

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY  
Woodridge United Methodist Church  
Sunday, April 20th, 2025 Easter Sunday

**Music to Prepare Our Hearts** "Let All Creation Sing Alleluia" Worship Band

**Lighting of the Altar Candles & Christ Candle**

**Exclaim with Delight**

**Pastor Dave:** This is the day that the Lord has made.

**Many Voices: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

**Pastor Dave:** This is the day of resurrection.

**Many Voices: Let us rejoice and celebrate!**

**Pastor Dave:** Jesus is Risen Today!

**Many Voices: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Responsive Song** "Halle, Halle, Halleluja" TFWS #2026

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

**Charlotte Ashworth:** Christ the Lord is risen today.

**Many Voices: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Charlotte Ashworth:** Earth and heaven in chorus say:

**Many Voices: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Charlotte Ashworth:** Love's redeeming work is done.

**Many Voices: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Charlotte Ashworth:** Christ has opened paradise.

**Many Voices: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**\*Opening Hymn** "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" UMH #302

**Prayer of Confession**

**Pastor Dave:** Christ, we come to the empty tomb, we see our own death, we see our own tomb, we see our own emptiness. And we remember how we have treated other people-members of our family, friends, and neighbors.

**Many Voices: Lord, we come to your tomb, we see a hungry world before us, the pain of starving children, the guilt of war on our hands, and we know that collectively we share in those injustices.**

**Pastor Dave:** Lord, we come to the empty tomb, we search within ourselves, and we cannot escape what we are, people caught up in the pain of our own wrongdoing, for some, a deep sense of loneliness and a frustration of what we would be but are not.

**Many Voices: Lord, when we come to the empty tomb, we lay before you our pain, our emptiness and look to you for hope.**

**Pastor Dave:** People of God, why do you seek the living among the dead in an empty tomb? Are you afraid, are you uncertain, and are you uncomfortable here?

**Many Voices: Our wounds are deep, we have turned away from that man, we have broken with him and seek his fellowship.**

**Pastor Dave:** Do not dwell on your wounds any longer for he has risen to heal you, he has risen to forgive you; he has risen to change us all and bind us together now. Christ has risen to forgive us.

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

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

**Pastor Dave:** May the peace of Christ fill us this day!

**Many Voices: Christ is the source of our joy and gladness.**

### **Opening Prayer**

**Charlotte Ashworth:** God of life and love, we are eager to hear the good news of new life. Enter our lives and cast our fears aside. Lead us on a journey from grief and despair to hope and joy. We are ready to celebrate and give thanks for your transforming love. We are eager to rejoice in the glory of this day! Give us Easter spirits and open hearts.

**All: Amen.**

### **Blessing Our Children**

Karen Miller

### **Offering Ourselves**

Blessing our Gifts with Music

"Above All"

Worship Band

\*Doxology

\*Offering Prayer

**All: Radiant God, whose love endures forever, we gather today in the light of resurrection hope, offering these gifts as a response to the abundant grace we have received. In this period of spiritual renewal, may our giving reflect the joy of the empty tomb and the promise of life everlasting. Transform our offerings into acts of love that bring light to the world, just as Christ's light dawned in our hearts. We dedicate these gifts to your service, trusting that, in your hands, they will bring forth new life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### **Scripture Readings**

New Testament Lesson

Acts 10:34-43 *(NVSVue)*

Gospel Lesson

John 20:1-18 *(NVSVue)*

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

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

### **Responsive Song**

"In Christ Alone"

TFWS #3105

### **Proclaiming**

**"We are Siblings"**

Pastor Dave

### **Praying**

Joys & Concerns

Prayers for the People

Lord's Prayer

### **\*Closing Hymn**

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

TFWS #2088

### **\*Dismissal with Blessing**

### **Going Forth to the World**

"My Redeemer Lives"

Worship Band