

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

March 3, 2024

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

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)*:

Leader: The Lord teaches us his decrees so that we may keep them till the end.

People: We seek your presence, God.

Leader: With my whole heart I seek you Lord; do not let me stray from your commandments. The Lord gives us understanding that we may keep his law.

People: We seek your presence, God.

Leader: May I treasure your Word in my heart, O Lord so that I do not sin against you. We have chosen the way of faithfulness, O God. May we always bless your Holy Name.

People: We seek your presence, God.

Leader: May your praise always be upon my lips and may the meditations of my heart be acceptable to you my Rock and my Redeemer.

People: We seek your presence, God.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Our communion table is open to all who wish to receive, regardless of church membership or affiliation. We welcome all ages to receive communion today and leave the decision to parents at what age their children should participate. We are now offering bread and juice separately or both contained in the combined cup; please take either bread or the combined cup when it is served.

Prayer of Confession (*responsive*):

One: Holy and awesome God, we stand in your presence filled with regret for our many sins and failings.

All: Hear our prayer, O Lord.

One: Though there is greatness in us, and a deep longing for goodness, we have often denied our better selves and refused to hear your voice calling us to rise to the full height of our humanity.

All: Hear our prayer, O Lord.

One: For there is weakness in us, as well as strength. At times we choose to walk in darkness, our vision obscured. We do not care to look within, and we are unwilling to look beyond at those who need our help.

All: Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Assurance of God's love and forgiveness

Communion Hymn

Let Us Break Bread Together

Pilgrim Hymnal #288

Words of Invitation

Leader: God says to us: "why spend money on what does not satisfy? . . ."

In the Acts of the Apostles we read that as the church was gathered, often in the homes of believers, Christians devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and community, and the breaking of bread, and to prayers.

People: Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, we gather at your table to know you in the breaking of the bread.

Communion Prayer

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them up to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: Holy God, we praise you and bless you for creation and the gift of life . . .

With the faithful in every time and place we praise with joy your holy name:

People: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.

Consecration of the elements

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing of the Elements

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20: 1-17 (NRSV)

Then God spoke all these words: ²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Sermon

“Etched in Stone”

Rev. Tom Meyer

Hymn

Spirit Song

John Wimber words and music

O let the Son of God en-fold you with his Spir - it and his

5 love. Let him fill your heart and sat - is - fy your soul. O let him

10 have the things that hold you, and his spir - it like a dove will de-scend upon your

15 life and make you whole.

18 **refrain** Je - sus, O Je - sus, come and fill your

24 lambs. Je - sus, O Je - sus,

30 come and fill your lambs.

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

What Does God Require of You
based upon Michah 6:6-8

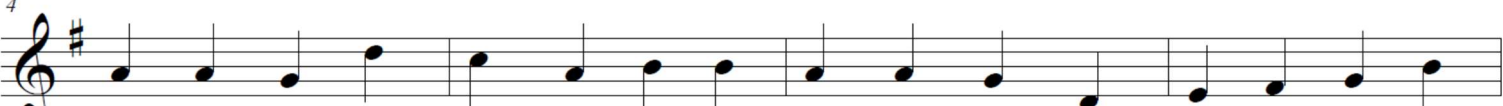
J. Strathdee
Woodridge Choir

A Lenten Doxology

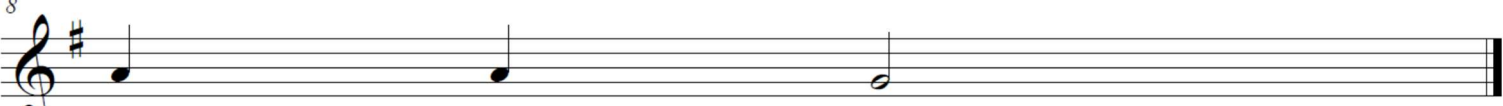
Tallis Canon



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

The Church's One Foundation
verses 1,2,4

Pilgrim Hymnal #260

Benediction

Benediction response

Spirit of the Living God

New Century Hymnal #283

Postlude

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Announcements

On **March 10th**, there will be a **Bazaar meeting** after church 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 13th**, 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.

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).

Donations to the **Deacon's Fund**, assisting Woodridge family and community members with emergency needs, are invited each Communion Sunday. Thank you.

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

Worship Ministers for Today's Service:

Liturgist: Joe DiPietro

Ushers: Sharon Albert, Rebecca Rotondo, Carmen Steinbrecher, Les Steinbrecher

Stewards: Courtney Lombardi, Rebecca Rotondo, Carmen Steinbrecher, Les Steinbrecher

The flowers Sunday morning are given by Rev. Burton, Ron, and Rosalee Bagby-Grose in memory of Burton's mother, Mrs. Rosalee Parks Bagby, on the occasion of her birthday.

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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