

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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

Worship at 10:00 AM

March 9, 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

Chorale Prelude on "Eilers"

George Blake
Tune by E. J. Hopkins
Sandy Nolan - organ

Welcome & Church Life

Centering Music

There is a Balm in Gilead

arr. B. Ingram
Woodridge Chimes

Call to Worship

- One: On this first Sunday in Lent, we join Jesus in the wilderness, a place of wild and dangerous things, of testing and temptation away from the security of home.
- All: God, rescue us in the wilderness!**
- One: Once again, we watch and listen as Satan throws out temptation upon temptation, and we find our security in Jesus, who does not waver from the truth.
- All: God, rescue us within the wilderness!**
- One: Once again, we face our own frailty and realize that the wilderness is not nearly as dangerous as our choices to prioritize selfish gain and hoarding of power.
- All: God, rescue us through the wilderness!**
- One: Once again, we call upon God in the wildernesses of our lives, and we trust God's faithful reply:
- All: Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Opening Prayer

- One: God, you are our refuge.
- All: You are the shore in sight,
you are hands that reach out,
you are the ground on which to rest.**
- One: God, you are our strength.
- All: You are the life we long for,
you are the refusal to give up,
you are the keys of home we carry with us.**
- One: God, you are our help in time of trouble.
- All: We call on you from the ruins and the rubble,
We call on you from the wildness and the deep,
We call on you to meet us in this place! Amen.**

*Hymn: A Mighty Fortress is Our God NCH #439

Scripture: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16(NRSV)

¹You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, ²will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust." ⁹Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, ¹⁰no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. ¹¹For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. ¹²On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone. ¹³You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot. ¹⁴Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. ¹⁵When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. ¹⁶With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

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: Luke 4:1-13 (NRSV)

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" ⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ⁹ Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you," ¹² Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Sermon Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

*Hymn: Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days NCH #211

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations – Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

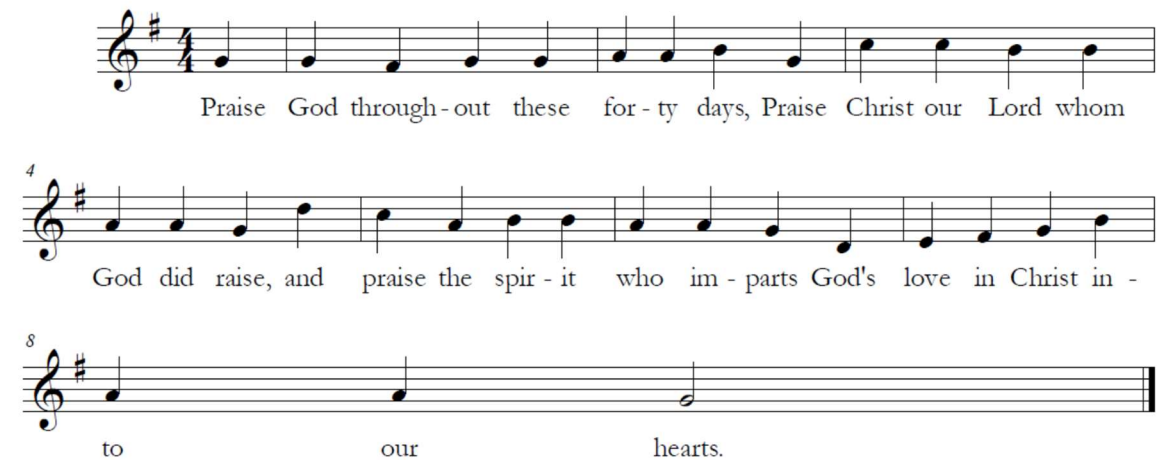
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Offertory There Are Some Things I May Not Know K. Morris
Woodridge Choir
Bob Quintiliani – tenor
Sandy Nolan - piano

*Doxology (sing 2x)

A Lenten Doxology

Tallis Canon



Praise God through-out these for-ty days, Praise Christ our Lord whom
God did raise, and praise the spir-it who im-parts God's love in Christ in -
to our hearts.

Prayer of Dedication (unison prayer)

God of abundance, we offer these gifts, along with our praise and thanksgiving. You pour out your love and the gifts of this good earth to us, each and every day. Bless the gifts we return to you now, that they may bring abundant love and nourishment to many in need of your blessing. With grateful hearts, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn

Take Time to be Holy
G. C. Stebbins

Benediction

*Benediction Response Lead Us from Death to Life (refrain only) NCH #581

Postlude

Watchman's Song Op. 12, No. 3 Edvard Grieg
Sandy Nolan – organ

Announcements

Lenten Small Group : “Follow Jesus” from “Follow Me” : Biblical Practices for Faithful Living

You are invited to join an adult (teens and young adults welcome as well!) Lenten study group as we explore what it means to “follow Jesus” as a practice of our faith. We will gather over a series of four one-hour sessions to learn about this practice of faith: finding the practice in the bible, finding the practice then and now, and practicing the practice. We will meet following worship at 10:45 AM in the Music Room on Sunday, March 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th.

Irish Italian Potluck – Join us on March 15, 2025 in Fellowship Hall at 5 pm. This is a “Throw Back” Potluck. Pack your picnic basket or your shopping bag with your plates, glasses or cups, utensils and napkins. Put on your best Irish or Italian shirt, hat, or even tie. Make a dish you love and want to share. Bring the family, bring a friend and celebrate the Saints of March. See the signup sheet on the poster in the Narthex. So looking forward to seeing you all there. It’s sure to be a fun foody time.

Faith and Film : Lenten Movie — Romero (1989) : Tues. March 18 @ 6:30 PM on Zoom As we journey into the season of Lent this year, we will use film as a lens through which we can reflect on our faith. We will come together on Zoom at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, March 18th to discuss the 1989 movie “Romero,” a biopic about the life and work of Archbishop Oscar Romero who opposed, at great personal risk, the tyrannical repression in El Salvador. Available for free on Tubi or YouTube, for rent, or at the library.

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 at bobby.ryan@verizon.net or see him at church or Jay Bombardier at firebombjr@gmail.com or see him at church. Thank you very much!

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

Quilty pleasures Quilt Guild Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the Month 6-9pm. Cost is \$5.00 to attend applied to annual dues. All experiences WELOCOME, New or Advanced. For questions contact: RPloettner@gmail.com

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!

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Rachael Pine

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

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

The altar flowers for this Sunday
are given by Deb and Rick Therrien
In memory of loved ones

For the month of March coffee and pastry is
supplied by Stewardship, buildings & Grounds

Our Staff:

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley, Pastor
aidan@woodridgechurchri.org

Eric Van Dervort, Music Minister
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Sandy Nolan, Organist
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Barbara Stifano, Administrative Assistant
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