

**AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY**

**Woodridge United Methodist Church**

**Sunday, December 14th, 2025**

**Christmas Program**

**3rd Sunday in Advent**

**Music to Prepare Our Hearts**

**Lighting of the Altar Candles**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Joys & Concerns**

**Prayers for the People**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Lighting the Advent Candle (Joy)**

**Carol:** Today we light the third candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy. With hearts filled with anticipation, we rejoice in God's promise of salvation and new life.

**Many Voices:** The prophet Isaiah says, "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing."

*[Light Two Blue Candles and the Pink Candle]*

**Carol:** God of joy, fill us with your Spirit of rejoicing.

**Many Voices:** Turn our hearts toward gratitude and praise, that we may share your joy with the world. Amen.

**\*Opening Hymn**

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

UMH #196

**\*Passing the Peace**

**Opening Prayer**

**Carol:** Holy God of Joy, we rejoice in the reality of who you are. We live within the joy of your love for us. Our contentment comes and goes. Our happiness ebbs and flows. Our feelings shift with our circumstances, our physical health, and even our brain chemistry. But our joy is deeply rooted in our identity as your beloved children. For this, we give you thanks.

**All: Amen!**

**Blessing Our Children**

**Offering Ourselves**

Blessing our Gifts with Music

\*Doxology

\*Offering Prayer

**All:** Gracious God of deep joy, even when storms rage and doubts rise, you call us to see with kingdom eyes—to look for healing, hope, and signs of your grace breaking in. In this Advent season of expectation and weariness, we bring these gifts as expressions of joy, rooted not in ease but in trust. May our giving bear

**witness to your good news: that the blind still see, the lame still walk, and the poor still receive care. Use these offerings and us as signs of your coming reign, lights in the storm, and carriers of joy. In the name of Jesus, our hope and our Redeemer. Amen.**

## **Christmas Program**

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

Karen & Dave Miller, Carlene & David Smith

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10 (*CEB*)

Christmas Carol Medley"

Yim Family

New Testament Lesson

James 5:7-10 (*CEB*)

"Ave Maria"

Harper

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 11:2-6 (*CEB*)

**One Voice:** The Word of God for the People of God.

**Many Voices: Thanks be to God.**

"Gesu Bambino"

Susan

Christmas Story

Jovie

"Every Heart A Bethlehem"

Adult Choir

Poem

Armando

"Joy to the World"

Santucci Family

## **\*Dismissal with Blessing**

## **Going Forth to the World**