

Woodbury
United Methodist Church



Sunday, May 29, 2022

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Ascension of the Lord Sunday

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE

Melita

Dykes

GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Julia Bower Richardson

Wait to be clothed with power from on high.

The one who ascended will come to us again, bringing new life and new hope.

Clap your hands, people of God.

Shout to God with cries of joy.

Look to the heavens, brothers and sisters in Christ.

Witness the power of our God.

Clap your hands, people of God.

Shout to God with cries of joy.

*OPENING HYMN UMH# 312 *Hail the Day that See Him Rise* v.1, 2

*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

God of mystery, part the veil that keeps us from seeing your full glory and might. Open our eyes to behold the risen Christ, who ascended to you in glory. Open our hearts this day, that our spirits may ascend to you as he ascended that day. Focus our thoughts on the power of your salvation, that we may move beyond the mundane to contemplate mysteries and wonders worthy of our meditations. May we be found worthy of your great gifts, and may we be clothed with your power on high. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE LORDS PRAYER (unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from

**evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 1:1-11

*HYMN OF PREPARATION *If We Just Talk of Thoughts & Prayers* see insert

SERMON

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Our lives have been blessed by flowing waters and harvests of fruits. Let us share our harvests with you and your world. We respond by praising your name in prayer. We respond to all you have done for us in gratitude as we collect today's offering.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Eternal Father Strong to Save* Men's Choir

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE UMH #95

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above the Heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost;
Amen!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Your power and might, O God, bring forth our worship and praise. Your love and mercy, Compassionate One, call forth our gratefulness and thanksgiving. In appreciation for your blessing in our lives, we offer you these gifts from our hearts, this fruit of our industry. Receive them, we pray, in the name of the one who ascended to heaven, that our lives here on earth might be filled with your Spirit. Amen.

WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

*CLOSING HYMN UHM# 696 *America the Beautiful* v.1

BENEDICTION

Lift up your eyes to the heavens.

Christ ascended to show us the way.

Trust the Spirit's power.

Christ ascended to clothe us with power.

Go as witnesses of the risen Lord.

Christ ascended to bring us eternal life.

Go forth to spread God's message, that others may also dwell in peace, and may the love of Christ be with us, now and forevermore. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE *O Thou of God the Father* JS Bach

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The Prayer Corner

In prayer, please remember: the people of Ukraine; from the WUMC Congregation: Bob and Martha Asman; Michael Etcheto, grandson of Barbara Etcheto, Lou Calabrese (husband of Lynn Ramsden-Calabrese); Linda Bailey; and our Confirmands: Annabelle Cloud, Cody & Zachary Cordova, James Levario, and Matthew Shupenis

If you would like our confidential prayer team to pray with you or for you, please reach out to Carolyn Shay, 203-518-3177 or ljerseygirl52@gmail.com



Woodbury United Methodist Church

We are a welcoming Christian fellowship who celebrate and share God's love with everyone. We seek a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. Inspired by His example, we strive to be God's hands in this world. Empowered by God's word, we proclaim the Gospel and serve through worship, study, mission, and community support.

Rev. J. Michael Cobb, Pastor
Pastor's e-mail: pastormichael@woodburyumc.net

Meg Temple, Lay Leader
Chris Shay, Director of Music

4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT, 06798
203-263-4775

www.woodburyumc.net
Church e-mail: wumc@woodburyumc.net
Church office hours: Tuesday- Friday, 9 AM – 3 PM

Week of May 29, 2022

Visitors are warmly welcomed! If you wish to learn more about WUMC's ministries, please take a copy of our weekly newsletter, *The Messenger*, which is available on the table at the registration area.

If you would like to become a member of the Woodbury United Methodist Church, please speak to Pastor Michael. Inquirers are asked to attend a two-session Membership Orientation class before joining the church.

Thanks to all those making special contributions to our worship service today:

Julia Bower Richardson, Liturgist and Reader;
Amanda & Annabelle Cloud, Greeters and Ushers;
Annabelle Cloud, Acolytes;
Theron Kissinger, Audio Visual Technician.

Flowers are given today by Carolyn Shay in loving memory of her father, Arthur Ayars and in honor of all veterans.

Please note: Livestreaming provides an opportunity for all of us to experience worship at the same time, either at home or in-person. Worshipers at home may join us by video on YouTube or audio-only by telephone broadcast. Video recordings of services are also archived on the church's website for later viewing. Later phone broadcasts are no longer available.

