

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY

Woodridge United Methodist Church

Sunday, February 22nd, 2026

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

## Music to Prepare Our Hearts

### Lighting of the Altar Candles

### Welcome and Announcements

#### \*Call to Worship

**Richard:** We gather in the shadow of the cross.

**Many Voices: We come remembering Christ's suffering and love.**

**Richard:** We have stood at the tomb in silence and grief.

**Many Voices: But we come seeking the hope of the Third Day.**

**Richard:** On the first day, there was loss.

**Many Voices: On the second day, there was waiting.**

**Richard:** On the third day, there was resurrection.

**Many Voices: Christ is alive! Hope has broken through the darkness!**

**Richard:** Just as Jesus called Mary by name,

**Many Voices: He calls us by name today.**

**All: We come to worship the risen Lord, who turns despair into hope and calls us into new life. Amen.**

#### \*Opening Hymn

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

TFWS #2088

#### \*Passing the Peace

#### Opening Prayer

**Richard:** Loving God, as we enter this Lenten Season, we remember the cross—but we also remember the empty tomb. We confess that we often linger in Good Friday and forget the joy of the Third Day. We carry grief, anxiety, and fears that our old struggles may return. We carry burdens that feel heavy and darkness that feels overwhelming. Yet you are the God who calls us by name. Just as you called Mary in the garden, call us now. Speak into our fears. Stand beside us in our grief. Remind us that death does not have the final word, that despair does not define our story, and that resurrection is real. Open our hearts during this season. Help us walk honestly through repentance and reflection, trusting that on the Third Day, hope rises again. In the name of the risen Christ, we pray.

**All: Amen.**

#### Blessing Our Children

#### Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music

\*Doxology

\*Offering Prayer

**All: Living God, all that we have comes from you. Just as Mary responded to Jesus' transforming love by offering her time, devotion, and resources, we bring our**

**gifts before you today. Use these offerings to proclaim the good news that Christ is alive. Use them to bring hope where there is despair, healing where there is brokenness, and freedom where there is bondage. May our giving reflect grateful hearts—hearts that have heard you call us by name and have been changed by your resurrection power. We dedicate these gifts to your new work in the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## **Scripture Readings**

New Testament Lesson  
Gospel Lesson

John 20:11-16 (*CEB*)  
Luke 8:1-3 (*CEB*)

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

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

## **Responsive Songs**

"Amazing Grace" (*verses #1-4*)

UMH #378

## **Proclaiming**

**"The Apostle of Hope"**

Pastor Dave

## **Praying**

Joys & Concerns  
Prayers for the People  
Lord's Prayer

## **\*Closing Hymn**

"By Grace We Have Been Saved" (*verses #1-4*)

W&S #3110

## **\*Dismissal with Blessing**

## **Going Forth to the World**