

*Welcome to*

Woodridge Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

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

Worship at 10:00 AM

February 16, 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

Deep River

Transcription by Hugo Frey  
Sandy Nolan - organ

Welcome & Church Life

Call to Worship

One: Jesus declared, "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God."

**All: May we learn to depend on God's abundant provision instead of the world's grasping for wealth as we worship today.**

One: Jesus declared, "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled."

**All: May we learn to follow Christ's call to provide for the hungry as co-creators of God's kingdom as we worship today.**

One: Jesus declared, "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh."

**All: May we learn to pay attention to those who suffer and mourn and to extend God's comfort and hope to those who need it as we worship today.**

One: Jesus declared, "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man."

**All: May our worship teach us to rejoice in that day and every day as we live out the good news in our families, neighborhoods, community, and world!**

Opening Prayer (unison)

**Holy One, when the road is dusty under our feet and we find ourselves engulfed, you share with us the water of life. You plant our spirits by the streams of your Being. You nourish our bodies and replenish our souls. You challenge our minds and guide our hearts. Lead us again, O God, into your presence. Be with us, as your renewing love overflows from our lives and our souls in the world. Amen.**

\*Hymn:

# Marching to Zion

R. Lowry

Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known, join  
 those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God, but  
 hill of Zi - on yields a thou - sand sa - cred sweets, be -  
 let our songs - a - bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry, we're

5  
 in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with  
 chil - dren of the heaven - ly King, but chil - dren of the  
 fore we reach the heaven - ly fields, be - fore we reach the  
 march - ing thru Em - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing thru Em -

8  
 sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne and thus sur - round the  
 heaven - ly King may speak their joys a - broad, may speak their joys a -  
 heaven - ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en  
 man - uel's ground to fair - er worlds on high to fair - er worlds on

12  
 throne... We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on, we're  
 broad.  
 streets.  
 high.

17  
 march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God. Let  
 The  
 Then

Scripture:

Jeremiah 17:5-10(NRSV)

<sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. <sup>6</sup>They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. <sup>7</sup>Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. <sup>8</sup>They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought, it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. <sup>9</sup>The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? <sup>10</sup>I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Passing of the Peace

Children's Message

Scripture:

Luke 6:17-26(NRSV)

<sup>17</sup>He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>18</sup>They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup>And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. <sup>20</sup>Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. <sup>21</sup>"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. <sup>22</sup>"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup>Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. <sup>24</sup>"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. <sup>25</sup>"Woe to you who are full now for you, will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. <sup>26</sup>"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

Sermon

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

\*Hymn:

I Will Trust in the Lord

NCH #416

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

Amazing Grace

Author John Newton's poetry  
set to the hymn tunes  
New Britain and O Wally Wally  
Woodridge Choir

\*Doxology

(sing 2x)

Thank You, Lord

African American Melody

sing 2x

Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord,

thank you Lord, I just want to thank you Lord.

Prayer of Dedication (unison prayer)

**Merciful God, you bless us beyond measure or belief. May the gifts you have poured into our lives overflow, spilling over into the world. May these gifts nourish all who have need. Amen.**

\*Hymn:

I've Got Peace Like a River

NCH #478

Benediction

\*Benediction Response

(sing 3x)

Amen

African American Spiritual

A - men. A - men. A - men, A - men, A - men.

Postlude

Allegro K.12

W. A. Mozart  
Sandy Nolan - organ

# Announcements

**Pastor Aidan will be on vacation** from 02/17/25 through 02/24/25. If there is a pastoral emergency you may reach him on his cell phone (339-927-4744)

**Respiratory illnesses and the flu have ticked up in Rhode Island.** Reminder from the Worship Team: 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. We try to have masks available for anyone who would like one. And we encourage all who are eligible to get appropriate vaccines, advised by their physician. Stay safe!

**Irish Italian Potluck** – Mark your calendars for March 15, 2025 Fellowship Hall 5 pm. See the signup sheet on the poster in the Narthex. We are switching it up a little bit. This is a “Throw Back” Potluck. Which means you bring everything and then you take everything home. No one is working this event. We want people to attend, enjoy, have fun and not work.

**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).

**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](mailto:bobby.ryan@verizon.net) or see him at church) or Jay Bombardier ([firebombjr@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:bbagbygrose@vnacarenewengland.org)

# Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Deborah Therrien

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

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

The flowers this Sunday are given by Jay, Matthew, Nicholas, and Dillon Bombardier as a 4 year remembrance of the passing of wife and mother, Amanda.

Executive Board is supplying coffee and pastry  
For the month of February

## 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  
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