AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY
Woodridge United Methodist Church
Sunday, November 8th, 2026 *24th Sunday After Pentecost*

Music to Prepare Our Hearts

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements

Presentation from Youth (Sleep Out Saturday)

*Call to Worship

Glenn: We are pulled in many directions.
Many Voices: Many duties and tasks seek to lay claim on our lives.
Glenn: This day, in this place, let service to God be your choice.
Many Voices: This day, in this place, we open our hearts and spirits to God.
Glenn: Blessed be the God of creation who has called us here.
Many Voices: Praise be to God who sustains and nurtures our lives. Amen.

*Opening Hymn "Blessed Assurance" UMH#369

*The Apostle's Creed UMH #881

Opening Prayer

Glenn: Promise of the Ages, we come to you this day to choose the ways of life. Grant us patience as we wait, and watch for signs of your coming kingdom. Help us teach our children your ways, and pass on the lessons of life and faith we have learned.
All: Amen.

Blessing Our Children

Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music
*Doxology
*Offering Prayer

All: Blessing upon blessing has been given to us, O Lord, from your great bounty. Now we return these gifts to you. Bless these gifts and the lives that they represent and cause them to work for you in this world which you have loaned to us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson Psalm 78:1-7 *(CEB)*
Gospel Lesson Matthew 25:1-13 *(CEB)*

Glenn: The Word of God for the People of God.
Many Voices: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Song "Love the Lord Your God" TFWS#2168

Proclaiming **"I Don't Know You"** Pastor Dave

Praying

Joys & Concerns
Responsive Prayer

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, 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 have made from one every nation and people to live on all the face of the earth.

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. He commissioned us to be his witness to the ends of the earth and to make disciples of all nations, and today his family in all the world is joining at his holy table.

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."

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.

Renew our communion with your Church throughout the world, and strengthen it in every nation and among every people to witness faithfully in your name.

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** "Steal Away to Jesus'" UMH#704

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Going Forth to the World