

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY

Woodridge United Methodist Church

Sunday, February 23rd, 2025

7th Sunday after Epiphany

**Music to Prepare Our Hearts**

**Lighting of the Altar Candles**

Jiwon

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

**Troy Smith:** Christ has called us here,

**Many Voices:** **inviting us to offer praise and prayer.**

**Troy Smith:** May Christ's presence be revealed in this time,

**Many Voices:** **showing us the way to go.**

**Troy Smith:** May Christ's glory shine into our worship,

**Many Voices:** **that Christ's glory may shine in our lives.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

"He Is Exalted"

TFWS #2070

**\*The Apostle's Creed**

UMH #881

**Opening Prayer**

**Troy Smith:** God of glory and power, pour out your Holy Spirit on us today. Reveal to us your wisdom and guidance. Manifest through us your Spirit of glorious grace and love. And make your loving presence known to all, through the ministries of your church.

**All: Amen.**

**Blessing Our Children**

Karen Smith

**Offering Ourselves**

Blessing our Gifts with Music

\*Doxology

\*Offering Prayer

**All: Glorious God, who reveals the light of your presence, we bring these gifts as a testament to your transforming power. Jesus was transfigured before his disciples; transform us to reflect your love and grace. Use these offerings to shine your light in the world, bringing hope and healing. In the name of your beloved Son, we pray. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading**

Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 34:29-35 (*NRSVue*)

New Testament Lesson

2 Corinthians 3:12-18 (*NRSVue*)

Gospel Lesson

Luke 9:28-36 (*NRSVue*)

**Troy Smith:** The Word of God for the People of God.

**Many Voices: Thanks be to God.**

**Responsive Song**

"Holy Ground"

TFWS #2272

**Joys & Concerns**

**Prayers for the People**

**Holy Communion**

Invitation

**Pastor Dave:** Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession & Pardon

**Many Voices: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*[Silent Prayer]*

**Pastor Dave:** Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners: that proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ; you are forgiven!

**Many Voices: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

**All: Glory to God. Amen.**

\*Passing the Peace

The Great Thanksgiving

**Pastor Dave:** The Lord be with you.

**Many Voices: And also with you.**

**Pastor Dave:** Lift up your hearts.

**Many Voices: We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Pastor Dave:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Many Voices: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Pastor Dave:** It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, the Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Before you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God. God of all times and all places, in the blazing splendor of your glory you called forth light from darkness, day from night, land from oceans, and life in all its dazzling array from lifeless matter. Among the living, you made and called humankind imprinting upon us your image, to be bearers of your glory in the world. Though we failed to shine, and hid your image within us, you continued to call us into fellowship with you and to fulfill your mission for us through prophets, scriptures, pastors, and a people you redeemed for yourself.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Many Voices: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Pastor Dave:** Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. In him we see the fullness of your glory revealed in human form. Born into poverty, he fulfilled his mother's song, that

you would fill the hungry with good things, and send the rich empty away. Declaring the nearness of your kingdom, he forgave sinners, cast out demons, raised the dead, restored the blind and lame, visited the sick, the prisoners and the needy, and gathered disciples to continue to declare the good news in word and deed, transfiguring the world in the power of your Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you." Do this in remembrance of me.

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Many Voices: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

**Pastor Dave:** Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and juice. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

**Many Voices: Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread

Sharing the Bread and Cup

**\*Closing Hymn**

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

UMH #404

**\*Dismissal with Blessing**

**Going Forth to the World**