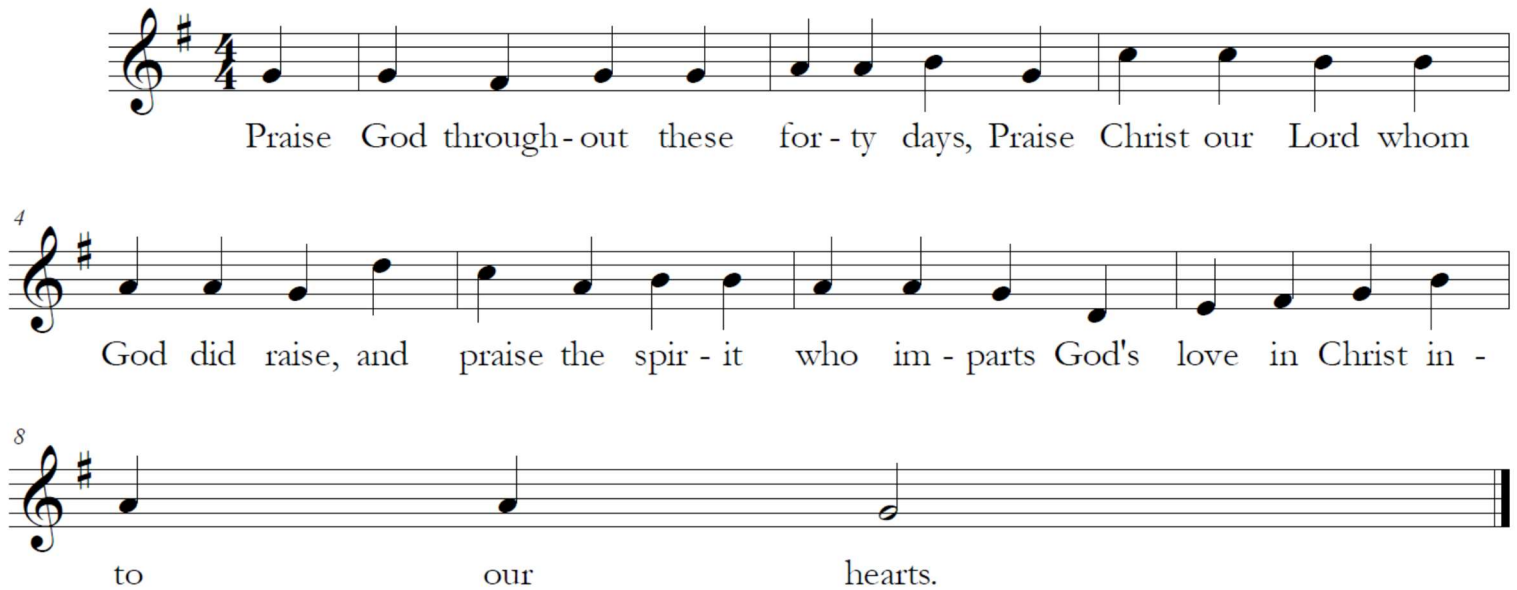
Offertory Anthem

*When Jesus Wept*

W. Billings  
Woodridge Choir

A Lenten Doxology

Tallis Canon



Praise God through-out these for-ty days, Praise Christ our Lord whom  
God did raise, and praise the spir-it who im-parts God's love in Christ in -  
to our hearts.

\*Hymn

*When Peace, Like a River*  
*(It Is Well with My Soul)*

New Century Hymnal #438

Benediction

Benediction response

*Spirit of the Living God*

New Century Hymnal #283

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Postlude

# Announcements

**Bazaar meeting** after church **Sunday, March 10** to discuss: our event name, possibly rearranging what goes where, luncheon fare and determine what we have for each area. Please bring your thoughts and suggestions.

On **Wednesday March 13<sup>th</sup>**, there will be a **May Breakfast**

meeting at 7 pm in the conference room. This will be our kick off meeting where we will look at prices and any changes that we can make to have a better breakfast as well as general planning and volunteering.

## Easter Flowers

The Worship Team is delighted to continue our Easter flowers tradition. If you would like to order a lily, tulip or daffodil plant in memory or celebration of loved ones, we will decorate our Easter altar with the beautiful flowering plants.

Order forms are available on the lobby table and from the Thursday email link.

A member of the Worship Team will be available after worship to collect your completed form(s) and cash or check.

Please make your check payable to Woodridge Church. Please enter "Easter Flowers" in the memo line.

Deadline for orders: **March 17**.

Thanks very much! Any questions, please contact Carmen Steinbrecher (crburney814.cs@gmail.com or 401-374-9191).

**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](mailto:bbagbygrose@vnacarenewengland.org)

**A Quilt Guild** has begun meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, 6-9 pm. Find all the details and help yourself to a note posted on sanctuary lobby and Fellowship Hall bulletin boards.

Worship Ministers for Today's Service:

Liturgist: Sharon Albert

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

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

The flowers Sunday morning are given by Lori-Jo and Lenny Wahl,  
in loving memory of Lori-Jo's father, Joseph Keating.

***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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