

*Welcome to*

Woodridge Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

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



Worship at 10:00 AM

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

March 17, 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

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

Opening Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

**The old passes away, the new emerges. The grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies. From it springs the stalk that in time produces much fruit. Death's sting is tempered by the promise of new life. Do not cling to old ways that hinder your ability to realize the hope of the gospel. Rather, let what you glean from the past lead to fresh insight, so that you may mature in faith. We ask this in Jesus' name praying...**

**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: Let us worship God, who has done great things.

**All: We rejoice in our loving God.**

One: Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in our lives.

**All: We rejoice in our loving God.**

One: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**All: We rejoice in our loving God.**

\*Hymn

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Pilgrim Hymnal #335

Scripture Reading: Psalm 51: 1-17 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

<sup>6</sup>You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

<sup>7</sup>Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup>Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

<sup>13</sup>Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

<sup>14</sup>Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

<sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

<sup>16</sup>For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

<sup>17</sup>The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Children's Message

Passing of the Peace

Sermon Text: John 12: 20-33 (NRSV)

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

<sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

<sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Sermon “When a grain of wheat falls” Rev. Tom Meyer

\*Hymn Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart Pilgrim Hymnal #232  
verses 1,3,4,5

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 *We Are Not Alone* P. Choplin  
*soloists:*

Darlene Hoague, Courtney Lombardi, Jonathan McDowell, Bob Quintiliani

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 Fairest Lord Jesus Pilgrim Hymnal #227

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

### 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 [bbygrose@vnacarenewengland.org](mailto:bbygrose@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 Sunday's Service:

Liturgist: Ben McNally

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

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

***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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