- **Video:** Go to www.woodburyumc.net, scroll to the link for livestreaming near the top of our home page. A link is also provided for archived videos for later viewing.
 - **Audio only by phone:** dial 425-436-6391, enter pin with hash sign 2431819#.
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Schedule For This Week

Sunday, May 29th	Memorial Day Picnic & Parade, after church
Tuesday, May 31th	Missions & Outreach, 7 PM, Assembly Room <i>Good Enough</i> Bible Study, 6:30 PM, via Zoom
Wed., June 1st	Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:00 PM, Sanctuary Voice Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 PM, Sanctuary
Friday, June 3rd	Confirmation Rehearsal, 7:00 PM, Sanctuary

A Litany from *The Book of Worship for United States Forces* (1974)

(One-time permission to print and use this litany in congregational worship has been granted by The Armed Forces Chaplains' Board, Washington, D.C.)

Leader: Let us give thanks to God for the land of our birth with all its chartered liberties. For all the wonder of our country's story:

PEOPLE: WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

Leader: For leaders in nation and state, and for those who in days past and in these present times have labored for the commonwealth:

PEOPLE: WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

Leader: For those who in all times and places have been true and brave, and in the worlds common ways have lived upright lives and ministered to their fellows:

PEOPLE: WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

Leader: For those who served their country in its hour of need, and especially for those who gave even their lives in that service:

PEOPLE: WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

Leader: O almighty God and most merciful Father, as we remember these your servants, remembering with gratitude their courage and strength, we hold before you those who mourn them. Look upon your bereaved servants with your mercy. As this day brings them memories of those they have lost awhile, may it also bring your

consolation and the assurance that their loved ones are alive now and forever in your living presence.

UCC Officers Share Prayer for Ukraine

Holy God,

Hear our prayers for all those who will die today because of war in Ukraine and other war-torn countries all over this world. Grant them an end to the suffering of this world and eternal peace that is only found in You.

We pray for the people of Ukraine, Russia, and all nations — that war and bloodshed can be avoided and a new, just peace can be forged out of this crisis. We ask God grant wisdom to the leaders of nations, calling them to end provocation on all sides and invest instead in “the things that make for peace” as called for in all our faith traditions (Luke 19:41-2).

We pray for an end to the deep insecurity and mistrust on all sides, and call on leaders to build trust, based not on military might or alliances, but on the basis of our shared future and common humanity. Now is a time in which past harm should be acknowledged and addressed, and new partnerships can be envisioned.

We pray for and call on our leaders to have the courage to take small, verifiable, and independent steps toward peace, inviting others to reciprocate. Now is time to invest in conflict resolution, diplomacy, and international cooperation — not more weapons which only escalate tension in the region.

Be with those suffering in ways that we cannot.

Protect them from devastation in ways those positioned in authority will not. Shield and comfort them as they confront the terror of violence that surrounds them. Hold them close to your heart and stay the hand of the enemies against them. Give us the courage and the strength to cry aloud

against wickedness in high places that dare to harm others made in your image.

Comfort the children and heed their cries to be saved from harm in this world.

Make us a people who love our children, all of our children, more than we love greed, power, and control. Overturn governments of tyranny wherever they are found. Disrupt the intentions of evil and give us power to stand against demonic forces of greed and control. Grant that peace and justice come to warring nations by the hands of those courageous enough to stand and study war no more. Let Thy kin-dom come on earth as it is in heaven, we pray.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

From the UCC, <https://www.ucc.org/ucc-officers-share-prayer-for-ukraine/>.

A prayer written by the Reverend Kyle Tremblay in response to the shooting which occurred this week at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

Lord our God,
who weeps alongside us,
who shakes with rage beside us,
give me
peace through the moving of my feet,
comfort through the shouts and cries for change,
hope through the quiet moments in-between.
Cement this anguish into my heart, into my bones, into my soul,
so that tragedy does not become commonplace,
so that disaster does not become unremarkable.
Cement this pain from the soles of my feet to the top of my head,
so that courage overwhelms fear,
so that prophetic witness overwhelms unearned peace.
So that one day... one day,
justice might roll down like waters,
swords might be beaten into plows,
love might be shown not in word or speech but in truth and action.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen.