

Tear off here and place into the offering plate if desired or mail into office with payment



Each Christmas season, our sanctuary is beautifully decorated with holiday trimmings and poinsettias. As the season approaches, we are now taking orders for the poinsettias, which may be in honor of, in celebration of, or in memory of one or more loved ones. A list of acknowledgments will be printed in the church bulletin on Sunday, December 19 and Christmas Eve.

Poinsettias are \$12.00 each. We encourage you to take your flower(s) home with you after the service on Christmas Eve.

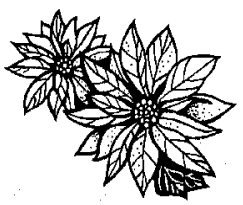
You may order your flower(s) by filling out the form below, and placing it in the collection plate, or returning it to the church office accompanied by a check or cash for total amount (a folder marked Poinsettias Orders is available on the office mail station). All checks should be made out to Woodbury United Methodist Church. **All orders must be placed no later than Tuesday, DECEMBER 7TH.**

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

In honor/celebration/memory of: (circle appropriate one)

(If more space is required, please attach a separate piece of paper)

_____ Red poinsettia _____ Quantity
_____ White poinsettia _____ Quantity



Please be sure to list all the necessary information so follow-up calls do not have to be made. Thanks!

Woodbury United Methodist Church



Laying the Foundation

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Woodbury United Methodist Church

December 5, 2021
Second Sunday in Advent—Peace
Communion Sunday

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE *Like a Shepherd* Dufford
GREETING Pastor Michael Cobb
*CALL TO WORSHIP Brady Cordova, Liturgist

If life was a home, then we would pray—
May love be the foundation.
May God be the cornerstone.
May the Spirit be the windows—ushering light in.
And may hope be the walls—holding us together.
In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home together.
We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now.
Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.
Let us worship Holy God.

*OPENING HYMN #196 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* UM Hymnal

WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

*OPENING PRAYER (unison) led by Zachary Cordova

God, who speaks a good news language—We admit, listening has never been our greatest gift. We are easily distracted, our minds run a million miles a minute. We doubt your faith in us, and take the easy way out when it comes to hope. So today we bow our heads and ask for help. Settle our hearts. Quiet our minds. Steady our breathing. Help us to rest in you. Help us to listen for your good news. Gratefully we pray, Amen.



WUMC Helping Hands Ministry

Vision Statement:

Provide an extended network of community volunteers for helping those with critical short-term needs, but without sufficient resources and families to whom they can turn.

Examples of Types of Services:

- Handyman projects (e.g., carpentry, painting, simple plumbing/electrical/car repairs, computer troubleshooting)
- Home upkeep (e.g., spring/fall cleanup)
- Transportation and delivery
- Family crisis support (e.g., child/elder/respite care, meals)
- Friendly visitor

Nominal Constraints:

- Short-term crisis support: 4-8 hours; 1-2 days
- Work projects: Ideally done in 1 day; up to \$200 for material cost
- Application approval predicated on resource availability and schedule

Please Contact: Woodbury United Methodist Church (WUMC) at WUMC@WoodburyUMC.net or (203) 263-4775.



Version 6: 21-October-2021

Please join us for a WUMC Praise Band
Christmas celebration...

"I Need a Silent Night"

December 12, 2021
2:30 PM

Woodbury UMC
4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT

...and support our neighbors in need!

A freewill offering of food or monetary
contributions will be donated to the
Woodbury Food Bank.

Pre-register at <https://rsvp.church/r/CqMXUVqE>

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Read by Cordova family

A: As we reflect on the foundation of our faith in our lives, we gather together around the candle of peace.
B: The home we long for is a home that knows peace—
A: peace that rests between us and our grief,
B: peace around our anxiety,
A: peace between us and our self-criticism,
B: peace amidst our relationships,
A: peace at the core of our being,
B: peace hovering through and in our world.
A: The home we long for is a home that knows peace.
B: So today we light the candle of peace—as a reminder and as a prayer.
A: Let it be so. Amen.

ADVENT CAROL

Light the Candle

(see insert)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS (GNT)

Epistle Reading Philippians 1:3-11; pg. 265 Read by Wendi Cordova

I thank my God for you every time I think of you; and every time I pray for you all, I pray with joy because of the way in which you have helped me in the work of the gospel from the very first day until now. And so I am sure that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it on until it is finished on the Day of Christ Jesus. You are always in my heart! And so it is only right for me to feel as I do about you. For you have all shared with me in this privilege that God has given me, both now that I am in prison and also while I was free to defend the gospel and establish it firmly. God is my witness that I tell the truth when I say that my deep feeling for you all comes from the heart of Christ Jesus himself. I pray that your love will keep on growing more and more, together with true knowledge and perfect judgment, so that you will be able to choose what is best. Then you will be free from all impurity and blame on the Day of Christ. Your lives will be filled with the truly good qualities which only Jesus Christ can produce, for the glory and praise of God.

The time came for Elizabeth to have her baby, and she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard how wonderfully good the Lord had been to her, and they all rejoiced with her. When the baby was a week old, they came to circumcise him, and they were going to name him Zechariah, after his father. But his mother said, “No! His name is to be John.”

They said to her, “But you don't have any relative with that name!” Then they made signs to his father, asking him what name he would like the boy to have. Zechariah asked for a writing pad and wrote, “His name is John.” How surprised they all were! At that moment Zechariah was able to speak again, and he started praising God. The neighbors were all filled with fear, and the news about these things spread through all the hill country of Judea. Everyone who heard of it thought about it and asked, “What is this child going to be?” For it was plain that the Lord's power was upon him.

