

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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



Worship at 7:00 pm March 05, 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 Music

What a Friend We Have in Jesus (vs.1)

NCH #506

Welcome

Call to Worship

All: We come, aware of our sin, of all the ways we miss the mark.

One: God welcomes you with compassion.

All: We come, longing for restoration, to be made new.

One: God surrounds you with grace and forgiveness, reconciling you to God and one another.

All: We come, thirsting for reconciliation, to draw close to God and one another.

One: God embraces you with love, reuniting us with God and one another.

All: Sustain in us, O God, a willing spirit to return to the joy of our salvation as we journey together through the season of Lent.

Opening Prayer (unison)

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call us anew to amend our ways, as we embark on this Lenten journey. Walk with us and teach us your love, that we might be signs of your grace. With joyous hope, we pray. Amen.

Scripture

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

(read aloud in Korean)

“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²“So, whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites;

for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But

whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

*Hymn: Lead Me, Lord Pilgrim #524

PRAYER of CONFESSION Based on Psalm 51

One: Glorious God, your thoughts are not our thoughts, nor are your ways our ways. You look at the ugliest soul and see, still unstirred, the wings of an angel. We scan the finest of our neighbors, anxious to find the flaws.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

One: You stir up stardust to make a universe, and show, through its beauty, how freely you give. We seek to turn your gifts into the power to need you no longer.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

One: You see our lives in the context of eternity, and make a time for waiting, for yearning, for putting all things in proportion. We demand instant results, and look for tomorrow before savoring today.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

One: You know that only one who suffers can ultimately save. We feel judged and threatened by that love which risks all for all.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

One: You know that only one who suffers can ultimately save. We feel judged and threatened by that love which risks all for all.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

*Responsive Hymn:

Lord Have Mercy
J. Berthier

Sing 3x

A Time of Silence

*Responsive Hymn:

Spirit of the Living God
D. Iverson

Imposition of Ashes

*Hymn:

Sign Us With Ashes

W. P. Rowan

Sing 3x



Sign us with ash-es, mer-ci-ful God, chil-dren of dust as to dust we re-turn.



Sign us with ash-es, mer-ci-ful God. Mark us and make us your own. —

Assurance of Pardon

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.

*Hymn of Preparation:

Eat This Bread

J. Berthier

sing 3x



Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun - gry.



Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

The Lord's Supper

Invitation

One: God of light and dust be with you,

All: And also with you.

One: Open wide our hearts:

All: We open them up to our God.

One: Let us give thanks to God our creator.

All: Even in the midst of the wilderness, we give God our praise.

Words of Institution & Consecration

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

Even as we come to the table tonight remembering our frailty with the dust on our heads, we also give God our thanks for this meal. We give our gratitude that we have come together as one Body of Christ. In these next forty days, continue to keep us awake to the ways we can bring Jesus Christ's servant-leadership to our world. Amen.

*Closing Hymn:

(sing 3x's)

In the Lord I'll Be Forever Thankful

J. Berthier

Sing 3x

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re -
joyce. Look to God, do not be a - fraid. Lift up your voic - es, the Lord is
near, lift up your voic - es the Lord is near. In the

Benediction

(We depart in silence, carrying God's mercy in our hearts)

Woodridge Congregational



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