

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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

Worship at 10:00 AM

April 13, 2025

woodridgechurchri.org

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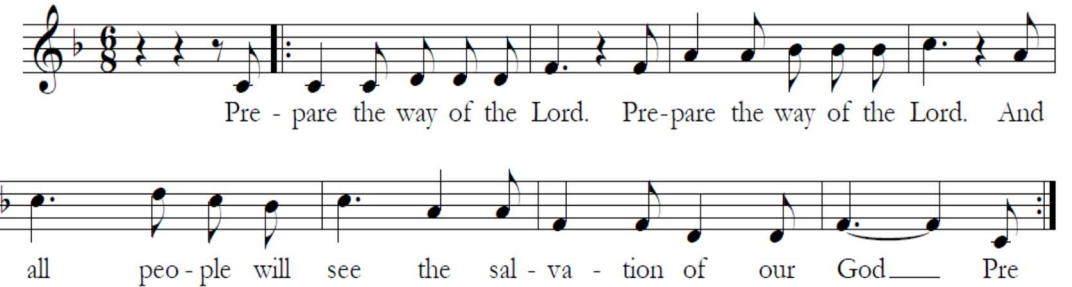
As a caring and welcoming community, using the Bible as a resource and the teachings of Jesus as our guide, we joyfully welcome everyone into our Christian community, regardless of race, ethnicity, class, age, mental status, family structure, physical or mental ability, religious background or theological 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*

Gathering Prelude on the Hymn "Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier" Paul Fey
("Dearest Jesus, We are Here") Sandy Nolan – organ

Procession of the Palms

Prepare the Way of the Lord
taize for Palm Sunday



Welcome & Church Life

Call to Worship

- One: Today, we join Jesus in the final ascent to Jerusalem, knowing the depths we will descend on our journey through Holy Week.
- All: Open the gates of righteousness, that we may come worship God!**
- One: We join the disciples in declaring that Jesus, riding on a donkey, is our Ruler, the One who will bring peace and salvation for all.
- All: Open the gates of peace, that we may come worship God!**
- One: We join with the bystanders who questioned and wondered who this Jesus really is, who feared the consequences of angering the powers that be.
- All: Open the gates of truth, that we may come worship God!**
- One: The journey through Holy Week brings us face-to-face with the stark reality of sin and God's faithfulness to save.
- All: Open the gates of salvation, that we may come worship God whose steadfast love never fails!**

Opening Prayer

God, we gather on this day to begin a week of contrasts. From hope to despair to hope again. As we begin the week, as we join with the crowd, help us cut

through the noise to see what is happening, to see what is at stake. As the story unfolds, open us to both the hope and the pain. In this time of worship, prepare us to celebrate, to weep, and to wait. Amen.

*Hymn: All Glory, Laud, and Honor Pilgrim #155

Scripture: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (NRSV)

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! ²Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." ¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. ²⁰This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. ²¹I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. ²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. ²³This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. ²⁵Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success! ²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. ²⁷The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. ²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. ²⁹O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Passing of the Peace

Children's Message

*Sending Hymn: Go, My Children, with My Blessing (v. 1) NCH #82
(Children may leave for Sunday School)

Scripture: Luke 19:28-40 (NRSV)

²⁸After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this, "The Lord

needs it." ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" ³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

Sermon

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

*Hymn: Hosanna, Loud Hosanna NCH #213

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Offertory

Hosanna in the Highest M. Kellner
Woodridge Choir
Nancy Quintiliani, Deb Therrien, Bob Ryan - chimes

*Doxology

Palm Sunday Doxology

based upon Old 100th

With palms we come to praise our King, "Ho-san-na" is the song we sing, All
 5 praise the One who rides this day, And brings us hope in ev-ry way.

Prayer of Dedication (unison prayer)

God of abundance, we offer these gifts, along with our praise and thanksgiving. You pour out your love and the gifts of this good earth to us, each and every day. Bless the gifts we return to you now, that they may bring abundant love and nourishment to many in need of your blessing. With grateful hearts, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn: Ride On! Ride On in Majesty NCH #215

Benediction

*Benediction Response

A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd

Thomas H. Troeger

A cheer - ing, chant - ing, diz - zy crowd had
 day dimmed down to deep - ening dark the
 we be fooled be - cause our hearts have
 stead of palms, a wind - ing sheet will
 2 stripped the green trees bare, and hail - ing Christ as king a - loud, waved
 crowd be - gan to fade till on - ly tram - pled leaves and bark were
 surged with pass - ing praise, re - mind us, God, as this week starts where
 have to be un - rolled, a car - pet much more fit to greet the
 4 branch - es in the air. When
 left from the par - ade. Lest
 Christ has fixed his gaze. In
 king a cross will hold.

Postlude

Grand Choeur in D Minor

Paul Fey
Sandy Nolan – organ

Announcements

Remaining Schedule for Holy Week

- 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.

Almost May Breakfast will be April 26, 2025 8am to 11am. Invite family and friends to an all you can eat fabulous breakfast serving, eggs, frittata, Johnny Cakes, ham, sausage, home fries, strudel, muffins and Holly's baked beans. Tickets on sale in the Narthex. Adults: \$20, Kids 5-12: \$10. See you there!

The Annual Stamp Farm Plant Sale will be held on Sunday, May 18, 2025, 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.*

Woodridge 75th Anniversary: Mark your Calendars June 8, 2025. Will be held in Fellowship Hall following service.

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 during the cold months of winter: Hot instant cereal individual packs in boxes, Oatmeal, Hot soup individual packs (Lipton or store brand), Tea, and Hot chocolate. Also, there is a low supply of Peanut butter, Instant mashed potatoes, and Boxed milk, (liquid and powder).

The Grief Support Group Meets Thursday afternoons, 2:00 – 3:30 pm in the Conference Room of the church. Access is via the Jackson Road entrance. 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

Quilty pleasures Quilt Guild Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the Month 6-9pm. Cost is \$5.00 to attend applied to annual dues. All experiences WELOCOME, New or Advanced. For questions contact: RPloettner@gmail.com

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Lily Dillon

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

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

For the month of April, coffee hour refreshments are supplied by Choir and Chimes.

The flowers on the altar this week are given by Steven Pennell, in loving memory of his mother, Doris.

Our Staff:

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Eric Van Dervort, Music Minister
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