John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he spoke God's message: “Let us praise the Lord, the God of Israel! He has come to the help of his people and has set them free. He has provided for us a mighty Savior, a descendant of his servant David. He promised through his holy prophets long ago that he would save us from our enemies, from the power of all those who hate us. He said he would show mercy to our ancestors and remember his sacred covenant. With a solemn oath to our ancestor Abraham he promised to rescue us from our enemies and allow us to serve him without fear, so that we might be holy and righteous before him all the days of our life. “You, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High God. You will go ahead of the Lord to prepare his road for him, to tell his people that they will be saved by having their sins forgiven. Our God is merciful and tender. He will cause the bright dawn of salvation to rise on us and to shine from heaven on all those who live in the dark shadow of death, to guide our steps into the path of peace.” The child grew and developed in body and spirit. He lived in the desert until the day when he appeared publicly to the people of Israel.

HYMN OF PREPARATION #204 *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* UM Hymnal

SERMON *Laying the Foundation* Pastor Cobb

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

burn - ing bush - es, part - ed wa - ters,
Help us to pro - claim the gos - pel,
Search our hearts and make us read - y,

food a - plen - ty in the wild.
'til the world is rec - on - ciled.
speak in lan - guage strong and mild,

As we look for signs and won - ders,
Let us set your ho - ly ta - ble,
help each one of us, your peo - ple,

help us see you in a child.
for each wo - man, man, and child.
to re - ceive you like a child.

3047 God Almighty, We Are Waiting

1. God Al - might - y, we are wait - ing
 2. God In - car - nate, we are wait - ing
 3. God the Spir - it, we are wait - ing

for a Sav - ior to ap - pear.
 for the feast day of your birth.
 for your pres - ence here and now.

Meet us in our des - ert jour - ney;
 Look - ing back and look - ing for - ward
 Hum - bled by our sin - ful weak - ness,

give a sign that you are near:
 to the Christ's re - turn to earth.
 at your mer - cy we will bow.

WORDS: Ann Bell Worley
 MUSIC: Rowland Prichard; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906
 Words © 2005 Hope Publishing Company

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Zachariah gave one of the greatest gifts he could give to his son. He gave him a foundation of love—words of purpose, pride, love, and belonging. So, in turn, remembering that joyful day, we try to make a similar impact by giving what we can. And we pray that the gifts we give now—our time, our money, our talents—will be infused by the Spirit to make a more purposeful world of love and belonging that we can be proud of. So let us give now. Let this be the foundation—the very start—of a better world.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

JS Bach

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy God, You are our home.

You and your goodness are the place we return to, the place we long to lay our head. So today as we offer you these gifts, we pray that you would take this offering and turn it into ministry. Use these gifts to transform the world we live in to better reflect the home you have envisioned for us—a home of peace, a home built on the foundation of love. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

In this season of expectant waiting, we are invited to Christ's table here and now. Coming to Christ's table is a way to experience the grace of God. Therefore it is open to all. The only requirement is a sincere heart. The only barriers to the table are created in our own heart. So we come together as a people to confess our sins to God. We confess as a people because we all fall short of God's plan of perfect love. We do not confess to avoid punishment. We confess to free our own hearts and minds, so we may remove the barriers we build between ourselves, our God, and our brothers and sisters.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We go about our lives as if Christmas is an event to be celebrated, but not lived. We hear the good news, but do not heed it. We turn away the holy family for there is no room in our hearts. We hear the cry of the expectant mother, desperate for care and a place to lie, but listen instead to the carols. We see the lowly children, born in mangers among the filth of the world, but we look instead to the decorations. We hear the call of the Angels to come and worship the newborn King, but we bow down to the idols of our

culture. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive us and free us for joyful obedience. Remove the barriers that we construct, and empower us to be a people doing the real, gritty, holy, graceful, loving work of Christmas every day. In the name of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Silence is kept.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor Cobb

Family of faith,
No matter how old we get,
God continues to say to us:
“You are loved; you are forgiven.”
That is the foundation of our lives.
That is the truth upon which we build our home. So breathe deeply. There is grace and peace here. Join me in proclaiming this good news:
We are loved. We are forgiven. We are claimed. This is our foundation. Thanks be to God. Amen.

WE GATHER AT THE LORD’S TABLE

God be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to God.
Let us give thanks to God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

CLOSING HYMN #3047 *God Almighty, We Are Waiting*

(see insert)

BENEDICTION

Pastor Cobb

As you leave this service, your service begins: Comfort the homesick. Open your doors to others. Seek sanctuary. Be brave enough to go home by another way. And remember that here in God’s house, all are welcomed—so come back soon. In the name of our Foundation—God, Spirit, and Son—go in peace.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

In the name of Christ. Amen!

POSTLUDE

Walk in the Reign

Cooney

Elements of this service may be taken or adapted from Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. or UMC Discipleship.org. Used by permission.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Light the Candle". The title "Light the Candle" is centered at the top. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes, with line numbers 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 15 on the left side of the staves. The lyrics are: "Light the can - dle of Peace to - day, the Giv - er of peace will come! Wel - come the peace we fight and cry for, but on - ly Christ can give. Flick - er and flame and glow with peace, light up the world a - round you. Flick - er and flame and glow with peace light up the world a - round you."