

Gathering Music

*Prayer*

S. Temple

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.

Ways to grow deeper as a faithful community ... *Join Hands*

Call to Worship *(responsive)*:

One: God of hope, we come into your presence this morning with confidence that you will meet us here.

**All: Let us worship a God of hope.**

One: Where there is sadness, bring comfort; Where there is suffering, bring healing; Where there is despair, bring a renewed sense of hope.

**All: Let us worship a God of hope.**

One: Let this place be a sanctuary, a safe haven for us, a home for holy words and songs and prayers as we devote ourselves to you.

**All: Let us worship a God of hope.**

Hymn

*Blessed Assurance*

New Century Hymnal #473

Scripture Reading: Psalm 95: 1 - 7 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

<sup>2</sup>Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

<sup>3</sup>For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

<sup>4</sup>In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

<sup>5</sup>The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

<sup>6</sup>O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

<sup>7</sup>For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!

Prayer of Confession *(Responsive)*:

One: Almighty God, the giver of life and forgiver of sins, we come to You now with hope.

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

One: Hope because you always love us, even though at times it seems like we have been forsaken.

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

One: Hope because you do not hold our sins against us, but instead grant us your grace.

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

Assurance of God's love and forgiveness

Children's Message

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Reading: Luke 7: 11 - 17 (NRSV)

<sup>11</sup>Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. <sup>12</sup>As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. <sup>13</sup>When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not weep." <sup>14</sup>Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!" <sup>15</sup>The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. <sup>16</sup>Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" and "God has looked favorably on his people!"

<sup>17</sup>This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

Sermon "The Difference that Jesus Makes - Hope"

Rev. Scott Spencer

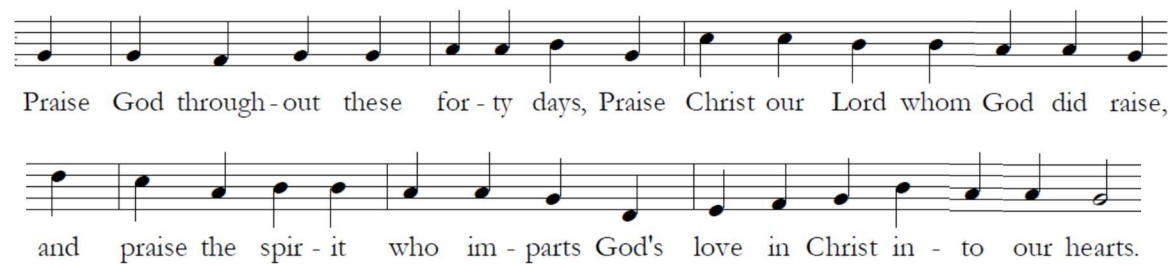
Hymn *Abide with Me* Pilgrim Hymnal #209

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

Anthem *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God* W. Billings  
Woodridge Choir

Offering

Doxology *Lenten Doxology* attr. to L. Bourgeois



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.

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn *Great Is Your Faithfulness* NCH #423

Benediction

Benediction response *God Be with You* NCH #81  
(verse 1)

Postlude

*Welcome to*

Woodridge Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

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

Worship at 10:00 AM

March 12, 2023

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

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

**Ways to grow deeper as a faithful community - for March:  
WELCOME CHANGE**

Welcome Change. Be curious about new ideas, perspectives, and approaches. Get excited by the possibilities that change can bring. What worked in the past won't always work in the future, for God is doing new things.