



Woodbury
United Methodist Church



Sunday, January 31, 2021

Woodbury United Methodist Church

January 31, 2021
4th Sunday after the Epiphany

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE *Andante*, from *Sonata in A, Opus 120* F. Schubert
Christopher Shay, piano

GREETING Rev. John Thomason

*CALL TO WORSHIP based on Psalm 111, 1 Corinthians 8
from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021*

Praise God, who loves us all.

Praise God, who is full of mercy and compassion.

Praise God, who loves us well.

Praise God, who creates honesty and justice.

Praise God, who invites us to love.

Praise God, who loves through us and our actions.

*OPENING SONG *Who Am I* Casting Crowns
Musicians: Matt Bodwell, Rod Carnes, Kate Keeler

*OPENING PRAYER (unison) led by Kate Keeler, Liturgist
based on Psalm 111, 1 Corinthians 8
from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021*

Loving God, love through us, as we worship your holy name. Love through us, as we listen to your holy word. Love through us, as we live your teachings and offer your love to the world. In your majestic name, we pray. Amen.

The options for accessing services electronically remain the same:

- **Video:** Go to <http://www.woodburyumc.net>, scroll to "Sunday Morning Worship in the Sanctuary" and click the link for livestreaming. 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#.

Congratulations to *Bob* and *Martha Asman*, who celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on January 20; and to *Martha Asman*, who celebrated her 80th birthday on January 26.

Please remember our Confirmands: *Cody Cordova, Zachary Cordova, James Levario, Matthew Shupenis*; their adult leaders: *Catherine Mason, Meg Temple, John Thomason*; and their mentors: *Mike Boisseau, Mollie Cole, Rev. Paul Hibbard, Carolyn Shay*.

Upcoming surgeries: *Lynn Cullen* (eye procedure on February 1)

Home from the hospital: *John Fleming* (January 29, Waterbury Hospital)

Recovering at home: *Emilie Cole; Gary McClendon; Steve Thomas; Paige LeBlanc*, mother of *Jessie Lynch* (Manchester, CT); *Dominic Vaiuso*, father of *Karen Williams* (Newtown); *Robert Ayers*, father of *Tacy Nettleton* (Woodstock, GA); *Carl Hinkle*, father of *Toby McGrath* (Greensburg, PA); *Donna Louise Burke*, friend of *Kathy Craig*; *Peter Gallagher*, father of *Jen Carnes* (Brookfield, CT); *Lou Calabrese* (husband of *Lynn Ramsden-Calabrese*); *Jane King*, mother of *Stephen King* and mother-in-law of *Joann King* (Sarasota, FL); *Antonio Stillitano*, grandson of *Paul Hatch*

Outpatient treatments: *Dave Brencher, Bob Asman, Mary Wilkins*, sister of *Barb Hunt* (Rochester, NY); *Dave Davison*, father-in-law of *Gary McClendon*; *Stephanie Galaburri*, friend of *Sandy Carbonaro*; *Will Styblo*, nephew of *Jim Styblo* and *Catherine Mason* (Franklin, TN)

Homebound members: *Florence Brown, Linda Bailey*

Please continue to remember: relatives of *Rev. Betty Lines* who are seriously ill: niece *Sharon Parish* (hospice care in Idaho); and brother-in-law *Stephen Lines* (recovering from a stroke in Florida); *Jean Lilly*, mother of *Meg Temple* (Cincinnati, OH), *Manny Gesh, Jane True, Blair Feller, Marilyn Bender, Ryan DeRidder and family, Laura & Stuart Brush, Janet Grant* (sister of *Betty Lines*).



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. John Thomason, Pastor

Parsonage phone: 203-263-7575; cell phone: 845-707-5152

Pastor's e-mail: johnthomason1948@yahoo.com

Chris Shay, Director of Music

Kathy Craig, Office Administrator

Mark Davis, Lay Leader

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 January 31, 2021

Visitors are warmly welcomed! We invite you to sign the worship register as it is passed during the announcements, or fill out a visitor's card provided by a greeter. If you wish to learn more about WUMC's ministries, please take a copy of our weekly newsletter, *The Messenger*, which is available in the narthex. Immediately following today's worship service, please join us for Fellowship Hour downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

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

Today is the 4th Sunday after the Epiphany on the Christian calendar. The Season after the Epiphany is a season of Ordinary Time standing between the great Christological cycles of Advent-Christmas- Epiphany and Lent-Easter-Pentecost. The Gospel readings in the lectionary center on stories from the early ministry of Christ. The liturgical color is green, symbolizing growth in Christ.

Please Join Us for Livestreamed Worship Events - 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 will also be available for later viewing. Later phone broadcasts are no longer provided.

WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME

led by the Walkup family

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. Thomason

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Kate Keeler

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

read by Kate Keeler

Lessons for the 4th Sunday after the Epiphany, Year B
from *The Revised Common Lectionary*

Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (NRSV)

A New Prophet Like Moses

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (NRSV)

Food Offered to Idols

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even

though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

*Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:21-28 (*NRSV*)
The Man with an Unclean Spirit

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

SONG OF PREPARATION *The God Who Stays* Matthew West

SERMON *Proper Authorities* Rev. Thomason

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

It Is Well with My Soul

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

BENEDICTION

Rev. Thomason

*POSTLUDE

Order My Steps

G. Burleigh

Announcements

BIBLE 101 CONTINUES

The winter **Bible Study Fellowship** for adults is an introduction to our primary resource for Christian belief and practice -- the Bible. Pastor John is leading us in exploring why the Bible is so important for people of faith, how the Scriptures were written and compiled, and how Christians can read and study the Bible for maximum benefit. During the final session, participants will be invited to share their favorite Bible verses and passages.

The class met for the first time on January 26 and will continue to be offered on **Tuesday evenings through February 16 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM**. Weather permitting, the class will gather in-person in Fellowship Hall, but on-line participation will be available for all sessions. Go to the WUMC website for the link.

Volunteers Needed for Woodbury Food Bank

February is WUMC's month to provide volunteers for the Food Bank sponsored by the Community Services Council of Woodbury. Openings are available on all four Fridays of the month – February 5, 12, 19, and 26. Please call the church office to sign up.

COMING IN FEBRUARY

On February 14, Transfiguration Sunday, WUMC will share in a joint online worship service with other congregations from the New York Annual Conference. Worship will not be held in our sanctuary that day. Please watch for further details.
