

Woodbury United Methodist Church



Sunday, October 1, 2023

10:30 AM Worship

Woodbury United Methodist Church

October 1, 2023

Blessing of the Animals

&

World Communion Sunday

*Please stand as you are able.

Today we celebrate World Communion Sunday with Christians throughout the world, remembering our common faith. World Communion Sunday began in the 1930s in the United States as a way to reflect on our global communion with Christians near and far. The service reminds us of the body, which comes together in Christ and is not separated by differences of nation, tribe, or tongue.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Carolyn Shay, Liturgist

From the raising of the sun to its setting

God's name is to be praised

Let the sun shine down

Let the birds sing their song

Let the dogs bark their praise

Let the cats meow their wonder

Let's worship God together

Let's all God's creatures say "Alleluia! Amen!"

*OPENING HYMN "Morning Has Broken" UMH 145

1. Morning has broken

Like the first morning,

Blackbird has spoken

Like the first bird.

Praise for the singing!

Praise for the morning!

Praise for them, springing

Fresh from the Word!

2. Sweet the rain's new fall

Sunlit from Heaven,

Like the first dewfall

On the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness

Of the wet garden,

Sprung in completeness

Where his feet pass.

3. Mine is the sunlight,
Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light
Eden saw play.
Praise with elation,
Praise every morning,
God's re-creation
Of the new day!

OPENING PRAYER

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 1:20-26

“God said, ‘Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.’ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them. And God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind, cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.’ And it was so. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind.’ And God blessed them. God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good.”

Following each lesson is said:

This Scripture is the feast of Wisdom

Thanks be to God.

*HYMN OF PREPARATION “Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom”

1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh,
 2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
 3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,

from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffé.
 Ev - 'ry crea - ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum - ble - bee.
 cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.

All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - joice
 Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
 In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:

as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.
 live with - in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.
 born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version

Text © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 6:25-26

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat [or drink], or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they?"

READING FROM A SERMON OF ST. FRANCIS:

"Peace, birds, peace! My brother and sister birds, you should greatly praise your Creator and love him always. He gave you feathers to wear, and wings to fly, and whatever you need. God made you noble among his creatures and gave you a home in the purity of the air, so that, though you do not sow nor reap, he nevertheless protects and governs you without your least care."

SERMON Rev. Miller

INTRODUCING OUR ANIMAL FRIENDS

People are welcome to come to the microphone and briefly introduce their animal companion

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

You are welcome to bring forward your animal companion, or a picture, one at a time, to receive a blessing.

MUSING DURING THE BLESSING

"God's Got The Whole World In God's Hands.
God's got the whole world in God's hands,
God's got the whole world in God's hands,
God's got the whole world in God's hands.
God's got the whole world in God's hands.

- 2. God has you and me sister, in God's hands
- 3. God has you and me brother...
- 4. God has the dogs and the cats....

“If I Were A Butterfly” Words and Music by Brian M. Howard

1. If I were a butterfly
I'd thank you Lord for giving me wings
If I were a robin in a tree
I'd thank you Lord that I could sing
If I were a fish in the sea
I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle with glee
But I just thank you Father for making me, me

CHORUS

For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile
You gave me Jesus and you made me your child
And I just thank you Father for making me, me

2.If I were an elephant
I'd thank you Lord by raising my trunk
If I were a kangaroo
You know I'd hop right up to you
If I were an octopus
I'd thank you Lord for my fine looks
But I just thank you Father for making me, me

If I were a wiggly worm
I'd thank you Lord that I could squirm
If I were a fuzzy, wuzzy bear
I'd thank you Lord for my fuzzy, wuzzy hair
If I were a crocodile I'd thank you Lord for my great smile
But I just thank you Father for making me, me

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

WE GATHER AT THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH page 9

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.

The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion and concludes:

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.

The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:

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.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit concluding:

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

"Come to the Table of Grace" Worship & Song 3168

"Come to the table of Grace.

Come to the table of Grace.

This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of Grace."

2. Come to the table of peace...
3. Come to the table of love...
4. Come to the table of joy...

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

***CLOSING HYMN: " O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth"
(Sung to the tune of: "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"**

1. O God, your creatures fill the earth with wonder and delight,
And every living thing has worth and beauty in your sight.
So playful dolphins dance and swim; Your sheep bow down and graze.
Your songbirds share a morning hymn To offer you their praise.

2. You made the pets we welcome in — They're wondrous blessings, too.
With paws and whiskers, wings and fins, They offer praise to you.
O Lord, you call us to embrace These creatures in our care.
May we show kindness, love and grace To all pets everywhere.

3. You made the creatures on each farm; You know the things they need.
May they grow healthy, safe from harm, And safe from human greed.
Just as a shepherd loves the sheep, You know their joy, their pain.
Lord, bless the animals we keep; May all farms be humane.

4. Your creatures live in every land; They fill the sky and sea.
O Lord, you give us your command To love them tenderly.
We're called to have dominion here — To care for them always.
By loving creatures you hold dear, We offer you our praise.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Please join us for a time of fellowship and refreshment.

*Please stand as you are able.

Visitors are warmly welcomed!

Thanks to all those making special contributions to our worship service today; Carolyn Shay, Liturgist; Meg Temple and Barb Hunt, Greeters and Ushers; Mark Davis, AV Tech

The Prayer Corner

Prayers for the people in Syria who are dealing with the devastation from the flooding there and people in Morocco, who are dealing with the devastation they are face from the earthquake; for support and help for them as they go through this very difficult time with so much loss; for Sharon Story, and for her family for healing from their medical challenges; for healing for Pat, a friend of our church; for successful surgery and healing for Carolyn, a friend a Jane Hutter's

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. Herb Miller, Pastor
Meg Temple, Lay Leader
Christopher Shay, Director of Music
Matti Paparazzo, Administrative Assistant*

4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT, 06798 203-263-4775
www.woodburyumc.net Church e-mail: wumc@woodburyumc.net

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 21
WUMC Pasta Supper, @ 4:30pm

Tuesday, October 31
Halloween Trick or Treating, @ 4:30pm



SAVE YOUR BOXES!

DONATE YOUR CARDBOARD

THE WUMC IS COLLECTING 2X3 PIECES OF CARDBOARD TO MAKE WITTY TOMBSTONES FOR DISPLAY ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT TURNING OUR LAWN INTO A FUN CEMETERY FOR KIDS TO NAVIGATE TO GET THEIR CANDY!



COLLECTION BEGINS SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17 JUST
OUTSIDE OF THE SANCTUARY.

Piano Recital

Christopher Shay

Bach, Beethoven, Debussy, Chopin

Sunday, Oct 15 3:00



Heritage Village Activities Building

11 Heritage Way, Southbury

Tickets \$10 (475) 237-0583



PASTA SUPPER

Saturday

October 21st

4:30-6:30 PM

4 Church St. Woodbury
Corner of N. Main & Church St.

(203) 263-4775

wumc@woodburyumc.net

Italian-style pasta, penne or spaghetti, topped with homemade meat sauce or marinara, and an extra-large meatball, bread, salad, dessert & beverage.

\$16 Adults \$10 Seniors

\$5 Kids - 12 yrs. & Under

\$40 Family of 4

**TAKE
OUT
ALSO
AVAILABLE**



WUMC's Pasta Dinner is coming on Saturday, October 21. If you can help with preparations and/or during the event, please sign-up online through this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084CABA78-44381761-wumc> . There also is a paper sign-up form in Fellowship Hall.