

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY
Woodridge United Methodist Church
Sunday, July 28th, 2024 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Jiwon Yim

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Dianne Marcell: Children of God, you are welcome here. All of who you are—even your regrets and failings—is welcome here.

Many Voices: We come to tell the truth about who we are in relationship with God.

Dianne Marcell: Many of us find it easy to recognize our goodness and difficult to notice our sins.

Many Voices: We come to tell the truth about who we are in relationship with God.

Dianne Marcell: Others of us live under a shroud of guilt and shame, believing we can never be good enough to receive the fullness of God's love.

Many Voices: We come to tell the truth about who we are in relationship with God.

Dianne Marcell: However you enter this place, know this: you are loved, accepted, and called. May God's love draw us to honest confession; God's acceptance assures us of the work of grace in our lives, and God's call compels us to live in grace.

Many Voices: We come to tell the truth about who we are in relationship with God who loves us, accepts us, and calls us. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"I Need Thee Every Hour" (*verses 1-4*)

UMH #397

*Passing the Peace

Opening Prayer

Dianne Marcell: Holy God, joy of the universe, it is your awesome love that brings us here. You awaken within us a loving response, which hungers and thirsts for your truth and beauty. As we worship you, please do not give us the blessings we want but the ones we most need. Satisfy us with the truth that we may need, though such truth might be most uncomfortable, and confront us with your holy beauty, that brings us healing. Through Christ Jesus your joyful Son.

All: Amen.

Blessing Our Children

Offering Ourselves

Offering Prayer

All: Loving God, in this sacred moment of offering, we come before you with humble hearts, recognizing your unwavering mercy and boundless compassion. As we present our gifts, may we also lay bare our shortcomings and seek your

forgiveness and guidance. Grant us the courage to confront our humanity and the strength to strive for righteousness in all our endeavors. Amen.

Blessing our Gifts with Music

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson

2 Samuel 11:2-15 (NRSVUE)

Gospel Lesson

John 6:4-15 (NRSVUE)

Dianne Marcell: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Song

“Where the Spirit of the Lord Is”

TFWS #2119

Proclaiming

“The Power of Noticing What We Have”

Pastor Dave

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Dave: Merciful God, we hear the story of David and wonder how he could so abuse his power—serving his own interests in such a selfish way. How different from the way Jesus used his power—serving, healing, and nurturing others.

Many Voices: Forgive us when our actions reflect those of David more than those of Jesus.

Pastor Dave: The account of David shows someone yielding to temptation by feeding his own particular hunger with disastrous results, whilst Jesus took time to feed the crowds with miraculous results.

Many Voices: Forgive us the times when we have yielded to the temptation of feeding our own interests to the detriment of others around us.

Pastor Dave: David demonstrated how things can get out of control when God’s rules are not followed, while Jesus demonstrates how God’s power can bring peace even into the stormiest situations.

Many Voices: We confess that the way of the world does reflect more the way of David than the way of Jesus, and we pray that we may be powerfully strengthened by the Holy Spirit to witness to Jesus’ love and compassion in and through all we do and say. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen!

Assurance of Forgiveness

Pastor Dave: Through the power of the Holy Spirit within us, God is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine. So, hear and believe the good news that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Many Voices: Amen!

Joys and Concerns

Text Pastor Dave (224.600.0446) with your prayer requests or give him a note before worship service.

Prayers of the People

Lord’s Prayer

*Closing Hymn

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

UMH #133

Benediction

Postlude