

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY

Woodridge United Methodist Church

Sunday, March 15th, 2026

4th Sunday in Lent

Music to Prepare Our Hearts

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Gwenn: When hope feels distant and the road seems long,

Many Voices: Christ walks beside us.

Gwenn: When disappointment clouds our vision and we cannot see clearly,

Many Voices: Christ remains present with us.

Gwenn: When we gather at the table and share the bread of life,

Many Voices: Our eyes are opened to the presence of the risen Lord.

Gwenn: Come, let us walk together in faith and worship God.

Many Voices: We come with hope, trusting that Christ is with us always.

*Opening Hymn

"Christ Has Broken Down the Wall"

W&S #3122

* Passing the Peace

Opening Prayer

Gwenn: Gracious and loving God, on the road of life, we sometimes walk with heavy hearts. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we carry our disappointments, our questions, and our unmet hopes. Yet even when we do not recognize it, you are walking beside us. Open our eyes this day to your presence among us. Through your Word, through our fellowship, and through the breaking of bread, help us recognize the risen Christ in our midst. Renew our hope, strengthen our faith, and fill our hearts with the joy of your resurrection power. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, who walks with us always.

All: Amen.

Blessing Our Children

Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music

*Doxology

*Offering Prayer

All: Generous God, all that we have comes from your grace and love. As we bring our gifts before you today, we offer not only our offerings but also our lives in gratitude. Use these gifts to share the hope of Christ with the world. May they bring healing to the hurting, comfort to the discouraged, and light to those walking in darkness. Just as the disciples returned from Emmaus with renewed hope, send us out to share the good news of the risen Christ. We dedicate these gifts to your service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Gospel Lesson

Luke 24:13-33a (CEB)

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

Responsive Songs

"In the Garden" (*verses 1 & 2*)

UMH #314

Proclaiming

"Christ Walks With Us"

Pastor Dave

Praying

Joys & Concerns
Prayers for the People
Lord's Prayer

*Closing Hymn

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

UMH #127

*Dismissal with Blessing

Going Forth to the World