

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

An Open & Affirming Congregation and
A Caring & Welcoming Community



woodridgechurchri.org facebook.com/woodridgecongregational

March 29, 2026

Worship at 10:00 AM



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*

Procession of the Palms Prepare Ye (The Way of the Lord) (acapella)
(from Godspell) led by Woodridge Choir

Welcome & Church Life

Call to Worship

One: Come into God's presence, you who imagine and you who seek, you who disrupt and you who repair.

All: By the Spirit, we gather in hope.

One: Come into God's saving grace, you who shout, "Hosanna," you who pray, "save us," you who wave branches to welcome Christ.

All: In Christ, we gather in celebration.

One: Come into God's presence, singing for joy and for justice; bringing prayer and worship, your most faithful acts of resistance.

All: To God be the glory! We gather to praise!

Opening Prayer (unison)

God of palms and passion, you accompany us as we follow Jesus into Jerusalem and toward the cross. Preserve us in our rejoicing, forgive us in our betrayals, and empower us to name injustice. Grant us a vision of the cross that reveals to us Christ's unflinching commitment to the work and wonder of love. May our hearts overflow with such love and justice, and may our "hosannas" be our most fervent prayers for the salvation you promise us, through Christ our hope. Amen.

*Hymn:

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

NCH #213

Scripture: Psalm 118:1,2,19-29^{NRSVUE}

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!
² Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." ¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. ²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. ²¹ I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. ²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. ²³ This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. ²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success! ²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD. ²⁷ The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. ²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. ²⁹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Passing of the Peace

Children's Message

Sending Hymn: Go, My Children, with My Blessing (v. 1) NCH #82

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11^{NRSVUE}

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: ⁵ "Tell the daughter of Zion,

Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." ⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹ The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Sermon

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

*Hymn:

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

NCH #216

Pastoral Prayer — Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

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.

Anthem

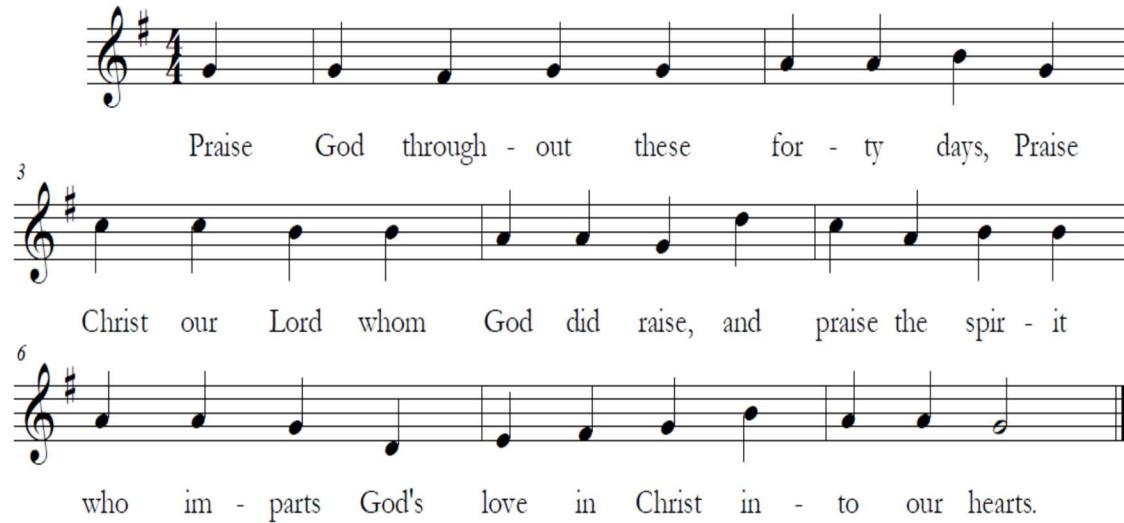
My Jesus Walked

Lin Holley Doucet
Shyanne Slinko – piano
Woodridge Choir

*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)

We give you thanks, Christ Jesus, for your goodness and your grace. Blessing the gifts and lives we offer to you, that they may bring goodness and grace to your world. In gratitude and joy, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn: Ride On! Ride On in Majesty NCH #215

