

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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

Worship at 10:00 AM

April 6, 2025

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.

** All who are able, please stand*



Prelude

Before Dawn

J. Krug
Woodridge Chimes

Welcome & Church Life

Call to Worship

- One: We come to worship, remembering God's goodness that has carried us and sustained us to this present moment.
- All: We remember the days when God covered us in love and filled us with joy.**
- One: We come to worship, weary from stress, heavy with grief, and wondering when relief will come.
- All: We long for the days God covered us in love and filled us with joy.**
- One: We come to worship to remember and remind one another that God's love has never left us, and God's joy cannot be extinguished.
- All: God, restore us that we know your love and your joy once again.**
- One: We come to worship to remember and become the Body of Christ, a community called to restore the world around us.
- All: God, empower us to be your restoration people who fill the world with love, laughter, and abundant life. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Compassionate God, we do not always see the harvest of joy that we sow from our tears. Some losses take hold of us and we dwell in disappointment and grief. We don't always know what to think of you. We want to embrace new life, hope, and joy, but don't always know how. Bless us with your merciful help, that we might walk from our tombs like Lazarus, and sit by Jesus' side, eating and laughing. Help us kneel at Jesus' feet in love and commitment, as we celebrate our new lives. Come to us, healing God, and renew us and our love for you. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

*Hymn:

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

M. F. Bell

Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the
 God is nev - er far a - way, but
 all my glad - some way a - long, I
 all who name Christ's hó - ly name give

3
 God of all cre - a - tion, the God of power, the
 through all grief dis - tres - ing, an ev - er pres - ent
 sing a - loud your prais - es, that all my hear the
 God all praise and glo - ry, let all who own God's

6
 God of love, the God of our sal - va - tion. With
 help and stay, our peace and joy and bless - ing. As
 grate - ful song my voice un - wea - ried raise - es. Be
 power pro - claim a - loud the won - drous sto - ry! Cast

9
 heal - ing balm my soul is filled and ev - ery faith - less
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand, God gent - ly leads the
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart, both soul and bod - y
 each false i - dol from its throne, for Christ is Lord, and

12
 mur - mur stilled, to God all praise and glo - ry. Our
 cho - sen band, to God all praise and glo - ry. Then
 bear your part, to God all praise and glo - ry. Let
 Christ a - lone, to God all praise and glo - ry.

Scripture:

Psalm 126 (NRSV)

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. ²Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." ³The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. ⁴Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb. ⁵May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. ⁶Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Passing of the Peace

Children's Message

Scripture:

John 12:1-8 (NRSV)

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Meditation

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

*Hymn:

More Love to You, O Christ

NCH #456

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations — Pastoral Prayer

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, forever Amen.

Anthem

Shelter Me

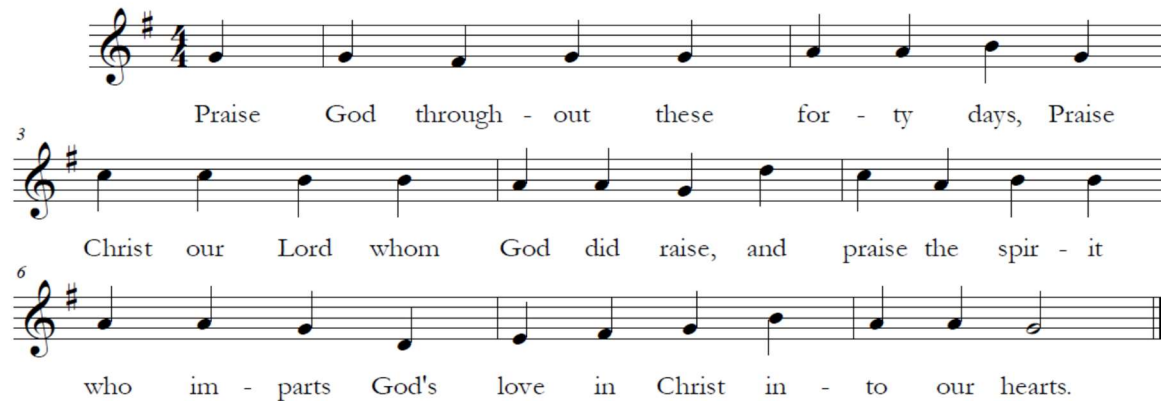
Father Michael Joncas
Woodridge Choir
Nancy Quintiliani – flute

*Shelter Me was composed by Father Michael Joncas. The text is based upon Psalm 23. Father Joncas composed the music at the beginning of the covid epidemic as a way to provide comfort to faith communities when we could not be in worship together. In this season of Lent, I hope the words of Father Joncas might provide shelter, comfort and hope. The refrain of the music says:
O shelter me: The way ahead is dark and difficult to see. O shelter me:
All will be well if only you will shelter me. - Eric*

*Doxology

*Doxology

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.

