

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY

Woodridge United Methodist Church

Sunday, April 12th, 2026

2nd Sunday of Easter

Music to Prepare Our Hearts

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Carol: Easter people, Christ is risen!

Many Voices: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Carol: Christ is risen indeed! Yet we, like Thomas, may find questions bubbling up: How do we know? What's the proof? Is resurrection real?

Many Voices: Within our questioning, Christ appears.

Carol: We may find ourselves like the other disciples, witnesses of Christ's resurrection who struggle to understand the doubt of others.

Many Voices: Within our confidence, Christ appears.

Carol: Whether you come to worship full of confidence or doubt, you are welcome here, for we are all participants in the story of God's salvific work in the world, a story still unfolding all around us.

**All: We gather to worship, believing that the resurrected Christ dwells among us!
Amen.**

*Opening Hymn

"He Lives"

UMH #310

*Passing the Peace

Opening Prayer

Carol: God of Resurrection Life, we praise you for the new birth and living hope we have in Christ Jesus. Open us today to receive the life Christ offers—a life that carries us beyond our doubts and disbelief to indescribable and glorious joy. As we worship today, make us aware of your presence among us; let us encounter the living Christ in our midst, renewing us in your love and calling us again to your purpose.

All: Amen.

Blessing Our Children

Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music

*Doxology

*Offering Prayer

All: Compassionate and faithful God, you meet us behind locked doors and in the doubts we dare not speak aloud. Like Thomas, we long to see, to touch, to know—and yet, by your grace, you call us blessed for believing without seeing. Accept now these gifts we bring, signs of our faith, acts of our trust. Use them to reach others still searching for hope, healing, and connection. Let our giving testify to your resurrection power and shape us into a community where

wounds are not hidden but held with love. In Christ, who breathes peace upon us, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Epistle Lesson

1 Peter 1:3-9 (*NRSVue*)

Gospel Lesson

John 20:19-31 (*NRSVue*)

Carol: The Word of God for the People of God.

Many Voices: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Song

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

UMH #420

Proclaiming

Guest Speaker: Pastor Carey Willaims Bebar

"The Twin"

Praying

Joys & Concerns

Prayers for the People

Lord's Prayer

*Closing Hymn

"Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" (*verses 1, 3, 4*)

UMH #462

*Dismissal with Blessing

Going Forth to the World