

Woodbury
United Methodist Church



THE
FORTY
DAYS
of LENT

Sunday, March 6, 2022

Woodbury United Methodist Church

March 6, 2022
First Sunday in Lent

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE *Sweet Hour of Prayer* William
Bradbury

GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The season of Lent is the faithful journey to salvation -

salvation that will be found beyond the cross, in an empty tomb.

We remember that God has already saved us -

**that God brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and brought us,
in safety, to the other side of the sea.**

We recognize that God is saving us now -

**that God sends us into the wilderness of Lent filled with the Spirit to
gather and to guide.**

We celebrate that God will save us -

**that God will give us signs and wonders to inspire and encourage us
along the way.**

Come, let us begin this journey of Lent.

*OPENING HYMN 116 *Praise My Soul the King of Heaven*

*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

On this Lenten journey, Christ stands in solidarity with us.

Because of this gracious act, we remember this day

that we are called to stand in solidarity with those in need among us...

We pray this day for those who are cold during these winter months;

that they may be warmed and sheltered and fed.

We pray this day for those who have recently been hospitalized;

that they may be healed and returned to their homes.

We pray this day for those who are in the depths of alcoholism;

that they may be freed of their addiction and led to recovery.

We pray this day for those who suffer from seasonal depression disorder;

that they may find hope within the darkness.

We pray this day for those whom we lift up to you in silence or out loud...

**Good and gracious God,
as we begin yet another Lenten journey,
we ask for courage to follow your Son,
and wisdom to walk the way.
Gather us, shelter us, protect us
as we are led to the cross.
In Jesus' name, Amen.**

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

*HYMN OF PREPARATION 377 *It is Well With My Soul*

SERMON

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Hear the word of the Lord:

“When you have come into the land
that the LORD your God is giving you . . .
you shall take some of the first of
all the fruit of the ground . . .
and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose
as a dwelling [place].”

We bring our best before God in recognition
that all that we have is an inheritance from God.
In celebration of the bounty that God has provided,
let us give generously as we collect today's offering.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Father, I Adore You*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We bring these gifts to you, O God,
in recognition and gratitude
for your loving provision.
We offer you our very lives and bow before you

in tribute to your many blessings.
Take us and use us,
that your will may be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
This we pray in the name of the One
who came in holy love,
that we might have abundant life. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy Lord,
as we enter this Lenten season,
we are reminded of our weakness
and our need for your strength.
We ask your forgiveness
when we succumb to the temptations of this world,
when we tread paths
that are contrary to your will.
We ask your forgiveness
when we fail to look beyond our own desires
to see another's need.
We ask for your presence
in our wilderness wanderings.
May your hand guide us from the arid land of sin
into a land flowing with milk and honey—
a land made rich and abundant
by your saving love. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

No one who believes in Jesus will be put to shame.
And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
shall be saved.
Rejoice and celebrate, for forgiveness is ours
through the confession of faith in Christ.

WE GATHER AT THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We recall the words and blessings of Jesus each time we unite at his table. We remember the gifts of Jesus the Christ each time we wake to a new day and step into his renewed future.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

Through this table of bread and cup, we look toward the future with hope. We are reminded that our past lies behind us, that the grace of God has overcome our fears and our indiscretions. Through Christ's great love, we are no longer afraid of the future. Through Christ's gracious meal, we are provided a second chance.

On the night in which he gave himself 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:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. 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.

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 forever. **Amen.**

BREAKING THE BREAD AND LIFTING THE CUP

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

THE LORD’S PRAYER (unison)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the Spirit of God bless the great table of Christ. May the Spirit of God help us recognize God’s grace in the breaking of the bread and in the pouring of the cup. May the Spirit of God encourage us to embrace our divine callings, as we all work to create God’s realm here on earth. Amen.

WE SEEK GOD’S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

CLOSING HYMN 395 *Take Time to Be Holy*

BENEDICTION

May the dust of the wilderness hold our footprints, lovingly shaped as they are by your hurt, for dust remembers.

May the journey into wilderness unfold honestly, for honesty is the gift your soul recognizes as you.

May your time in this wilderness be shaped by space rather than minutes, so there is time enough for all of you.

May the stones in this wilderness cry out your name loudly that your spirit recognizes the voice that has been calling you always.

And may you know this wilderness has been expecting you and you find between the stones a promise growing. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE *Salvation Unto Us Has Come* Walther

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Today's Call to Worship and Opening Prayer are by Stephen M. Fearing.

