

**AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY**

**Woodridge United Methodist Church**

**Sunday, January 4th, 2026**

**Epiphany & Reaffirmation of Baptism Sunday**

**Music to Prepare Our Hearts**

**Lighting of the Altar Candles**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

**Charlotte:** We gather as people looking for the star, a sign that God is at work in the world.

**Many Voices: God, help us find your glory.**

**Charlotte:** We gather as people listening for the whispers of the Spirit, hints of the good news in the least likely places.

**Many Voices: God, help us notice your glory.**

**Charlotte:** We gather as people yearning for Love's presence, the assurance that we are not alone and Love will have the last word.

**Many Voices: God, help us encounter your glory.**

**Charlotte:** On this Epiphany Sunday, may the Light of Love shine among us, revealing divine glory through neighbors known and unknown, vulnerable children, and unexpected gifts.

**Many Voices: God, reveal to us anew the glory of your expansive Love that gathers us together and sustains us in loving service to one another and all creation. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn** "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" (*verses #1 & 2*)

UMH #247

**\*The Apostle's Creed**

UMH #881

**Opening Prayer**

**Charlotte:** Christ of power and justice, help us embrace the power that comes from love, and guide us to seek the justice that love reveals. Open our hearts and minds, that we may hear your wisdom in this time of worship. Open our lives in the year ahead to the power and strength of your loving Spirit. In your holy name, we pray.

**All: Amen.**

**Blessing Our Children**

**Offering Ourselves**

Blessing our Gifts with Music

\*Doxology

\*Offering Prayer

**All: Radiant God, the light of your wisdom and love shines for all who seek you, guiding us not with force, but with grace. Like the magi, we come bearing gifts, not to earn your favor, but in response to the gift of Christ you've given us. Use these offerings to reflect your light into dark places, so that others might be drawn to your love, your justice, and your joy. Keep us faithful in our seeking,**

**generous in our sharing, and willing to be led wherever your star shines next. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## **Scripture Readings**

Old Testament Lesson  
Gospel Lesson

Isaiah 60:1-6 (*NRSVue*)  
Matthew 2:1-12 (*NRSVue*)

**Charlotte:** The Word of God for the People of God.  
**Many Voices:** Thanks be to God.

## **Responsive Song**

"A Star Shone Bright"

W&S #3051

## **Proclaiming**

**"God's Guidance"**

Pastor Dave

## **Praying**

Joys & Concerns  
Prayers for the People

## **Holy Communion**

Invitation

**Pastor Dave:** Siblings in Christ, the heavens are opened, God's love and the Spirit's presence are pouring down on us. Give thanks, Church! And this same Jesus Christ, God's beloved, invites to his table of love all who love him, all who have turned from their sin as you have just done, and seek to be at 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. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the 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, and spoke to us through your prophets.

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 whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born; and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world, you have led your people from far places to his light.

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 / Reaffirmation of Baptism

**\*Closing Hymn**

"One Bread, One Body"

UMH #620

**\*Dismissal with Blessing**

**Going Forth to the World**

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