

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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

Worship at 10:00 AM

January 5, 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*

Prelude

The First Noel

Paul Frey
Sandy Nolan – organ

Gathering

A Child is Born

Thad Jones
Bob Ryan - Flugelhorn

Welcome & Church Life

Call to Worship

One: Children of God, we enter the new year as we ended the last: gathered together for worship!

All: We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.

One: The prophet Isaiah calls to us from deep in the past: “Arise, shine; for your light has come.”

All: We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.

One: The magi followed a star to find a small child who is the Light of the world.

All: We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.

One: So, let us receive the call of Isaiah and follow the example of the magi as we begin this new year turning our faces to God whose glory shows up among Us as a vulnerable child, a poor carpenter, and a foot-washing servant who is the salvation of the world.

**All: We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light today and every day.
Amen.**

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of new beginnings, we admit that we often follow the well-worn path, simply because others have been there before. Sometimes this is holy and humble, but there are days when a new path needs to be tread. On those days, O God, give us the courage to follow your star. Give us the courage to go home by another way. Give us the courage to walk in a new direction for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor. For when you are doing a new thing, we want to have the courage to follow. With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

*Hymn: Angels, from the Realms of Glory NCH #126

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Passing of the Peace

Children's Message

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king,

they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Meditation

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

*Hymn: We Three Kings of Orient Are Pilgrim 143

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Offertory Still, still, still, with Mary, did you know? Arr. Carol Tornquist
Sandy Nolan – piano

*Doxology Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow Pilgrim #514

Prayer of Dedication (unison prayer)

Generous God, thank you for the gift of Jesus. Thank you for the gifts of Christmas. Thank you for inviting us to bring gifts to your world. Bless the gifts we bring, that they may become vessels of Christ's light and love in the world. Amen.

*Hymn of Preparation Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face NCH #336
(vs 1&2)

Holy Communion

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table
Prayer of Consecration
Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

God of majesty and light, we give you thanks for this meal that strengthens us as we seek your light and follow your star, sustains us as we work, and nourishes us as we worship. We give you thanks for this community that supports us in our struggles, uplifts us in our joys and walks with us on our journey. We give you thanks for your abundant grace and love that is being made manifest in this sacred food we share. Send us forth into the world with courage and hope, rejoicing in the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Hymn: As with Gladness Those of Old NCH #159

Benediction

*Benediction Response Love Came Down at Christmas NCH #165

Postlude Fanfare on "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Paul Frey
Sandy Nolan - organ

Announcements

The enclosed envelope may be used to make a gift to the **Deacon's Fund**, assisting Woodridge family and community members with emergency needs. Thank you.

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).

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 (bobby.ryan@verizon.net or see him at church) or Jay Bombardier (firebombjr@gmail.com or see him at church). Thank you very much!

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 has resumed meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month 6-9pm. All experiences WELCOME. For questions contact: RPloettner@Gmail.com.

If church services have to be cancelled due to snow and bad weather ... an email will go out on the same list as the weekly newsletter no later than between 7 and 8 am on Sunday morning (or earlier if a decision can be made). In addition, those with assigned roles, including the music ministry, will be notified via a separate email. Finally, feel free to contact pastor Aidan with any additional questions by email, aidan@woodridgechurchri.org. Thank you for your cooperation. As always, we urge people to use caution and please do not attend worship if you feel it is not safe to do so.

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Deborah Therrien

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

Stewards: Courtney Lombardi, Rebecca Rotondo,
Carmen Steinbrecher, Les Steinbrecher

Communion for this Sunday is prepared by
Martha Ryan and Nancy Quintiliani

Christian Education committee is supplying coffee and goodies
For the month of January

Our Staff:

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley, Pastor
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Eric Van Dervort, Music Minister
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Sandy Nolan, Organist
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