Woodbury United Methodist Church



Sunday, January 30, 2022

Woodbury United Methodist Church

January 30, 2022 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE Allemande from Partita No. 1 in B flat

JS Bach

GREETING Rev. J. Michael Cobb

CALL TO WORSHIP Read by Mumbi Musau

Love is patient.

Love is kind.

Love is not envious.

It is not boastful.

Love is not arrogant or rude.

It does not insist on its own way.

Love does not rejoice in the wrong, but rejoices in the right.

Love bears all things.

Believes all things.

Hopes all things.

Endures all things.

Love never ends.

God blesses us with this love, today and all days.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN #399(UM Hymnal)

Take My Life, and Let It Be

(see pg. 4)

Hymns sung by Paul and Rebecca Hibbard

WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Read by Neema Syovata

Wrap us in the arms of your love, Holy One, for we need to feel your healing touch. As we gather to worship you this day, humble our hearts, teach us patience, and touch us with kindness. Open our eyes, that we may see ourselves as you see us. Open our hearts to your Spirit of gentleness that our words may be true and our love may be pure. Bind us in a love that does not fail or fade, that we may bear all things, believe all things, and hopes all things in your love, which never ends. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Read by Neema Syovata

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

HYMN OF PREPARATION #408 (UM Hymnal)

The Gift of Love

(see pg. 5)

SERMON

Rev. J. Michael Cobb

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

As we bring our gifts in gratitude this morning, you remind us that it doesn't matter what we have in our lives, if we do not have love, we have nothing. This love is not the love of Valentine's Day cards, and not even the love we feel among families, which are both rich blessings. Our offering is an experience for us to experience agape love – the love of the world, the love for those we don't even know. A love that can open our eyes and our hearts. Let us now make our offering.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Noah's Ark

Creative Video by the Shay family

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Source of every blessing, you are our refuge and our strength. Receive these offerings and the gratitude of thankful hearts. Grow the ministries of your church, which we may bring your message of love to a world deafened by clanging cymbals and noisy gongs. Amen.

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. Cobb

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Diane Hibbard

CLOSING HYMN #593 (UM Hymnal)

Here I Am Lord

(see pp. 6-7)

BENEDICTION Rev. Cobb

God sends us forth with words of love on our lips.

Christ sends us with acts of love in our deeds.

The Spirit sends us with the power of love to sustain our lives.

Therefore go in the power of God's love to be ambassadors of Christ's love and peace.

*POSTLUDE

Amazing Grace
Performed by Jack Cloud

John Newton

Elements of this service may be taken or adapted from UMC Discipleship.org, reworship.blogspot.com, or the Abingdon Worship Annual 2021, Copyright 2021 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

Musical Inserts:









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

Kathy Craig, Office Administrator

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 January 30, 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: *Diane Hibbard, Mumbi Musau, and Neema Syovata, Readers; Paul and Rebecca Hibbard, Singers; Jack Cloud, Musician; the Shay family, Dramatists; Theron Kissinger, Audio Visual Technician.*

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 http://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#.

THE PRAYER CORNER

Outpatient rehabilitation: *Michael Etcheto*, grandson of *Barbara Etcheto*

Recovering at home: Laura Brush; Lynne Brencher; Carol Hennessey; Liam McGrath; Robert Mitchell, brother of Marci Lowman (the daughter-in-law of Marion Lowman); Amelia Eager (friend of the Temple family); Steve Thomas; Dominic Vaiuso, father of Karen Williams (Newtown); Carl Hinkle, father of Toby McGrath (Greensburg, PA); Cindy Tedesco and Donna Louise Burke, friends of Kathy Craig; Lou Calabrese (husband of Lynn Ramsden-Calabrese)

Outpatient treatments: Dave Brencher; Bob Asman

Please remember our Confirmands: Annabelle Cloud, Cody Cordova, Zachary Cordova, James Levario, and Matthew Shupenis

Homebound members: Florence Brown, Linda Bailey



If you would like to send someone a birthday card, please see our website @ www.woodburyumc.net for this month's birthday listing. Reminder that we will be placing flowers on the altar again so let us know if you want to sign up for a particular date. The 2022 calendar is available for dates beginning in February for sign up.

