

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



An Open & Affirming Congregation and
A Caring & Welcoming Community

Worship at 10:00 AM

December 15, 2024

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

Arioso

David Paxton
Sandy Nolan – organ

Gathering

On This Day

J. Krug
based upon Personant Hodie
Woodridge Chimes

Welcome & Church Life

Centering Music

Wait for the Lord
Taize

sung 3 x

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart!

Call to Worship and Advent Candle Lighting

The Dillon Family

One: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

All: **Let us start small. Let us begin with what is right in front of us. Let us do the good that is ours to do, and let us do it with joy!**

One: Let us begin with joy. Today we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy.

All: **May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights inspire action. May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy. May it be so! Amen.**

Opening Prayer (unison)

Listening God, we know that you are constantly speaking to us. Through music, scripture, nature, and relationships, you make yourself known again and again. In gratitude, we long to give back to you. So in this moment, we are quieting the noise in our heads. We are closing our eyes. We are leaning in. We are listening. We are doing the good that is ours to do. Speak to us through the chaos. Speak to us as only you can. With hope in our hearts we listen, we pray, Amen.

*Hymn

To God Compose a Song of Joy

NCH #36

Scripture:

Isaiah 12:2-6(NRSV)

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. ⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Passing of the Peace

Children's Message

*Sending Hymn:

Go, My Children, with My Blessing (verse 1)
(Children may leave for Sunday School)

NCH #82

Scripture:

Philippians 4:4-7(NRSV)

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Sermon

Dona Nobis Pacem

W. A. Mozart atr.

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

1 Do - na no - bis pa - cem pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

2 Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

3 Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

*Hymn:

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

NCH #122

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

Christmas Lullaby

W. Stevens

based upon a medieval melody
Woodridge Choir

*Doxology

Advent Doxology

Sussex Carol - English

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow, Praise God all crea - tures

5 here be - low, Praise God a - bove ye heav - en ly host, Praise Fath - er, Son_ and

9 Ho - ly Ghost. Glo - ry to God_ and peace to all,

13 Now and for - - - ev - er more_ A - men!

Prayer of Dedication (unison prayer)

Abundant God, we give you thanks for these gifts. May you bless them and use them to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and bring comfort to those in need. And may we offer our very selves as we proclaim your good news of love and grace for all people. Amen.

*Hymn Good Christian Friends, Rejoice NCH #129

Benediction

Benediction Response

Put Joy Into Each Other's Hands
Based upon an Irish Melody

Put joy in - to each oth - er's hands, and like a trea - sure
 hold it. Pro - tect it like a can - dle flame, with
 ten - der - ness en - fold it. Put joy in - to each oth - er's hands, with
 ten - der - ness en - fold it.

Postlude Etude in A Dimitri Kabalevsky
Sandy Nolan - organ

Announcements

COVID Advisory ...If you have symptoms or don't feel well, please stay home and join in Sunday worship via our live-stream. If you attend in person and would feel more comfortable wearing a mask, please do so. And we encourage all who are eligible, to get appropriate vaccines, advised by their physician. Stay safe and have a healthy holiday season!

December Faith and Film - Sunday, December 15th @ 11:30 AM : “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation”

Join your friends from Woodridge as we explore aspects of our faith through the storytelling of film. This month, we’ll lean into the holiday spirit and come together after worship on Sunday, December 15th to discuss the 1989 movie “National Lampoon Christmas Vacation”. We all hope for the perfect Christmas, but as Clark Griswold learns, Christmas can be messy. Bring your favorite Christmas ornament (or a picture to share) and we’ll tell some holiday stories together.

Blue Christmas Service — Tuesday, December 17th @ 7 PM

The holiday season can often be a difficult and somber one for many of us. Join us for a quiet service of light and reflection as we seek hope in the midst of loss, pain, or uncertainty. If you are feeling blue this Christmas season, you are not alone.

2024 Christmas Pageant — Christmas Eve

Did you miss your chance to play an angel or shepherd in your childhood pageant? This year, you’ll get your chance to enter the Christmas story! The CE Team is organizing an intergenerational “pageant” which will invite you to participate as much (or as little!) as you’d like. This year, we’ll tell the story of Christ’s birth through a beautiful, narratively driven poem at our 5 PM Christmas Eve service. We will welcome baby Jesus with song, with story, with prayer, and with candlelight in a meaningful service for all ages.

The MAE Organization Ministry – We are continuing to accept monetary donations on 12/15/24 and 12/22/24. As mentioned last week, you are invited to select a numbered angel off the tree in the Narthex and give your donation to, Deb DiChiara, Rick or Stacey Cunningham, Tricia Pardini, or Barbara Stifano who will be in the Narthex following service. For those who donated last week please see Barbara Stifano to obtain your name for the amount you gave for your tax purposes.

A Final Thing From the Market – There are many plastic containers in the kitchen and also a lovely blue glass cake plate (carefully tucked away) that can be picked up the next time you are in church.

We are still looking for people to help with the Livestream Team! If you are interested in sitting in the balcony during worship once a month and would like to learn how to operate the camera and computer and generate our livestream of the worship service, please contact Bob Ryan (bobby.ryan@verizon.net or see him at church) or Jay Bombardier (firebombjr@gmail.com or see him at church). Thank you very much!

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 on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month, 6-9pm. All experiences WELCOME. Cost \$5.00 to attend applied to annual dues. For questions contact: RPloettner@gmail.com

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Barbara Gloria

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

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

For the month of December, refreshment is supplied by the Service Committee and Executive Board

The flowers this Sunday are given by
Carmen and Les Steinbrecher
In Memory of Les' Grandmother, Grace Rutt

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
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