THE PRAYER CORNER

**During lent please join together all are invited to join together
For a time of prayer prior to worship
From 9:30 to 10 AM in the room off of Fellowship Hall**

In Prayer please remember

The People of Ukraine;

*Our sisters and brothers in Christ, after recent mudslides in
Ecuador;*

The following individuals from the WUMC Congregation:

Michael Etcheto, grandson of Barbara Etcheto, Lou Calabrese (husband of Lynn Ramsden-Calabrese); our homebound members, Florence Brown and Linda Bailey;

***Our Confirmands: Annabelle Cloud, Cody & Zachary Cordova,
James Levario, and Matthew Shupenis***

*To add other individuals to the weekly prayer list, please reach out to
Carolyn Shay, 203-518-3177 or 1jerseygirl52@gmail.com*

A REMINDER ON FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR:

The floral chart will be placed in the Narthex for your convenience if you would like to select a date for flowers throughout the year. REMEMBER: If you don't have an occasion, you can donate and we will be sure to deliver them to one of our homebound people during that week. Call or email the office at (203) 263-4775 or wumc@woodburyumc.net.

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| Today | Confirmation Class Mini-Retreat 12:30-4:30 PM |
| Wed., March 9th | Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:00 PM, Sanctuary Voice Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 PM, Sanctuary |
| Thurs., March 10th | Church Council Meeting, 7 PM, Assembly Room |

(All meetings will be held in the Assembly Room unless noted)

Woodbury United Methodist Church

4 Church St., Woodbury, CT, 06798

Church phone: 203-263-4775

Web Site: www.woodburyumc.net

Church e-mail: wumc@woodburyumc.net

Church office hours: Tuesday- Friday, 9 AM – 3 PM

Rev. J. Michael Cobb, Pastor

Pastor's e-mail: pastormichael@woodburyumc.net

Meg Temple, Lay Leader

Chris Shay, Director of Music

Mission Statement

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.

Week of March 6, 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: *Rynn Naylor, Communion Steward & Liturgist; Mary Grace Styblo, Acolyte; Bud and Jo Ann Behlman, Greeters and Ushers; Theron Kissinger, Audio Visual Technician.*

Altar flower tribute this week is given in honor of our fantastic confirmands, getting the work done despite pandemic-related challenges. Keep going! You're doing fine!

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

- **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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REMINDER: Lenten Lectionary Bible Study

For the Lenten season, we are going to offer a Bible study focused on going deeper into the scripture that was just preached in Sunday's sermon. You have two ways to participate: We are meeting via **Zoom on Tuesday evening**, and **in person at the church on Wednesday at noon** (bring your own lunch). **Please pre-register** for the session you'd like to attend, even if it is online.

Lent has traditionally been a time to prepare, usually for baptism and membership, so let's use this Lenten Bible study to consider where God may be calling us as a congregation. We will consider the sermon that was just given along with each scripture, and consider what the message suggests for our congregation. Please contact Pastor Michael with any questions.

REMINDER: Lenten Prayer Gathering

For the Lenten season, please join us as we gather to pray for our church, our country, and for one another. We will gather by **9:30am on Sunday** mornings in the Wesley Room (paneled room off the Fellowship Hall) and ending by 10am. Choir members are invited to participate until they are needed for rehearsal. This gathering is intended for all who want to join together in a brief time of focused prayer with some scriptural reflection. Make this a regular part of your Lenten practice, or drop in anytime. Please contact Pastor Michael with any questions.





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; 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



Where is God Calling You?

A Lenten Series
Woodbury UMC

Access the full daily devotional at:
woodburyumc.net/lent2022

I No Longer Pray For Peace

On the edge of war, one foot already in,

I no longer pray for peace:
I pray for miracles.

I pray that stone hearts will turn
to tenderheartedness,
and evil intentions will turn
to mercifulness,
and all the soldiers already deployed
will be snatched out of harm's way,
and the whole world will be
astounded onto its knees.

I pray that all the "God talk"
will take bones,
and stand up and shed
its cloak of faithlessness,
and walk again in its powerful truth.

I pray that the whole world might
sit down together and share
its bread and its wine.

Some say there is no hope,
but then I've always applauded the holy fools
who never seem to give up on
the scandalousness of our faith:
that we are loved by God.....
that we can truly love one another.

I no longer pray for peace:
I pray for miracles.

Poem by Ann Weems



LENTEN CALENDAR

PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 10

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

MAUNDY THURSDAY – APRIL 14

Communion Service at 7:00 p.m.

ECUMENICAL GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE – APRIL 15

Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.

Location TBA

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 17

Sunrise Service 7:00 AM @ the Hollow – Woodbury, CT

Continental Breakfast at WUMC

Fellowship Hall beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Sponsored by Family Nurture Ministry Team

10:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798
(203) 263-4775 • www.woodburyumc.net

Find us on  /woodburyumc
&  /woodburyumc

