

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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

Easter Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM April 20, 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*

Gathering

Prelude on "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

Paul Fey
Sandy Nolan – organ

Welcome & Church Life

Centering Music

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain Prime Time Chimers
Written by St. John of Damascus, c. 730 c.e.

Call to Worship

One: Christ the Lord is risen today.

All: Alleluia! Alleluia!

One: Earth and heaven in chorus say:

All: Alleluia! Alleluia!

One: Love's redeeming work is done.

All: Alleluia! Alleluia!

One: Christ has opened paradise.

All: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Opening Prayer

God of Alleluias and empty tombs, God of garden plots and good news, it is Easter. In a world full of grief and heartache, in a world full of violence and oppression, in a world full of loss and separation, we long for this day because Easter sings a different song. Easter sings a song of hope. Easter sings a song of new life. Easter sings a song of love. So in a world full of grief, help us to cling to Easter's hope. Help us hear this story of good news. With hope we pray, with hope we listen, Amen.

Hymn:

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

NCH #233

Scripture: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24(NRSV)

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! ²Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." ¹⁴The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. ¹⁵There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly; ¹⁶the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly." ¹⁷I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. ¹⁸The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death. 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.

Passing of the Peace

Children's Message

Scripture: John 20:1-18 (NRSV)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him,

and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Sermon

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

*Hymn:

I Come to the Garden Alone

NCH #237

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.

Offertory

Alleluia Christ is Risen

T. Alonso
Woodridge Choir

*Doxology

Doxology for Easter

Let trumpets sound and voices sing! Let all on earth their praises
bring! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! For Christ has con- quered sin and
death, and giv - en life e - ter - nal breath. Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is
ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - - - ia!

Prayer of Dedication (unison prayer)

God of life and love, we are grateful for your promise of resurrection and new life. Your love is stronger than the powers of evil and injustice. With joy, we bring our gifts to you this day. Use our gifts and our lives to proclaim Christ's triumph over death. Amen.

*Hymn:

The Day of Resurrection

NCH #245

Benediction

*Benediction Response

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
Caribbean melody

Sing Verses 1 and 2
and repeat verse 1

1. Hal - le, Hal - le, Hal - le lu - jah! Hal - le, Hal - le Hal - le lu - jah!
2. Je - sus Christ is ris - en! Hal - le - lu! Je - sus Christ is ris - en! Hal - le - lu - jah!
Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah!

Postlude

March Jubilant

Paul Fey
Sandy Nolan – organ

Children and families are invited to join us outside the Sanctuary doors after worship for an Easter Egg Hunt

*Happy and Blessed Easter
He is Risen*

Announcements

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. It will be held in Fellowship Hall following worship..

IT'S EASIER We are still looking for people to help with the Livestream Team! The Livestream process has been simplified! We are looking for a couple people who would be available occasionally to turn off the livestream at the end of the service. It's quick and easy. If you are interested, please contact Bob Ryan, Martha Ryan or Pastor Aidan.

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 any kind of cold cereal, soup, pasta, tuna fish, pasta sauce, canned veggies and jelly. 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 WELCOME, New or Advanced. For questions contact: RPlottner@gmail.com

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Carmen Steinbrecher

Ushers: Nancy Quintiliani, Martha Ryan,
Lori-Jo Wahl, Lenny Wahl

Stewards: Gale MacDonald, Dianne Cavanaugh,
Eileen Phaneuf, Deb DiChiara

For the month of April coffee hour refreshments
are supplied by Chorus and chimes

The flowers on the altar for this Easter Sunday are given by members and friends of Woodridge Congregational Church
(see insert)

Our Staff:

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley, Pastor
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Eric Van Dervort, Music Minister
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