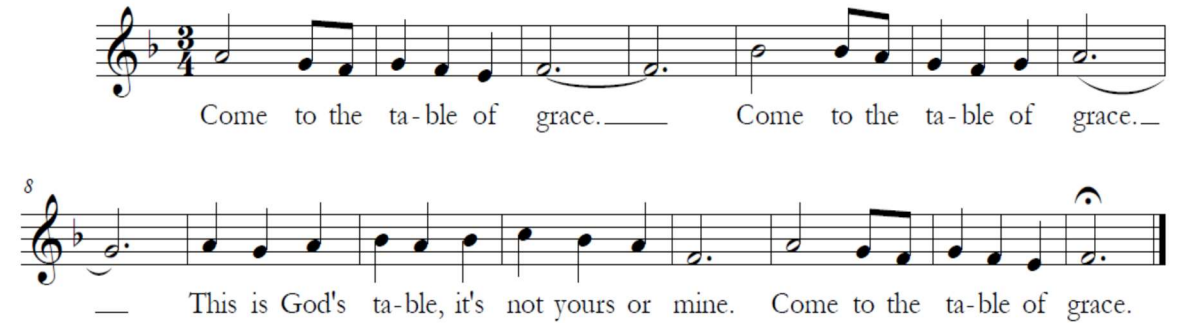
Prayer of Dedication (unison prayer)

Loving God, use us and our gifts to extend your love and comfort to reach people in places of loss and grief. Use us and our gifts this day to bring hope and compassion to those who weep, that they may know your miraculous power and your fullness of life. Use us and our gifts to bring shouts of joy to those who weep with bitter tears. Amen.

*Hymn of Preparation:

Come to the Table of Grace

Barbara Hamm



Come to the ta-ble of grace. — Come to the ta-ble of grace. —
— This is God's ta-ble, it's not yours or mine. Come to the ta-ble of grace.

- 2. Come to the table of peace
- 3. Come to the table of love
- 4. Come to the table of hope

Holy Communion

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

*Invitation to the Table
Prayer of Consecration
Bread and Cup*

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

God of the mountain, the valley, and every step in between, may this meal be a fresh start. May this moment, where all are fed and all are welcomed, be the start of something new. Show us how to carry the love we experience here from the walls of this church into the world we encounter in the days ahead. Show us how to leave breadcrumbs of good news along our path and everywhere in between. With deep hope we pray, Amen.

*Hymn:

How I Love Jesus

NCH #52

Benediction

*Benediction Response

Lead Us from Death to Life
(refrain only)

NCH # 581

Postlude

Announcements

The enclosed envelope may be used to make a gift to the **Deacon's Fund**, assisting Woodridge family and community members with emergency needs. Thank you.

Palm Sunday Blessing of the Palms and Parade Join us as we celebrate Palm Sunday, next Sunday, April 13th. On Palm Sunday, we remember Jesus' arrival into the city of Jerusalem which marks the beginning of Holy Week. Those who would like to bless the palms and join in a short "parade" around the block will gather outside the Sanctuary doors on the Terrace at 9:50 AM..processing into worship at 10 AM as we embody Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. This is a wonderful experience for disciples of all ages and especially memorable for children.

Holy Week at Woodridge

- April 17th 7 PM: Maundy Thursday -- Service of Handwashing, Communion, and Tenebrae
April 18th 12-1 PM: Good Friday -- Sanctuary open for prayer, musical meditations, and self-guided contemplations on Jesus' Passion.
April 19th 9 AM: Holy Saturday -- Contemplative community walk at Lawton Farm
April 20th 10 AM: Easter Sunday -- Celebratory worship with Easter Egg Hunt to follow

The annual Stamp Farm Plan Sale will be held on Sunday, May 18, from 9am to 5pm. 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 Therrien.*

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. **Please** consider donating the following items: Hot instant cereal individual packs in boxes, Oatmeal, Hot soup individual packs, all kinds, any kind of cereal. Also there is a low supply of Peanut butter, Instant mashed potatoes, and Boxed milk, (liquid and powder).

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Bob Cole

Ushers: Deb Scipione, Eileen Phaneuf,
Lou Beneduce, Richard Jordan

Stewards: Deb Moretti, Nancy Quintiliani,
Richard Therrien, Deborah Therrien

Communion is prepared by
Dianne Cavanaugh and Nancy Quintiliani

For the month of April, Chimes & Choir
Will supply coffee hour pastry and beverage

Our Staff:

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley, Pastor
aidan@woodridgechurchri.org

Eric Van Dervort, Music Minister
ewvandervort1@gmail.com

Sandy Nolan, Organist
sanolan00@gmail.com

Barbara Stifano, Administrative Assistant
Office hours 9am – 1pm M-F woodridgechurch@verizon.net
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