

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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



Worship at 10:00 AM June 29, 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

Be Thou My Vision

J. Krug

Woodridge Chimes

Welcome & Church Life

Call to Worship

One: We gather in the name of the living Christ to worship God.

All Surely, God is in this place and calls us to worship in spirit and in truth.

One: God's love is for you and for all people everywhere.

All: May we be renewed in the refreshing Spirit of the living Christ and share in the joy of life with God.

Opening Prayer (unison)

God of all life and love: we are your children, and you made us free to live in joyful relationship with you and one another. Your grace empowers us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Give us the courage to love ourselves as much as you love us and to love others with the same compassion. Amen.

*Hymn:

For the Beauty of the Earth

NCH #28

Scripture:

Psalms 77:1-2, 11-20(NRSVUE)

¹ I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, that he may hear me. ² In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted. ¹¹ I will call to mind the deeds of the LORD; I will remember your wonders of old. ¹² I will meditate on all your work and muse on your mighty deeds. ¹³ Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our God? ¹⁴ You are the God who works wonders; you have displayed your might among the peoples. ¹⁵ With your strong arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. *Selah* ¹⁶ When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid; the very deep trembled. ¹⁷ The clouds poured out water; the skies thundered; your arrows flashed on every side. ¹⁸ The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lit up the world; the earth trembled and shook. ¹⁹ Your way was through the sea, your path through the mighty waters, yet your footprints were unseen. ²⁰ You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Children’s Message

Passing of the Peace

Scripture: 2 Kings 2:1-2,6-14(NRSVUE)

2 Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ² Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. ⁶ Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. ⁷ Fifty men of the company of prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸ Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and the two of them crossed on dry ground. ⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” ¹⁰ He responded, “You have asked a hard thing, yet if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” ¹¹ As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹² Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. ¹³ He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴ He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water. He said, “Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah? Where is he?” He struck the water again, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha crossed over.

Sermon Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

*Hymn

Here I Am, Lord

based upon Isaiah 6:8

D. L. Schutte

The musical notation is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of 31 measures. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: I the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry, I the Lord, of snow and rain, I have borne My peo - ple's pain, I the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. All who dwell in deep - est sin, My hand will save. I have wept for love of them, They turn a - way. I will set a feast for them, My hand will save. I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright, I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a - lone, Fin - est bread I will pro - vide, Til their hearts be sat - is - fied, Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send? Here I I will speak My word to them, Whom shall I send? I will give My life to them, Whom shall I send? am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, If you lead me. I will hold Your peo - ple in my heart.

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.

Anthem

Al Shloscha D'varim

A. E. Naplan

Woodridge Choir and Chimes

*In these three things the world endures:
Truth, Justice and Peace.*

*Doxology

Give Thanks

based upon Luke 1:49-53

H. Smith

1
Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly one give

5
thanks— be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ his Son. Give Son. And

10
now let the weak say, "I am strong" let the poor say "I am rich be-cause of

15
what the Lord has done for us" Give thanks! Give thanks!

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Gracious God, you have put your Spirit within us and laid your mantle upon us. These are gifts we could never earn and can never repay. Yet we are filled with your love, joy, patience, peace, generosity, and self-control. And so we offer them all to you, grateful to pass them on to your people and to your world. Amen.

Service of Release: Eric Van Dervort, Minister of Music

Pastor: Do you, the members and friends of Woodridge Congregational Church, release Eric Van Dervort from the duties of Minister of Music?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you, Eric, release this church from turning to you and depending on you?

Eric: I do, with the help of God.

Pastor: Let us pray:

People: O God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. We give thanks for remembered times when we, together, have shared the life of faith. We thank you for the moments we have shared with Eric in worship, in community, in service. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories as we move in new directions. We pray that Eric will know your Spirit's guidance in this next season of life. Amen.

*Hymn:

Blessed Assurance

NCH #473

Benediction

*Benediction Response

Draw the Circle Wide

Gordon Light

Mark A. Miller

chorus

introduction

Draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle

4

wide. Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide. No-one stands a-lone, we'll stand side by

8

side. Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide. Draw the wide. Draw the

12

cir-cle wide, draw it wid-er still. Let this be our song; No-one stands a-lone. Stand-ing

16

side by side, draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a song titled 'Draw the Circle Wide'. It is written for a single melodic line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The score is divided into five systems. The first system includes an 'introduction' and the start of the 'chorus' with the lyrics 'Draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle'. The second system begins at measure 4 and continues the chorus with 'wide. Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide. No-one stands a-lone, we'll stand side by'. The third system begins at measure 8 and includes a first ending bracket over measures 9-10 and a second ending bracket over measures 11-12. The lyrics for this system are 'side. Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide. Draw the wide. Draw the'. The fourth system begins at measure 12 and continues with 'cir-cle wide, draw it wid-er still. Let this be our song; No-one stands a-lone. Stand-ing'. The fifth system begins at measure 16 and ends with 'side by side, draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide.'.

Postlude

On Eagle's Wings with Be thou My Vision

Arranged by Carol Tornquist
Sandy Nolan – piano

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Carmen Steinbrecher

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

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

Pastoral and Staff Team is providing
the coffee and pastry in honor of Eric Van Dervort
today in Fellowship Hall directly following worship

The flowers on the altar this week are given by
Nancy & Bob Quintiliani
In recognition and sincere appreciation of Eric's
musical talent, his faithful and kind heart,
and creative contributions to our music ministry.
Thank you for being our friend.

Communion is provided by Pastor Aidan

Our Staff:

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