

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY  
Woodridge United Methodist Church  
Sunday, January 25th, 2026                      3rd Sunday after Epiphany

## Music to Prepare Our Hearts

## Lighting of the Altar Candles

## Welcome and Announcements

### \*Call to Worship

**Kathy:** Children of God, when fears press in on every side, we can proclaim with confidence:

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

**Kathy:** When our problems overwhelm us and we feel pressed in on every side, we can declare with confidence:

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

**Kathy:** No matter the troubles we face, we seek after God and to live in the house of God forever.

**Many Voices: God shelters and protects us in the day of trouble.**

**Kathy:** Come, let us worship God with joy, for God is our light and salvation!

**Many Voices: We come to worship as bearers of the Light. Thanks be to God!**  
**Amen.**

### \*Opening Hymn

"Lift High the Cross"

UMH #159

### \*Passing the Peace

### Opening Prayer

**Kathy:** Inviting God, help us to hear Jesus calling us and give us the grace to follow him. In Christ, your kingdom draws near to us, whether we are seeking it or not. When we are caught in anguish, you shine a great light in our darkness. When we face days full of trouble, you shelter us. When we are at odds with others—quarreling and breaking apart into factions—you save us through the unity won by Christ on the cross and through his resurrection. Whether we face danger or rest in familiar routines, the kingdom of heaven draws near, and Jesus says, "Now is the time to follow me." You hear us, O God, when we cry out to you. May we hear you this day when you cry out to us.

**All: Amen.**

## Blessing Our Children

### Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music

\*Doxology

\*Offering Prayer

**All: Steadfast Light of our salvation, in a world that trembles with uncertainty and teaches us to fear, you shine with unwavering hope. You call us to seek your face and trust in your presence more than in our own strength. Receive these gifts, given not out of fear but in joyful confidence that your love casts out fear**

**and your grace make us bold. Use our offerings to build a world where your light leads, your justice reigns, and your people—unafraid—become living testimonies of your goodness. In the name of Christ, our rock and redeemer, we pray. Amen.**

## **Scripture Readings**

New Testament Lesson  
Gospel Lesson

1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (*NRSVue*)  
Matthew 4:12-23 (*CEB*)

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

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

## **Responsive Song**

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

TFWS #2129

## **Proclaiming**

**"The Message about the Cross"**

Pastor Dave

## **Praying**

Joys & Concerns  
Prayers for the People  
Lord's Prayer

## **\*Closing Hymn**

"The Old Rugged Cross"

UMH #504

## **\*Dismissal with Blessing**

## **Going Forth to the World**