

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY

Woodridge United Methodist Church

Sunday, March 30th, 2025

4th Sunday in Lent

Music to Prepare Our Hearts

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Jiwon

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Charlotte Ashworth: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

Many Voices: For once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have been found and welcomed home.

Charlotte Ashworth: Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

Many Voices: We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!

Charlotte Ashworth: Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.

Many Voices: Amen!

*Opening Hymn

"God of Great and God of Small"

W&S #3033

*Passing the Peace

Opening Prayer

Charlotte Ashworth: Loving God, it was said of the Prodigal Son that he "came to himself." Help us to wake up to ourselves, and to you. Set us free from the illusion of trying to be perfect so that we might be more fully human. Help us not to chase after an imaginary life, and to find satisfaction in our real lives. And turn us away from our self-rejection so that we might notice your arms open in welcome.

All: Amen.

Blessing Our Children

Charlotte Ashworth

Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music

*Doxology

*Offering Prayer

All: Gracious God, our refuge and strength, we bring these gifts as a sign of our return to you. Like the prodigal, we long to feel your embrace and live in the light of your grace. As we observe this holy time of Lent, may our offerings reflect hearts that are turning back to you. Clear the clogs in our lives that separate us from you and one another and help us see the rainbow of your promise even in our struggles. Bless these gifts and our lives so that we may share your steadfast love with the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Gospel Lesson

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (CEB)

Charlotte Ashworth: The Word of God for the People of God.

Many Voices: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Song

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

TFWS #2214

Proclaiming

"A Tale of Two Brothers"

Pastor Dave

Praying

Joys & Concerns

Prayers for the People

Lord's Prayer

***Closing Hymn**

"This Is a Day of New Beginnings" *(v.1-4)*

UMH #383

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Going Forth to the World