

*Welcome to*

Woodridge Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

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

Worship at 10:00 AM

March 30, 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.

*\* All who are able, please stand*



Gathering

Norwegian Melody Op.12, No.6

Edvard Grieg

Sandy Nolan - organ

Welcome & Church Life

Call to Worship

One: Come, all you faithful...

**All: to worship, praise, and pray.**

One: Come, all you unfaithful...

**All: for God's love welcomes us home.**

One: Come into the presence of Christ...

**All: for Christ's grace makes us new and whole.**

Opening Prayer (unison)

**Shepherding God, you look for us. You search for us. You turn every corner and climb every mountain. You call our name until your voice is hoarse. When we lose our way, you never stop seeking after us. So once again we pray, find us in this moment. Look for us. And then surround us with your presence, so that we might feel you near. With hope we pray, with hope we listen. Amen.**

\*Hymn:

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven (vs. 1&2)

see page 6

Passing of the Peace

Children's Message

Sending Hymn:

Go, My Children, with My Blessing (v.1)  
(Children may leave for Sunday School)

Scripture:

Luke 15:1-3: 11b-32 (NRSV)

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." <sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>11</sup>Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup>A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" <sup>20</sup>So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup>"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup>Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Sermon

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

Hymn:

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

NCH #449

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, forever. Amen.**

Offertory

There Are Some Things I May Not Know

K. Morris

Woodridge Choir

Bob Quintiliani - tenor

Sandy Nolan- piano

\*Doxology

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)

With glad hearts, we offer these gifts to you, O God. Transform them with the power of your Holy Spirit, that these gifts may bring forth new life. May our offerings transform others' lives into the new creation you promise to all. Amen.

\*Hymn: This is a Day of New Beginnings NCH #417

Benediction

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

Postlude Festival Postlude Robert J. Hughes  
Sandy Nolan - organ

## 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.

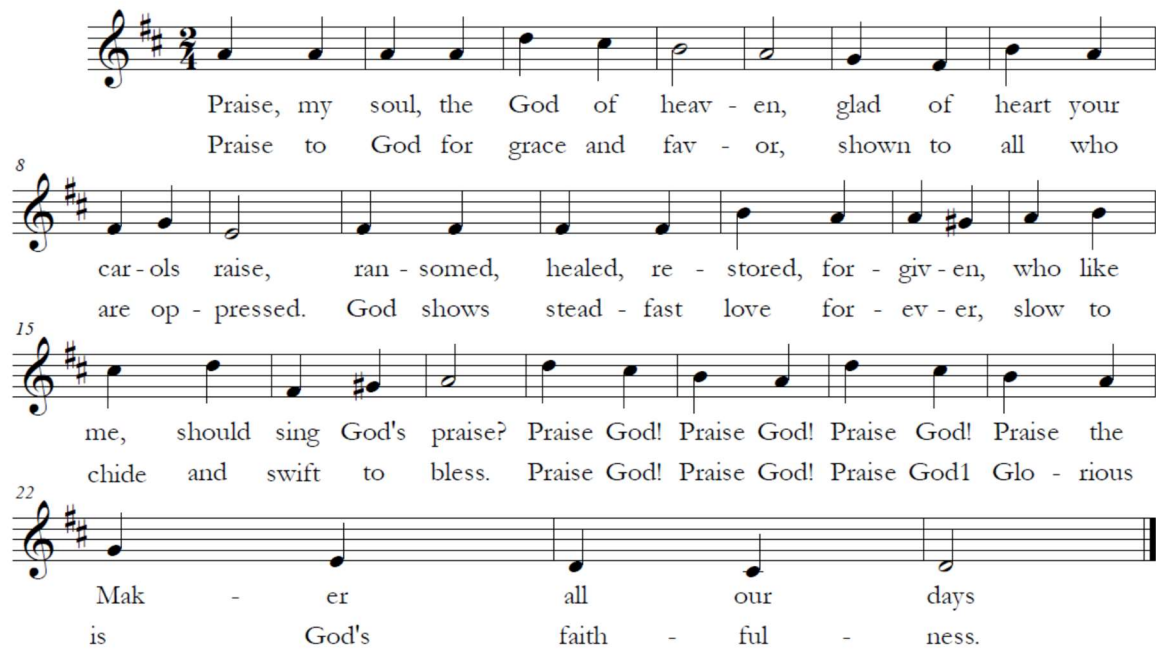
1. Order forms will be available on the lobby table on Sunday morning March 30.
2. A member of the Worship Team will be available after worship to collect your completed form(s) and cash/ check.
3. Please make your check payable to Woodridge Church. ***Please enter "Easter Flowers"*** in the memo line.
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).Page 5

**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 11:45 AM in the Music Room on Sunday, March 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.

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven  
John Goss



Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en, glad of heart your  
Praise to God for grace and fav - or, shown to all who  
car - ols raise, ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, who like  
are op - pressed. God shows stead - fast love for - ev - er, slow to  
me, should sing God's praise? Praise God! Praise God! Praise God! Praise the  
chide and swift to bless. Praise God! Praise God! Praise God! Glo - rious  
Mak - er all our days  
is God's faith - ful - ness.

## Worship Ministers for Today’s Service

Liturgist: Sharon Albert

Ushers: Carmen Steinbrecher, Sharon Albert  
Les Steinbrecher, Rebecca Rotondo

Stewards: Courtney Lombardi, Carmen Steinbrecher,  
John Chin, Rebecca Rotondo

The flowers on the Altar this week are  
given by Barbara Stifano in celebration of grandson,  
Mateo’s 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday

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](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  
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