

*Welcome to*

Woodridge Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

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



Worship at 10:00 AM

March 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.

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*\* All who are able, please stand*

Gathering

Welcome & Church Life

Call to Worship

One: God, our light and our salvation, calls us to worship.

**All: We gather in faith, confidence, and praise.**

One: Come; seek the face of God.

**All: God's face shines upon us with grace and love.**

One: Be strong, my friends, for God is here.

**All: Thanks be to God for this wonderful gift.**

Opening Prayer

**Mighty God, we come into your presence from many different places and situations. Light our way in this time of worship. Calm our hearts, focus our thoughts, and strengthen our faith, as we pray and praise this day. Amen.**

\*Hymn:

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Pilgrim #15

Scripture:

Psalms 27<sup>(NRSV)</sup>

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? <sup>2</sup>When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh— my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall. <sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident. <sup>4</sup>One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple. <sup>5</sup>For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. <sup>6</sup>Now

## 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 13:31-35 (NRSV)

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup>He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup>Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’”  
<sup>34</sup>Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

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## Sermon

\*Hymn: The Care the Eagle Gives Her Young NCH #468

## 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.**

Anthem                      Change My Heart, O God/Search Me, O God      arr. J. Raney  
Woodridge Choir

\*Doxology

A Lenten Doxology  
Tallis Canon

3

6

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.

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Prayer of Dedication (unison prayer)

Gracious God, bless these gifts, that they might bring strength to our faith, love to your world, and comfort to the forsaken. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

\*Hymn: Be Thou My Vision Pilgrim #391

Benediction

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

Postlude

## 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 16th, 23rd, and 30th.

**Easter Flowers info for Woodridge congregation**

The Worship Team is delighted to continue our Easter flowers tradition. If you would like to order a lily, tulip, daffodil or hyacinth plant in memory or celebration of loved ones, we will decorate our Easter altar with the beautiful flowering plants. After the service you can take yours home. The dedications for the plants will be printed in the Easter bulletin. Here’s the details for ordering.

1. Order forms will be available on the lobby table on Sunday mornings, March 16, 23, and 30.
2. A member of the Worship Team will be available after worship to collect your completed form(s) and cash/ check.
3. Please make your check payable to Woodridge Church. ***Please enter “Easter Flowers”*** in the memo line.
4. Deadline for orders: March 30, 2025.
5. Cost info:
  - Lily plant \$20
  - Tulip plant \$15
  - Daffodil plant \$15
  - Hyacinth plant \$15

Thanks very much! Any questions, please contact Carmen Steinbrecher ([crburney814.cs@gmail.com](mailto:crburney814.cs@gmail.com) or 401-374-9191).

### **Lenten Book Read : *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor**

All are invited to read and be in conversation around Barbara Brown Taylor's lovely book, *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith*. New and used copies of the book are easily found in bookstores and the Rhode Island Library system also has a number of copies in circulation. We will come together to share our reflections on the book following worship on Sunday, April 6th at 11:45 AM in the Music Room.

### **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.

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/3dznnbzw>

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

**Quilty pleasures Quilt Guild** Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:RPloettner@gmail.com)

## **Worship Ministers for Today's Service**

Liturgist: Tricia Pardini

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

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

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

### **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  
Office hours 9am – 1pm M-F [woodridgechurch@verizon.net](mailto:woodridgechurch@verizon.net)  
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