

*Welcome to*

Woodridge Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

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

Worship at 10:00 AM

April 27, 2025

[woodridgechurchri.org](http://woodridgechurchri.org)

[facebook.com/woodridgecongregational](https://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

Welcome & Church Life

Call to Worship

One: Sing praise to our joyful Easter God.

**All: Whose power brings new life out of death!**

One: Immerse doubt and despair in the fountain of new birth.

**All: Our visions and hopes are refreshed, made new!**

One: For God has taken ordinary things,

**All: And made them extraordinary.**

Opening Prayer (unison)

**God of mystery and miracles, breathe your peace upon us. Reveal your presence, as we look for you each day. Strengthen our faith and our trust, as we pray for miracles for one another and for all of your creation. Amen.**

\*Hymn:

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

NCH #230

Scripture:

Acts 5:27-32 (NRSV)

<sup>27</sup> When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup> saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." <sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. <sup>30</sup> The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

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: John 20:19-31(NRSV)

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” <sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” <sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Sermon Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

\*Hymn: Breathe on Me, Breath of God NCH #292

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations – Pastoral Prayer

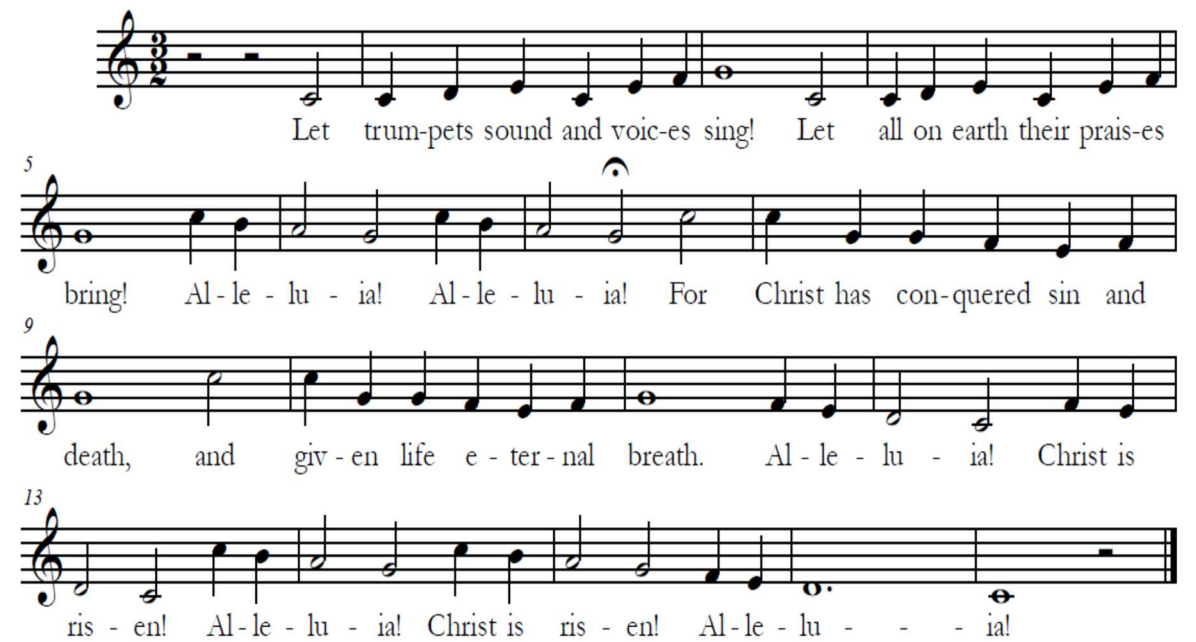
Lord’s Prayer

**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 Hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen Today (vss. 1,4,5) NCH #240

\*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 conquered sin and  
death, and given life eternal breath. Al-le-lu-ia! Christ is  
ris-en! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ is ris-en! Al-le-lu-ia!

# Announcements

## Prayer of Dedication (unison prayer)

**Mighty God, pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts. Bless them with your miraculous power, that they may become mighty gifts of love, justice, and peace—gifts with the powers to heal our world. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.**

\*Hymn: O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing NCH # 244

## 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 -  
2. Je - sus Christ is ris - en! Hal - le lu! Je - sus Christ is ris - en! Hal - le -



jah! Hal - le, Hal - le, Hal - le lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah! \_\_\_\_  
lu! Je - sus Christ is ris - en! Hal - le - lu! Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah! \_\_\_\_

## Postlude

**New Member Sunday will be May 18<sup>th</sup>** If you are new to the church or would like to learn more about what it means to be a member of Woodridge, join Pastor Aidan for a brief information session on **Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>** after worship in the Music Room.

**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 75<sup>th</sup> 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 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](mailto:bbagbygrose@vnacarenewengland.org)

## Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Dawn Handrich

Ushers: Carmen Steinbrecher, Les Steinbrecher,  
Sharon Albert, Rebecca Rotondo

Stewards: Courtney Lombardi, Carmen Steinbrecher,  
John Chin, Rebecca Rotondo

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

### Our Staff:

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley, Pastor  
[aidan@woodridgechurchri.org](mailto:aidan@woodridgechurchri.org)

Eric Van Dervort, Music Minister  
[ewvandervort1@gmail.com](mailto:ewvandervort1@gmail.com)

Sandy Nolan, Organist  
[sanolan00@gmail.com](mailto:sanolan00@gmail.com)

Barbara Stifano, Administrative Assistant  
Office hours 9am – 1pm M-F [woodridgechurch@verizon.net](mailto:woodridgechurch@verizon.net)  
401-942-0662 or 401-942-0654



What do you need to ask God?



What need do you believe  
we are being called to meet?