

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

May 12, 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.

Introit Hail the Day That Sees Christ Rise by Charles Wesley (1739)
The Prime Time Chimers

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

Gathering Music The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want by Jessie S. Irvine
Arranged by Phillip Keveren
Sandy Nolan, organist

Opening Prayer and The Lord's Prayer:

God of truth, your words never mislead. They guide us to life and joy. Help us to trust you. Jesus, truth revealing God, your life of love brings us into the light of love. Help us to follow you. Holy Spirit, God testifying to truth, you never tire of teaching us what is important and how to repent. Help us to obey in Jesus name we pray saying...

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:

Leader: Come and celebrate! Shout joyfully to the Lord, our God! Let us glorify God with our praise!

People: Let us worship God with joy.

Leader: Everything on earth comes from you, O God, let our worship be one of gratitude.

People: Let us worship God with joy.

Leader: See what our God had done, what awesome things God has done for us.

People: Let us worship God with joy.

Leader: Make a joyful noise to God all the earth, sing out the praises of God.

People: Let us worship God with joy.

*Hymn

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

NCH #304

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 1 (NRSV)

¹Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

²but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

⁴The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

⁶for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Children's Message

Passing of the Peace

Sermon Text:

Acts 1: 1-11 (NRSV)

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?"

This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Sermon:

"Stuck Between Presence and Absence"

Rev. Tom Meyer

Here I Am, Lord

based upon Isaiah 6:8

D. L. Schutte



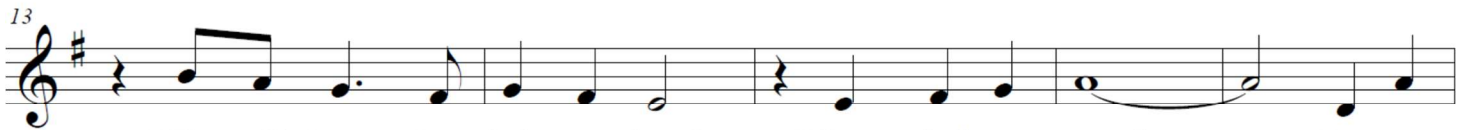
I the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry,
I the Lord, of snow and rain, I have borne My peo - ple's pain,
I the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in deep - est sin My hand will save.
I have wept for love of them, They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them, My hand will save.



I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright,
I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a - lone,
Fin - est bread I will pro - vide Til their hearts be sat - is fied,



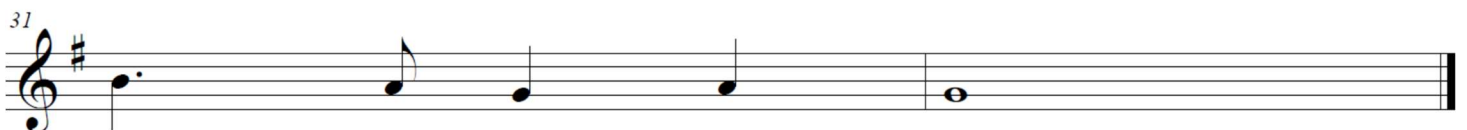
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send? Here I
I will speak My word to them, Whom shall I send?
I will give My life to them, Whom shall I send?



am, Lord.____ Is it I, Lord?____ I have heard you call-ing in the



night.____ I will go, Lord,____ If you lead me.____ I will hold Your



peo - ple in my heart.

Prayer concerns and celebrations

Offering

Anthem

Down in the River to Pray

Traditional Gospel Song

Woodridge Choir

*Doxology

Give Thanks

H. Smith

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,

Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,

Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"; let the poor say, "I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us." Give thanks!___ Give thanks!

*Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty
verses 1, 2 and 4

Pilgrim #251

Benediction

Benediction response

God Be With You

NCH #81

Postlude

Watchman's Song

by Edvard Grieg

Sandy Nolan, organist

Announcements

We are looking for one more person for the Livestream Team! If you are interested in sitting in the balcony during worship once a month and would like to learn how to operate the camera and computer and generate our livestream of the worship service, please contact Bob Ryan (bobby.ryan@verizon.net or see him at church) or Jay Bombardier (firebombjr@gmail.com or see him at church). Thank you very much!

The annual Stamp Farm Plant Sale will be held on Sun., May 19 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. They are located at 219 Comstock Parkway, and offer a wide selection of annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, and hanging baskets. Be sure to mention "Woodridge Church" when you pay so that a portion of the proceeds will go to Woodridge Church.

If you need more information, feel free to ask Deb Therien

Thank you for your continuing donations of non-perishable food items to the Interfaith Food Pantry – in the narthex basket or the box outside the Jackson Road office entrance.

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 more information, please contact the facilitator, Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose at bbagbygrose@vnacarenewengland.org

Happy Mother's Day: Celebrating those who are with us and those who are in our hearts.

Prayer For Our Mothers

Our Lord and our God,

thank you for giving us our amazing Mothers.

Through them,

We are assured of your endless love and care.

*Please grant them
all the choicest blessings that they could ever receive.*

*May they be blessed with health in,
mind, body, and spirit.*

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Barbara Gloria

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

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

The flowers this Sunday are given by Janet Lobaton in remembrance of her husband Angel, and in celebration of all mothers here and in our hearts.

Prayer Requests

You are invited to share prayer concerns or celebrations during that time in this morning's service. The pastor will pass a microphone to those who raise a hand to speak.

Keep in touch and stay informed . . .

We send a 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

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Eric Van Dervort, Music Minister

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Sandy Nolan, Organist

sanolan00@gmail.com

Dan Blackford, Administrative Assistant

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