A REMINDER ON FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR:

We will be attending "in-person" worship beginning Sunday, February 6th and we will be placing flowers on the altar again, so let us know if you want to sign up for a particular date. Currently we are open for February 13th and 20th. Call the office at (203) 263-4775 or email at www.woodburyumc.net. After February 6th, the floral chart will be placed in the Narthex for your convenience if you would like to select a date further into 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.

February is Woodbury Food Bank Month

February is our next opportunity to provide volunteers for the Woodbury Foodbank. Thank you to all the volunteers that will be covering the Friday shifts throughout the month. Reminder – the 3rd Sunday of the month there will be a dedication of donated items that will be delivered to the Food Bank. Watch for your Messenger next week for an updated listing of any priority needs requested. As always, thank you!

Rev. Paul Hibbard, Chair Mission & Outreach Ministry Team

COVID Response Team Update

We are delighted to announce that we plan to resume in-person worship on February 6th.

Why is it safe to return now? Our COVID response team has carefully re-evaluated our protocols and found that they are more than sufficient to allow us to worship together safely. Community spread is down and COVID tests are now more readily accessible to help distinguish between cold/flu and COVID symptoms. Finally, MIT modeling tools show that we can safely accommodate our max capacity of 75 people if we upgrade to multi-layer surgical or N/KN-95 masks, while continuing our previous safety protocols.

Here is how you can do your part to protect your church family at in-person worship:

- 1. Pre-register for the service on our website, www.woodburyumc.net.
- 2. Upgrade your mask to at least a surgical mask. We strongly encourage you to wear an N/KN 95 mask for increased protection. Both will be available to anyone who needs one at check-in.
- 3. If you or a family member is ill, please stay home and continue to enjoy the service online at our website, www.woodburyumc.net, or our YouTube channel at http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN-kkokTCbVE9urwgP_AEcw.
- 4. Maintain your distance from other family units after briefly greeting one another.

Below you will find a chart to help you determine when it is safe for you to return to in-person worship after being ill or having been in close contact with someone else who is ill. More detail is available at:

https://woodburyumc.net/covid-recovery%2Freopening.

WUMC GUIDANCE: COVID and ATTENDANCE AT WUMC

Feeling ill (any cold, flu or COVID symptom)? Had close contact exposure? Tested Positive? We ask that you do the following before coming to the church:

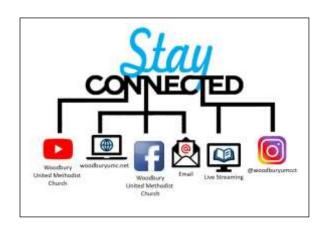
IF YOU:	THEN:
Had Close Contact with Symptomatic Person	GET COVID TESTED: WHEN? • 5 days after had exposure or • Upon becoming symptomatic WHICH TEST? • If asymptomatic: Then PCR test required • If symptomatic: Either PCR or Rapid Antigen test Refrain from attending church worship events (quarantine) for 14 days or until you have a negative test result (or your close contact tests negative), & you are symptom free.
Are Symptomatic	Refrain from attending worship and church events for 10 days or until receiving a negative COVID test (PCR or Rapid Antigen test) and you are symptom free.
Test Positive	Refrain from attending church worship & events for 10 days (isolate). Report positive test to WUMC's CRT Chair (Mark Davis)

Notes:

Symptomatic: Any cold, flu or COVID symptom. We need to treat any cold or flu symptom as if it were COVID, until a proper test proves otherwise.

Close Contact Exposure: If you spent 15 minutes or more cumulative time over a 24-hour period within 6-ft of a person who has been diagnosed with COVID <u>or</u> is symptomatic and remains untested (regardless of whether masked or unmasked).





Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors Love Spoken Here!

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