

Gathering Music

Toccatina in F Major

Buxtehude
Karin Kohl, organist

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

Advent Candle Lighting – “Hope”

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)*:

One: In this season of waiting, of longing, of looking for you to come into our world - we are seeking the Light of the World – Jesus Christ.

All: **We are seeking His light**

One: In our communities

All: **We are seeking His light**

One: In our families

All: **We are seeking His light**

One: In our world

All: **We are seeking His light**

One: We wait with hope

All: **We are seeking His light**

Prayer of Confession *(Responsive)*:

One: Holy God, Creator of all that is, Giver of Grace, and Giver of Life:

All: **God, hear our prayer.**

One: There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us from one another and from you.

All: **God, hear our prayer.**

One: You call us to healed relationships, to a wholeness with each other and with You.

All: **God, hear our prayer.**

One: Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations through the power and love of Christ.

All: **God, hear our prayer.**

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 33: 14 - 16 (NRSV)

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

Time with Children and Youth – and the Young is Spirit!

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Reading: Luke 1: 57 - 66 (NRSV)

⁵⁷Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰But his mother said, “No; he is to be called John.” ⁶¹They said to her, “None of your relatives has this name.” ⁶²Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶All who heard them pondered them and said, “What then will this child become?” For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Sermon "Characters in the Christmas Story - John" Rev. Scott Spencer

Special Music *Now Thank We All Our God* Kaufmann
Karin Kohl, organist

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

Dedication of our offering:

One: Let us gather our gifts together and offer them in gratitude and praise to God.

All: Thank you God for your blessings.

Advent Doxology (music insert)

Anthem *Wait for the Lord / O Come, Emmanuel*
from the Taizé and original 8th century hymn
Woodridge Choir and Chimes

Hymn *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*
Pilgrim Hymnal #131

Benediction

Hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Charles Wesley
(music insert)

Postlude *Minuet* Jones
Karin Kohl, organist

* All who are able standing

Welcome to
Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



An Open & Affirming Congregation and A Caring & Welcoming Community



First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

Worship at 10:00 AM

woodridgechurchri.org

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.