

Woodbury United Methodist Church



Sunday, January 29, 2023

10:45am Worship

Woodbury United Methodist Church

January 29, 2023

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE

Nocturne
Orsin Lin, piano

Chopin

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Shannon Cobb, Liturgist

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gathers the poor of the earth.

Glorious is our God, who wipes away the tears of sorrow.

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gives inheritance to the meek.

Glorious is our God, who satisfies the hunger of the just.

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gives mercy to the merciful.

Glorious is our God, who gives vision to the pure in heart.

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who adopts the peacemakers.

Glorious is our God, who lifts high the persecuted.

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who finds the lost.

Glorious is our God, who awakens the dead.

*OPENING HYMN

Rejoice in God's Saints

UMH #708 v 1, 4

*OPENING PRAYER

Come, Holy Wisdom, and show us your ways.

In our confusing world, many voices demand our attention.

Teach us to look with your eyes. Help us walk humbly beside you – doing what is right, speaking your truth. You alone are our guide and guardian on paths of peace and reconciliation.

Hear us now as we come together in the words of the prayer our Lord taught us:

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

Old Testament Reading: Micah 6:1-8

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

HYMN OF PREPARATION *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*

UMH #348 v 1, 4

SERMON

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God does not want extravagant gifts. God wants people who value justice and faithful love, people who walk with God. Let us give freely today so that others may experience justice and love. Give so that others may walk beside God.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Blest Are They

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

UMH #95

WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Blessed One, we discover such a contrast to our present culture when we read the Beatitudes. We rejoice that these generous gifts will strengthen this congregation's ability to engage in ministries of peace, mercy, comfort, and truth. We dedicate them to you in gratitude for your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

*CLOSING HYMN *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee* UMH #430 v 1,3

*BENEDICTION

Blessed in the midst of God's love

Blessed in the midst of our world

Blessed in what we feel, see, do

Blessed, even in the times we find it hard to see the blessing

Even then, we can know ourselves as the children of God

Especially then, we can know, see, feel God's presence in our lives

Blessed! God's love in our lives given by the One who came to save

Blessed are you, in the name of Christ. **Amen!**

POSTLUDE

Bring Forth the Kingdom

Marty Haugen

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:
Shannon Cobb, Liturgist; Jay and Rae Ann Hockenberry, Greeters and Ushers;
Shannon Cobb/Mark Davis, AV Tech

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; those affected by the mass shootings that have occurred during the week.

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)

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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Class on the UMC Social Principles

The UMC believes God's love for the world is an active and engaged love, a love seeking justice and liberty. How do we do this? The UMC Social Principles speak to issues in the contemporary world and offer a solid starting point.

The UMC Social Principles are the church's response to the thorniest issues of our day: sexuality, gender, economic justice, the environment, guns, the death penalty, reproductive health including abortion, globalization, human trafficking, and much more. Join us for a discussion of these issue and what they mean for our Christian witness in the world.

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

This week, we began by looking at what the Social Principles are and how they were created, followed by an exploration of United Methodist thought on ecology, climate, food security, the natural world. Next, we considered issues of marriage, abortion, contraception, assisted suicide, race, and how Bishop Bickerton has referenced some of these issues publicly. Next week, we look at more social, economic and political issues. Join us – it's going to be an interesting discussion!

Our Social Creed

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church

We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.

We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.

We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family.

We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.

We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress.

We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations, and to individual freedom for all people of the world.


We believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world. Amen.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798

(203) 263-4775 • www.woodburyumc.net

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&  /woodburyumc