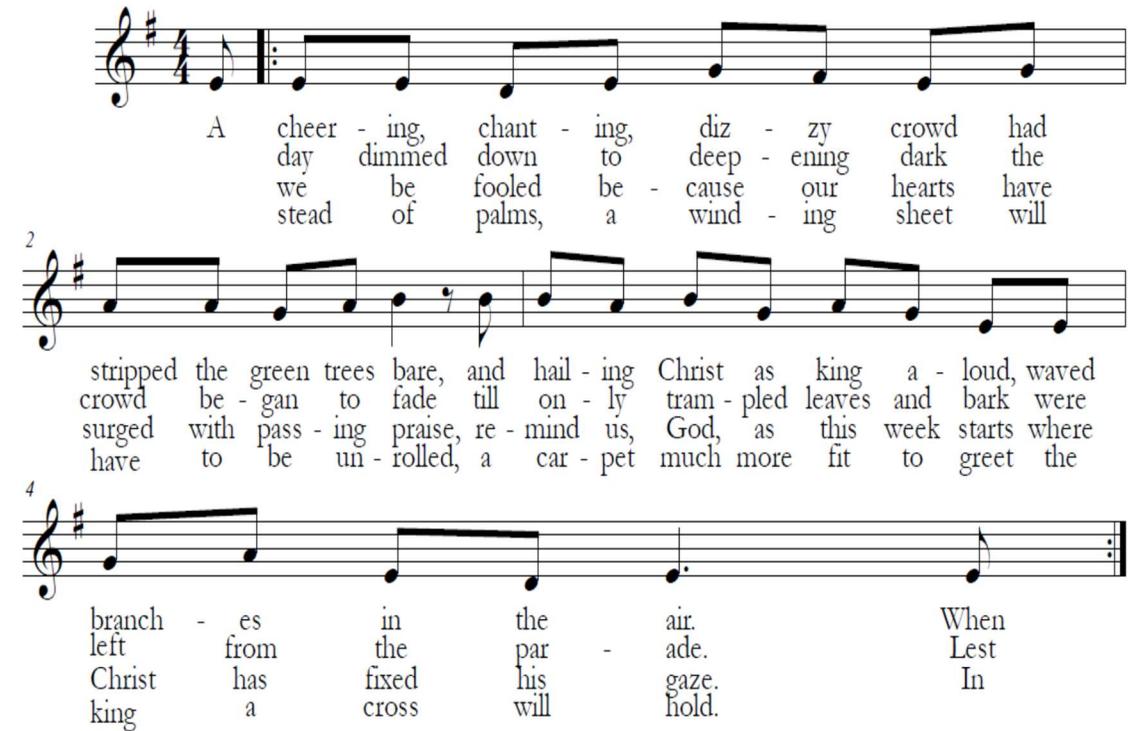
Benediction

*Benediction Response

A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd

Thomas H. Troeger

(insert vs. 1, 3,4,5)



A cheer - ing, chant - ing, diz - zy crowd had
 day dimmed down to deep - ening dark the
 we be fooled be - cause our hearts have
 stead of palms, a wind - ing sheet will
 stripped the green trees bare, and hail - ing Christ as king a - loud, waved
 crowd be - gan to fade till on - ly tram - pled leaves and bark were
 surged with pass - ing praise, re - mind us, God, as this week starts where
 have to be un - rolled, a car - pet much more fit to greet the
 branch - es in the air. When
 left from the par - ade. Lest
 Christ has fixed his gaze. In
 king a cross will hold.

Postlude

Hosanna Andrew Lloyd Webber
(from Jesus Christ Superstar) Shyanne Slinko - piano

Announcements

Remaining Schedule for Holy Week

- April 2 6:30 PM: Maundy Thursday -- Service of Handwashing, Communion, and Tenebrae
- April 3 12-1 PM: Good Friday -- Sanctuary open for prayer, musical meditations, and self-guided contemplations on Jesus' Passion.
- April 4 9 AM: Holy Saturday -- Contemplative community walk at Lawton Farm.
- April 5 10 AM: Easter Sunday -- Celebratory worship with Easter Egg Hunt to follow.

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 can be given by placing cash or check (made out to Woodridge Congregational Church with WISE in the memo) in an envelope with WISE DONATION on the front of the envelope to help us become a WISE church

Almost May Breakfast will be April 25, 2026 8am to 11am. Invite family and friends to an all you can eat fabulous breakfast serving, eggs, frittata, Johnny Cakes, ham, sausage, home fries, strudel, muffins and Holly's baked beans. Tickets on sale in the Narthex. Adults: \$15, Kids 5-12: \$7. See you there!

Dine for Donations Save the date: April 22, 2026 at Big Cheese Reservoir Ave. Cranston. Gather your family and friends and enjoy great food while raising monies for Woodridge Church. Flyers will soon be in the Narthex. See you there.

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).

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Steven Pennell

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

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

The flowers on the altar this Sunday are given by the Lombardi and Quintiliani families in honor and celebration of Woodridge Church.

For the month of March coffee hour refreshments are supplied by Stewardship, Buildings & Grounds

Our Staff:

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley, Pastor
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