

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY

Woodridge United Methodist Church

Sunday, October 26th, 2025

Laity Sunday

20th Sunday in Pentecost

Music to Prepare Our Hearts

We Fall Down"

Chris Tomlin

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Rick Cihlar: We have gathered once again, Lord of all and Lord of us,

Many Voices: We come to lift our prayers, and to sing your praises once again.

Rick Cihlar: We come to ask and hope and long to see your justice in the land,

Many Voices: We worship in that hope and will work in that Spirit!

***Opening Hymn**

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

UMH #496

***Passing the Peace**

Opening Prayer

Rick Cihlar: Good and gracious God, you promise to pour out your Spirit upon us; you are the hope of the world. Give us strength, that we might serve you; make us humble, that we might live for your glory alone. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

All: Amen.

Blessing Our Children

Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music

"Starts With Me"

Tim Timmons

*Doxology

*Offering Prayer

All: Humble and merciful God, you do not require perfection, only a heart that is open. Receive these gifts, not as a sign of our righteousness, but as a humble offering from those who know they need your grace. Teach us again that generosity begins not in pride, but in gratitude—not in proving our worth, but in trusting yours. May what we give today grow into mercy, justice, and joy in the lives of others and in our own. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson

Ephesians 3:16 (NIV)

Gospel Lesson

Luke 18:9-14 (NRSVue)

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

Many Voices: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Song

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

TFWS#2193

**Reflection
Praying**

"Together by Grace: Be Strong in the Spirit"

Troy Smith

Joys & Concerns

Responsive Prayer

Troy: 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.

Troy: 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.

Troy: Jesus, speak the word, and we will echo your call.

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

Troy: 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

Troy: 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, saying...

Lord's Prayer

*Closing Hymn

"Standing in the Need of Prayer"

UMH#352

*Dismissal with Blessing

*Benediction

"The Benediction"

Timothy James Meaney