

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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

Worship at 10:00 AM

March 22, 2026

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*

Prelude

Share His Love

William Reynolds
Shyanne Slinko - piano

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Cry out to God.

All: God listens to us.

One: Hope in God.

All: God forgives us.

One: Wait for God.

All: God's love is faithful.

Opening Prayer (unison)

Come, Spirit of God. We wait for your presence. We trust in your abiding promises. Breathe the breath of your power into us this day, that we may experience the power of new life, the promise of forgiveness, and blessings of community. Amen.

*Hymn:

This is a Day of New Beginnings

NCH #417

Passing of the Peace

Children's Message

Sending Hymn:

Go, My Children, with My Blessing (v. 1)

NCH #82

Scripture:

John 11:1-45^{NRSVUE}

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." ¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." ²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and

is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." ⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

Meditation

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

*Hymn

When Jesus Wept (Canon)

NCH #192

Pastoral Prayer — Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

Announcements

Our Sunday School children, youth, and families have invited us into a Lenten project to deepen our awareness and support of mental health. You can participate in this Lenten Project by donating items from this list AND/OR a financial contribution toward hosting a community-focused mental health presentation hosted by Woodridge (memo: WISE). Origami paper Markers Scented markers Crayons Tempera paint Tempera paint sticks Model Magic Clay Journals (with no staples) Crosswords (with no staples) Coloring books (with no staples) Monetary donations to help us to become a WISE church

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 8, 15, and 22.
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 22, 2026.
5. Cost info:
 - Lily plant \$22
 - Tulip plant \$17
 - Daffodil plant \$17
 - Hyacinth plant \$17

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

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Rachael Pine

Ushers: Nancy Quintiliani, Martha Ryan,
Rebecca Rotondo, Carmen Steinbrecher

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

The flowers on the altar this Sunday are given by Frank Toti and Steven Pennell in celebration of Frank's Mom Edith Toti's 96th birthday

Coffee, Juice, and snacks in Fellowship Hall following Worship are provided by Stewardship, Buildings & Grounds

Our Staff:

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