

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY  
Woodridge United Methodist Church  
Sunday, October 13th, 2024 Laity Sunday

**Prelude**

**Lighting of the Altar Candles**

Jiwon

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Moment for Mission: Offering of Letters**

Karen Smith

**Moment for Youth Ministries**

Karen Novak

**\*Call to Worship**

**Kathy Falout:** We are called to hold tight to words that bring life.

**All: We know God is speaking good news through scripture, song, and neighbors, both known and new to us.**

**Kathy Falout:** We listen for grace at work in everything, for good, for life.

**All: We know wise words serve Love's purpose.**

**Kathy Falout:** In all we say and do, we are learning what it means to be faithful – as those called "to serve and witness in deeds and words that heal and free."

**All: We thank God for the good news of Jesus' love and healing words of life.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

UMH #92

**Passing the Peace**

**Blessing Our Children**

Karen Smith

**Giving**

Troy Smith

Blessing our Gifts with Prayer

**Many Voices: For the blessings of this and all our days, we thank you, gracious God. Accept, we pray, not just these offerings but also our lives freely offered in gratitude for all you have done for us. Use them both, in this place and wherever you might take us. Amen.**

\*Doxology

**Lessons from Scripture**

Kathy Falout

First Reading

Genesis 1:11-12 (ESV)

Second Reading

Song of Solomon 2:10-13 (CEB)

Gospel Lesson

Mark 12:29-31 (CEB)

**Kathy Falout:** Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. **Amen.**

**Ministry of Music**

"Here I Am, Lord"

UMH#593

**Proclaiming**  
*Karen Novak solo*

**"Turn Off the News & Build a Garden"**

Troy Smith

**Praying**  
*Joys and Concerns*

Karen Miller

*Centering Moments*

"Grace Alone"

TFWS#2162

**Karen Miller:** Savior, God, and Friend – help us speak grace into the lives of those you love. Help us listen and bear witness to your good news for all.

**All: God, we trust your script brings life.**

**Karen Miller:** God, help us remember the words to your salvation song.

**All: We know you are calling us to something beautiful and new.**

**Karen Miller:** Friend of the forgotten and lonely, help our deeds and words to heal and help.

**All: God, help us draw near to this broken world through your church.**

**Karen Miller:** Jesus, speak the word, and we will echo your call.

**All: God, draw us together in your love for life.**

**Karen Miller:** Savior, God, and Friend, we are your people. Help us remember that your faithful love is greater than our best words that speak of it.

*Silent Prayer*

**Karen Miller:** Rejoice and be glad! God is gracious and God offers blessings. God calls us to life in the world, God offers us the chance to explore how to live out God's vision. We are called, we are forgiven, we are blessed and so we pray together.....

*The Lord's Prayer*

**\*Closing Hymn**

"Bring Forth the Kingdom"

TFWS #2190

**Benediction**

Troy Smith

**Postlude**

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**Notices**

**Special Church Office Hours:**     **Monday: CLOSED**  
  **Tuesday: 9:00 am - noon**  
  **Wednesday - Friday: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

***The church office is CLOSED Monday, October 14th.***

We ask that you ***call before visiting.***

**Offering Options**

There are different options for getting your offering to the church.

- Go to the church website at [www.woodridgeumc.org/giving](http://www.woodridgeumc.org/giving).
- Text 630.449.7121 with the amount you would like to give
- Drop off in the gold mail slot next to the east door of the church.
- Mail your offering.