

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY

Woodridge United Methodist Church

Sunday, May 3rd, 2026

5th Sunday of Easter

Music to Prepare Our Hearts

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Kathy: Come to Christ, our cornerstone.

Many Voices: Christ has called us here.

Kathy: Trust in God, our firm foundation.

Many Voices: God is with us here.

Kathy: Rest in the Spirit, our peace beyond peace.

Many Voices: May the Spirit guide our way.

*Opening Hymn

"Built on a Rock" (*verses 1-3*)

W&S #3147

*The Apostle's Creed

UMH #881

Opening Prayer

Kathy: Almighty God, in Christ you have shown us the way, revealed to us your truth, and offered to us everlasting life. Keep our eyes upon him, that we may see your path more clearly, know your truth more fully, and receive your life more abundantly; through Christ who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit in eternal glory.

All: Amen.

Blessing Our Children

Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music

*Doxology

*Offering Prayer

All: Way-Making God, your offer to us is not just to believe in heaven, but to live the kingdom life here and now. Through Jesus, you show us the way, the truth, and the life—calling us to deeper trust, wider welcome, and greater works of grace. As we bring our gifts, we step into that life, choosing generosity over fear and hope over judgment. Use these offerings, and use us, to make your dwelling places visible in our community, in our compassion, in our courage. We give, because we've heard your voice. In Christ's name. Amen.

Scripture Readings

New Testament Lesson

1 Peter 2:2-3, 9-10 (*CEB*)

Gospel Lesson

John 14:1-14 (*CEB*)

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

Many Voices: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Song

"Be Still, My Soul" (*verses 1 & 3*)

UMH #534

Proclaiming

"Believe Because of the Works"

Pastor Dave

Praying

Joys & Concerns

Prayers for the People

Holy Communion

Invitation

Pastor Dave: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in 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. 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, brought us to a land, flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life.

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. 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.

By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.

Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

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."

On the day you raised him from the dead he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

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

***Closing Hymn**

"We are the Church"

UMH #558

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Going Forth to the World