

Woodbury United Methodist Church



Sunday, January 22, 2023

10:45am Worship

Woodbury United Methodist Church

January 22, 2023

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Bell Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Joann King, Liturgist

Jesus, You are the Light of the World.

Shine Your light in us today.

Chase away the darkness of sin,
the darkness of fear and doubt and despair.

Fill us with the light of Your truth, Your Word.

Teach me what is pleasing to You.

**Make us shining examples of Your amazing grace,
redeeming love, and life-changing power.**

May others be drawn to You through us.

Your people are here, willing to serve. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN *Praise My Soul the King of Heaven* UMH #66 v 1, 2

AN OPENING PRAYER BASED ON PSALM 27

Light-giving, salvation-making God,

We have sought your presence here,

listening for your Word:

your Word that gives life;

your Word that heals the wounded heart;

your Word that speaks truth.

Teach us your Way, O Lord Jesus.

Lead us on a well-lighted path.

In the times when you are silent,

grant us the courage to wait,

trusting in your grace that brings your resurrection power
to our dead ends.

You are doing a 'new thing' among us.
though, it is hard to see at times what that 'new thing' is.
We bring to you our grieving over what is being lost,
our fears about what the future might hold,
our desire to love and serve you.

By the power of your Holy Spirit,
you are refining us,
purifying our discipleship,
pulling us into following Jesus
In this new world.

Grant us mercy and grace
to trust you more deeply,
for the only secure place is with you,
our light and our salvation,
the stronghold of our life.

We pray all these things in the name of Jesus,
the first-born of your new creation
our hope, our life.

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

Psalm 27
Matthew 4:18-22

HYMN OF PREPARATION *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore* UMH #344

SERMON

Rev. J. Michael Cobb

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Every gift we need is already here. Let us bring our gifts, whether we deem them small or large, and trust that they are enough.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY *We Are Called*

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

UMH #95

WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Great God of Heaven and Earth, you call us to leave behind our preoccupations and to follow you into the future. May this act of giving be a gesture of our willingness to follow where you lead. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

*CLOSING HYMN

Here I Am, Lord

UMH #593 v 1, 2

*BENEDICTION

As we leave this gathered worship, we know that we do not leave alone. We go with God into a world resonant with God's presence. We go with one another, bound together in Spirit and in truth, a mighty company of disciples of Jesus Christ. Let us go, then, separately but together, as we seek to be the on-going sign that God is at work in the world. Amen.

POSTLUDE

I Surrender All

Charles Wesley

Please join us downstairs for a time of fellowship and refreshment.

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*Please stand as you are able.

Visitors are warmly welcomed!

Thanks to all those making special contributions to our worship service today: Joann King, Liturgist; The Shupenis family, Greeters and Ushers; Shannon Cobb/Mark Davis, AV Tech

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

Matti Paparazzo, Administrative Assistant

4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT, 06798

203-263-4775 www.woodburyumc.net

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The Prayer Corner

Prayers of comfort and peace for the families of Rob Bronson and Erv Story; for god's, loving care and healing and prayers of comfort, healing, and strength for Bob and Martha Asman, who continue to face medical challenges; recovery for Carol Hennessey from recent illnesses; the people in California dealing with the devastating storms; peace for the people of Ukraine.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 4th

Mattatuck Museum, 11am

Waterbury 144 West Main Street, Waterbury

Exhibit - Unplugged- New England Artists Depict Trees
(Admission cost \$15.00 per person-Free parking at Park Place)

Any questions-please call/text Jen Carnes -203-206-6746

A Prayer For a Good Conversation

Lord,

Thank you for the gift and encouragement of a friend.

I needed those sweet, healing, powerful words
to wash over my heart today.

No matter what else today holds,

I pray that those words of *truth* stay at the forefront
of my mind.

I am imperfect and I admit I don't always get it right,
but I am asking for Your help today, Jesus.

I pray that today *my words* would be a breath of fresh air
to the people I come in contact with.

Help me to speak honest, wise, hopeful words over others.

As I have been blessed, may I now go and *bless others*.

Amen.

Class on the UMC Social Principles starts Tomorrow Monday January 23

Pastor Michael will spend three weeks going through UMC belief on all manner of social issues, including sexuality, gender, economic justice, the environment, guns, the death penalty, reproductive health including abortion, globalization, human trafficking, and much more. Statements on these challenging and often contentious issues are articulated in our Social Principles. If you are interested in any of these topics, or if you didn't realize we have Social Principles, this class is for you!

The UMC believes God's love for the world is an active and engaged love, a love seeking justice and liberty. **We cannot just be observers.** We care enough about people's lives to risk interpreting God's love, to take a stand, to call each of us into a response, no matter how controversial or complex. The job of the church helps us think and act out a faith perspective, not just responding to all the other influences that exist in our society. How do we do that? In part, through our Social Principles, which speak to issues in the contemporary world.

The class is offered **Mondays January 23, 30, and February 6, 6:30-7:15 via zoom.** You can get a copy of the social principles in the fellowship hall (suggested donation \$8). Any questions, please ask Pastor Michael.