

**AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY**  
**Woodridge United Methodist Church**  
Sunday, March 16th, 2025 2nd Sunday in Lent

**Music to Prepare Our Hearts** "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" Choir

**Lighting of the Altar Candles** Jiwon

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **\*Call to Worship**

**Bud Edman:** Children of God, when you are surrounded on every side by shadows that frighten and voices that deride and confuse, what do you say?

**Many Voices: God is our light and our salvation! Whom shall we fear?**

**Bud Edman:** When threats bombard you from every corner, stealing the security and peace you long for, what do you say?

**Many Voices: God is the stronghold of our lives! Of whom shall we be afraid?**

**Bud Edman:** When anxiety and loneliness overwhelm and you do not know who or what to trust any more, what do you say?

**Many Voices: Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!**

**Bud Edman:** Because God knows our suffering. God makes a home among us, welcoming us to come home to God and one another.

**Many Voices: Come! Let us worship God who hides us in the day of trouble and conceals us together under the cover of the tent of Love.**

**\*Opening Hymn** "We Sing to You, O God" TFWS #2001

### **\*Passing the Peace**

### **Opening Prayer**

**Bud Edman:** Gracious God, we assemble as living proof that your love for humanity knows no limits. When we feel overwhelmed by the stresses of daily life, we need only look at the stars in the sky to remember your abiding faithfulness. When we are overcome with despair by the pain of war and poverty in our world, we need only see the light of a single candle to remember the one you sent as our light, our strength, and our salvation. We pray now in the name of that light, Jesus Christ.

**All: Amen.**

**Blessing Our Children** Karen Miller

### **Offering Ourselves**

Blessing our Gifts with Music "How Can I Keep from Singing" Choir

\*Doxology

\*Offering Prayer

**All: Loving God, our shelter and hope, as we walk through this holy season, we come to you with hearts open to your grace. In our giving, may we reflect the love that sustains us, and may we lift one another up in times of need and vulnerability. Use these offerings to bring comfort to the weary and hope to the**

**brokenhearted, just as you draw near to us in our struggles. Strengthen us to be a source of light and love in this world, reflecting your compassion in all we do. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

## **Scripture Readings**

New Testament Lesson

Philippians 3:17-4:1a *(CEB)*

Gospel Lesson

Luke 13:31-35 *(CEB)*

**Bud Edman:** The Word of God for the People of God.

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

## **Responsive Song**

"There's Something About That Name"

UMH #171

## **Proclaiming**

**"Stand Firm in the Lord"**

Pastor Dave

## **Joys & Concerns**

## **Prayers for the People**

## **Lord's Prayer**

## **\*Closing Hymn**

"We Walk His Way"

W&S #3073

## **\*Dismissal with Blessing**

## **Going Forth to the World**

"Sing for Joy"

Choir