

# Woodbury United Methodist Church



Sunday Sept 17, 2023

10:30 AM Worship

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September 17, 2023

21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

\*Please stand as you are able.

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## WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE                    *"Allemande from B flat Partita"*                    JS Bach

\*CALL TO WORSHIP:                    Rona Hovasapian, Liturgist  
Praise God! Sing to God a new song; sing God's praise in the assembly  
of the faithful.

**Let us rejoice in our Maker, with all people of faith. We rejoice in our  
God and King.**

Let's praise God's name with singing, instruments, voice, and silence.

**We sing together in joy. We pray in hope. We live to God's glory.**

**Thanks be to God!**

\*OPENING HYMN    *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*                    UMH 89

### OPENING PRAYER

ANTHEM                    *"Forever Blest"*                    Handel

## WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING    Genesis 15:15-21

*Following each lesson is said:*

This Scripture is the feast of Wisdom

**Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN OF PREPARATION    *"God, How Can We Forgive"*    TFWS 2169

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING    Matthew 18:21-35

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God, we confess that we struggle to forgive, and often don't even care to create the space for forgiveness to begin to happen. We rush ourselves to excuse the harmful speech and actions of others, rather than honestly name the hurt we have experienced. Or, we become determined to hold on to the pain and to never allow the other to break free. Meanwhile, we expect others to forgive us without even feeling the need to repent. Teach us to forgive. Give us what we need to joyfully extend mercy and grace to one another as you have extended them to us. Forgive us, and help us to forgive others so that we can maintain and build this community of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God is merciful and kind, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Know that, as Jesus taught, you are forgiven.

**Know that, as Jesus taught, *you* are forgiven.**

Let us be at peace.

**Thanks be to God!**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Following each prayer is said:*

God of all,

**Hear our prayers**

THE LORDS PRAYER

**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 RESPOND IN FAITH

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

UMH #95

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## WE GO FORTH IN JOY

\*CLOSING HYMN

*"Freely, Freely"*

UMH 389

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude in G Minor

Rachmaninoff

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

\*Please stand as you are able.

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**Visitors are warmly welcomed!**

Thanks to all those making special contributions to our worship service today; Rona Hovasapian, Liturgist; Sandra Purdy, Greeters and Ushers; Mark Davis, AV Tech

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### The Prayer Corner

*Payers 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; for God's guidance and direction as we enter a new church year at WUMC.*

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### Altar Flower Dedication

Altar flowers this week are given by Christine Smith in honor of her sisters' birthday September 18<sup>th</sup>.

*"To a wonderful sister, Happy Birthday!"*