

WOODMONT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MINISTERS: All Members

PASTOR: The Rev. Jill E. Olds

DEACON TO ASSIST: Therese Eke

MUSIC: Bruce Barrett, Esdras Lubin, Wayne Kenyon, Carol Topitzer

May 15th, 2022

Fifth Sunday of Eastertide

Gift of the Spirit Sunday

**Please rise in body or spirit*

***Indicates gender neutral wording*

SONGS OF PRAISE

GREETING AND WELCOME

INTROIT (Congregation) "Sanctuary"

"Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You."

(John W. Thompson, Randy Scruggs 1982 Full Armor Publishing Company CCLI# 20029017)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: The gifts of the Spirit are many, and as varied as the species of plants in our budding gardens, and as diverse as creation itself.

Many: **The God who gives us all good things continues to bless our holy gathering.**

One: In this season of Eastertide, as we await with those first disciples the coming of the Holy Spirit...

Many: **...we nevertheless know that we are, in fact, deeply gifted...**

One: ...and deeply blessed. May we continue in a spirit of prayerful worship and exuberant joy as we await the dance into which God draws us.

Many: **Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

***HYMN 285:** O Holy Dove of God Descending

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Holy God, you appear in the dove, the wind, the rain, the flame, and in countless other ways. We see your expansive presence in creation, and we see it also in one another, and in ourselves. Reveal your presence to us this day, and allow our hearts to be transformed by your deep, abiding, and diverse love. It is in Your Name we pray, Amen.

THE GLORIA NCH #759 (unison) *

*Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray. God of creation, you know us all too well. You know that while we celebrate diversity, we also lean more towards diversity that is within our understanding. For our self-limiting ways, Holy One, forgive us and free us. Help us to see that you work within people we do not expect, in methods we cannot see, and in ways we cannot even imagine. May we remember that what we dismiss as unholy may be the very thing that fills another's soul, and draws them to you. In our diversity, help us also become one in mission and vision: in always seeking you. It is in Your Name we Pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND COMPASSION

ANTHEM "Made for the Glory of God" Please join in the chorus:

*I was made for the Glory of God.
Lovingly, I was made for the Glory of God.
I promise to live my life in service and in love.
If you take my hand we can pass that love around.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON(S): Acts 11: 1-18

One: May God bless the hearing and understanding of this holy word.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON: "The Diversity of the Spirit"

Esther Leiva, Beverley Byer, and The Rev. Jill Olds

MISSION MOMENT

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

DOXOLOGY *

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,

Praise Christ, all people here below.

Praise Holy Spirit, evermore,

One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

HONORING OUR COMMUNITY

Beverley Byer and Bettina Thiel

On this day, we honor and are especially grateful for the giftedness and service of:

† Bruce Barrett

† Beverley Byer

† Joe Cahill

† Dorothy Osanitsch

† Rob Schwartz

† Bettina Thiel

† The Regathering Team: Beverley Byer, Judith Doherty, Maureen Shea, Barbara Mackintosh, Bettina Thiel, Carol Topitzer, Ann Yost

† Becky Baker

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***HYMN #282**

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

***THE BENEDICTION**

THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Woodmont United Church of Christ Vision Statement

Woodmont United Church of Christ embodies God's unconditional love by ministering to the needs of people and the environment, striving to promote spiritual growth through scripture-driven, exuberant worship and advocating for peace and justice. We celebrate diversity and welcome all into a fellowship of acceptance, forgiveness, spiritual exploration, and discovery.

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Kim Osanitsch; Jasmine Pecor; the family of Lauren Warner, at the passing of her brother, Sgt. Robert Campanaro; the family of Fred Capolla; Jack Ferreira; Tricia Walker; Nancy Hall; Johanna; Lori Masters (a friend of Dorothy); John Standeiner (Dorothy Osanitsch's cousin); Betty (Deb Mason's mom); Betty (Wendy Cahill's mom); Kelly (Art and Ann's neighbor); Jecy (Ann Yost's godson); Tracy; all those who are suffering from the many effects of Covid; medical emergency personnel; all those impacted by natural disasters; those serving in the military; those suffering or recovering from addictions; the unemployed or under-employed; the homeless; those in prison; those suffering emotional illness; those suffering religious persecution; peacemakers; the staff and churches of the Southern New England Conference UCC; and our elected leaders.

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**Next Sunday is CONFIRMATION SUNDAY! COME SUPPORT OUR CONFIRMANDS:**

**Patrick Paules-Harrold, Anthony Paules-Harrold, Hailey Cahill, and Cole Cahill**

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CHURCH LEADERSHIP RETREAT - Saturday, June 4th, 10am-3:30pm

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Fairfield, CT

Please join us for a church leadership retreat! Our day together will include time for fellowship, reflection, rest, and renewal. Lunch will be included. All are welcome! Please RSVP to Rev. Jill at revjillolds@gmail.com by Wednesday, May 25th so we can have a headcount for our lunch and supplies.

Hope to see you all there!

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The **Purple Pantry Box**, a vital mission that our church proudly supports, is holding a "FOOD RAISER" at Adams Grocery Store this Sunday, 9-4pm. Please consider dropping by Adams and donating some ***non-perishable food items*** for this very much needed community mission. Monetary donations welcome also!

**Woodmont United Church of Christ**

*An Open and Affirming Congregation since 2005*

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