Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church United Church of Christ



An Open & Affirming Congregation and A Caring & Welcoming Community

Worship at 10:00 AM

March 23, 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.

Gathering Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Traditional Gospel Song Rhode Island Sax Quartet

arr. Jack Gale

Welcome & Church Life

Call to Worship

One: Worship is a place to rest.

All: We breathe deeply here. We still our aching bones. We sit in the quiet.

We surround ourselves with music. Worship is a place to rest.

One: Worship is a place to grow.

All: We listen for God's word. We invite it to challenge us. We lean in with

curiosity. We ask questions. Worship is a place to grow.

One: So come into this space. Come rest and grow here.

All: For where two or more are gathered, God is always there. Let us

worship our gracious God.

Opening Prayer

Creator God, your Word is like soil, something we can root ourselves in. Your Word is like the sun, big enough to touch everything with its warmth. And your Word is like a gardener, a love that prunes and encourages, waters and delights, seeds and tends. So, as we turn to your Word today, warm our bones, tend to our broken pieces, and show us how to grow. With hope we pray, Amen.

Hymn: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah Pilgrim #93

Scripture: Psalm 63:1-8(NRSV)

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. ²So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. ³Because your steadfast love is

better than life, my lips will praise you. ⁴So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name. ⁵My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips ⁶when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; ⁷for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. ⁸My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

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 13:1-9 (NRSV)

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way, they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." ⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still, I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."

Sermon

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

*Hymn: Amazing Grace NCH #547

<u>Prayer Concerns and Celebrations – Pastoral Prayer</u>

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.

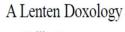
Offertory

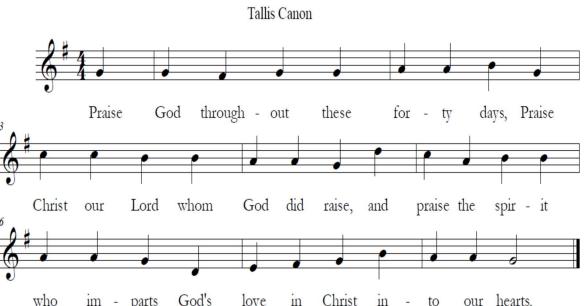
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

arr. Rick Hirsch African American Spiritual

Rhone Island Sax Quartet

*Doxology





Prayer of Dedication (unison prayer)

Loving God, you have set the table before us and given us every good thing. In gratitude for your kindness and mercy, receive our gifts and our offerings. Accept our hearts into your keeping, that our lives may bear good fruit and that we may enter into your glory. Amen.

<u>*Hymn:</u> There's a Wideness in God's Mercy NCH #23

Benediction

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

Postlude When the Saints Go Marching In

arr. Lennie Niehaus African American Traditional Rhode Island Sax Quartet

Rhode Island Sax Quartet

David Neves - soprano sax Joyce Harrington - alto sax Dan Pedro - tenor sax Martha Ryan - baritone sax

Announcements

School Supplies Needed! The Sunday School and CE Team are asking for donations of school supplies during the Lenten season to support DORCAS International. DORCAS International helps immigrants and refugee families reach their educational goals. Many of the people they serve come to the program with little or no school supplies. Through, April 27th, the Sunday School will be collecting backpacks, pencils, pens, pencil sharpeners, notebooks, folders, pencil cases, crayons, markers, binders, glue sticks, scissors, and reusable water bottles for both adults and children. Donations can be placed in the box in the narthex. Our Church Youth will be tracking the supplies we receive and providing updates to the congregation about how we are doing compared to our goals

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 or 401-374-9191).

Lenten Small Group : "Follow Jesus" from "Follow Me": <u>Biblical Practices for Faithful Living</u> 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 23rd, and 30th.

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.

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

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Carol Kinoian

Ushers: Nancy Quintiliani, Martha Ryan Lori-Jo Wahl, Lenny Wahl

Stewards: Gale MacDonald, Dianne Cavanaugh, Eileen Phaneuf, Deb DiChiara

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

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
Office hours 9am – 1pm M-F woodridgechurch@verizon.net
401-942-0662 or 401-942-0654