

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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

Worship at 10:00 AM

December 14, 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

Still, Still, Still,
with Mary, Did You Know?

Arr. Carol Tornquist
Sandy Nolan-piano

Welcome & Church Life

Call to Worship & Advent Candle Lighting

One: In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?

All: We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards. We see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents. We see joy in meals around the table and in the singing of Christmas songs.

One: You are right. Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us. Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, joy is here. Joy is real. We only have to look for it. *(Peace candle is lit)*

All: Thanks be to God for that good news! Amen.

Advent Response

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 3)

NCH #116

Opening Prayer (unison)

Joyful and patient God, you break into our Advent busyness with your extravagant promise of glory and joy. Fire up our imaginations with holy trust in your goodness. Open our eyes and help us see your compassion, already at work in our world: healing, restoring, strengthening, and telling the good news that you are near. Make us signs of your everlasting joy for your people and for all the world. We pray in the name of Jesus, whose nearness we proclaim. Amen.

*Hymn: Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates NCH #117

Scripture: Luke 1:46-55NRSVUE

⁴⁶ And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; ⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Passing of the Peace

Children’s Message

Sending Hymn: Go, My Children, with My Blessing (v. 1) NCH #82

Scripture: Matthew 11:2-11NRSVUE

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah^[a] was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the

wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Sermon Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

*Hymn: O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing NCH #42

Pastoral Prayer — Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

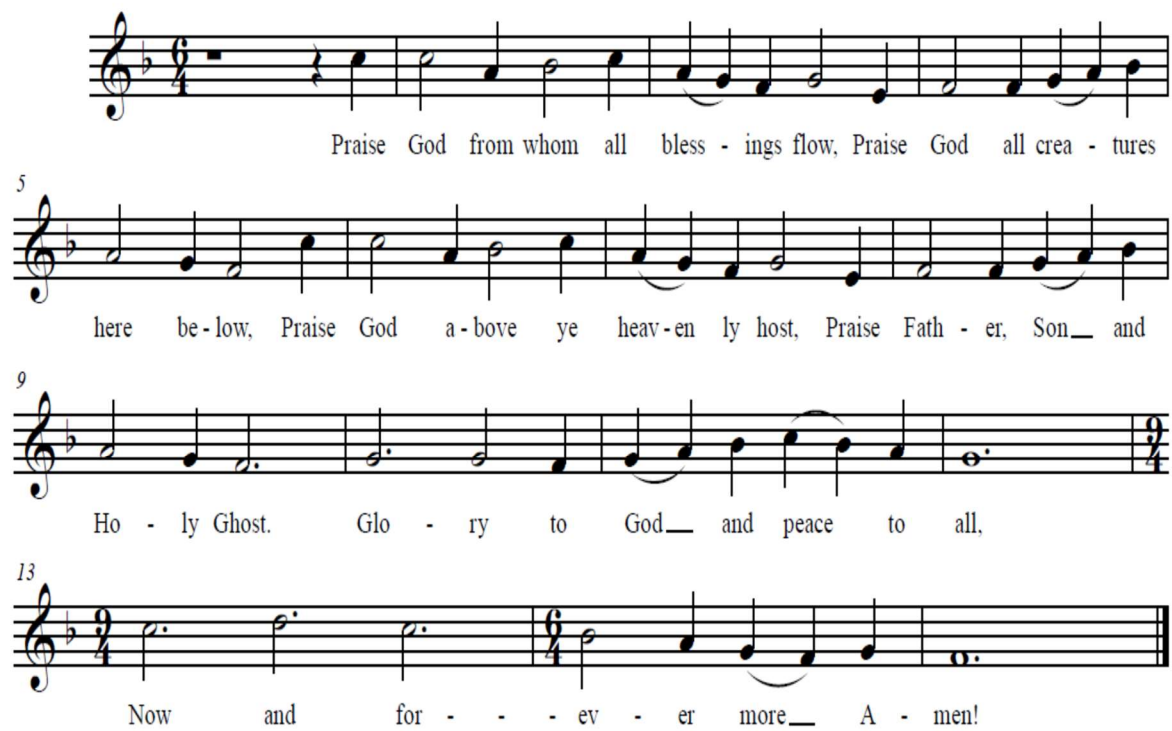
Lord’s Prayer

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 Will We Know Him
Words by Don Besig and Nancy Price
Music by Don Besig
Sandy Nolan - piano

*Doxology

Advent Doxology
Sussex Carol - English



Musical score for the Advent Doxology, Sussex Carol - English. The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here be-low, Praise God a-bove ye heav-en ly host, Praise Fath - er, Son__ and Ho - ly Ghost. Glo - ry to God__ and peace to all, Now and for - - - ev - er more__ A - men!

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Generous God who calls us to rejoice, you fill the hungry with good things and you help your people in need. Receive the gifts we offer, we pray, and make them, and us, joyful and patient signs of your coming justice and glory. Amen.

*Hymn: Once in Royal David's City NCH #145

Benediction

*Benediction Response:



Musical score for the Benediction Response, 'Wait for the Lord' by Taizé. The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves of music. The lyrics are: Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart!

Postlude

The March of the Three Kings
based on 13th century French carol
Stewart Landon
Sandy Nolan - organ

Announcements

Worshipping with children/youth or new to our church? Welcome! Scan this QR code to find our Child and Family Information page to learn about things like worship resources, Sunday School/nursery, and where to find bathrooms/changing tables.



Advent Mission Project hosted by Christian Education Team and the children of Woodridge are accepting donations of new unopen diapers and children's new and slightly used books now through Dec. 28, 2025. Please place your donations in the box in the Narthex. Thank you.

Advent & Christmas at Woodridge:

12/21/25 at 10AM "Improv" Nativity Join us as the children and youth of our church invite us into the Nativity story during worship on the 4th Sunday of Advent.

12/21/25 at 6PM Blue Christmas Join us for a quiet service of light and reflection as we seek hope in the midst of loss, pain or uncertainty.

12/24/25 at 5PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service A special and tender service of traditional lessons and carols celebrating the birth of Christ and sharing the light of Christ with one another. This is an especially meaningful service for children and families of all ages.

12/28/25 at 10AM Christmas Breakfast Service Join us for a potluck breakfast worship service in Fellowship Hall on the first Sunday of Christmas. We'll sing carols, share good food, and have some guided conversation around the morning's scripture lesson.

01/04/26 at 10AM Epiphany Service in the Sanctuary with Holy Communion

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Nancy Quintiliani

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

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

Beverage and snacks in Fellowship Hall
Following worship is provided by
Service Team & Executive Board

Our Staff:

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley, Pastor
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