AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY Woodridge United Methodist Church

Sunday, May 4th, 2025

3rd Sunday in Easter

Music to Prepare Our Hearts

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Kathy Falout: Rejoice in the Lord.

Many Voices: Praise God's holy name.

Kathy Falout: Worthy is the Lamb of our praise.

Many Voices: Worthy is the righteous one of blessing, honor, and glory.

Kathy Falout: Rejoice in the Lord.

Many Voices: Praise God's holy name.

*Opening Hymn

"Joy Comes with the Dawn"

TFWS #2210

*The Apostle's Creed

UMH #881

Opening Prayer

Kathy Falout: Lord of Life, you meet us on the road, challenge our prejudices, and upend of our lives. Remove the scales from our eyes—that we may see the breadth of your love, the diversity of the ones we are called to love, and the joy of extending your welcome. Fill us with your Spirit, that we might love one another as our shepherd loves us.

All: Amen.

Blessing Our Children

Karen Smith

Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music

*Doxology

All: Great Spirit, receive the gifts from our hands this day. For you rescue us from ourselves and free us to love others, as you have loved us. After a long slumber in ignorance and fear, we offer you our gratitude for the joy that comes in the morning. Accept this offering, as a sign of our commitment, to tend your sheep and feed your lambs. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Readings

New Testament Lesson Acts 9:1-6 (NRSVue)
Gospel Lesson John 21:1-17 (NVSVue)

Kathy Falout: The Word of God for the People of God.

Many Voices: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Song

"In Christ Alone" (verses 1 & 3)

W&S #3105

^{*}Offering Prayer

Praying

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.

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. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, brought us to a land, flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life.

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. 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.

^{*}Passing the Peace

By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.

Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy 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

"Jesu, Jesu"

UMH #432

*Dismissal with Blessing

Going Forth to the World