

Woodmont United Church of Christ

Sunday, August 3, 2025



Our 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.

WOODMONT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MINISTERS: The Congregation

PASTOR: The Rev. Dr. Jill E. Olds

GUEST PREACHER: The Rev. Art Yost

READER: Ed Wilson

GREETER: Karen Sherwood

MUSIC: Emily Kropo

DIGITAL MINISTRY: Anthony Richardson

Sunday, August 3, 2025 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

**Please rise in body or spirit*

***Indicates gender neutral wording*

SONGS OF PRAISE

GREETING AND WELCOME

INTROIT (*unison, sung twice*) **“Sanctuary”**

*“Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living sanctuary for You.”*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God of the past who spoke through prophets to free us from self-destructing,

Many: We are here to thank you.

One: God of the future, who is tearing down the old world in order to build your sacred community in our midst,

Many: We are here because we trust your love for us.

One: God of the present who, in the giftedness of our diversity, creates us to be one,

Many: We are here to praise you and share a Holy Communion with you.

One: God of life that surprises us when we find how much you love us,

Many: We celebrate your grace.

***HYMN #332**

“As We Gather at Your Table”

(Hymn on page 6)

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Amazing God, we honor and celebrate your presence among us here and at home, this time and all times during our week. We rejoice in your goodness and delight in your creation of all humanity who share in your likeness. We lament the suffering present in the world and find courage in knowing that you are with us. Make us even more aware of your presence and mold us that we might better represent your image to everyone. Receive our praise and our commitment to be your beloved community. 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.*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

How can we forget them, merciful God, those who have been thrown aside in the world, those whose cries are no longer heard by those wielding power? How can we judge them, those who make choices with which we disagree, those who are different from us? How can we still follow the hurlers of angry words, the purveyors of prejudice?

Continue to teach us better ways of living and doing, God of grace. You gather us from our foolishness, so we might be led to acts of mercy. You redeem us from our mistakes so we might be with and feed those who hunger for hope. Your compassion, so warm and tender, is gifted to us through Jesus, the Christ. So, it is in the sacrificial love of Jesus that we ask, not only for forgiveness, but also for an increased sense of what we can be because of your love and grace. Amen

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23
 Luke 12:13-21

Pew bible page 536
Pew bible page 847

One: We have heard these words from Scripture. May we find within them the Word of God.

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

SERMON

“There Is A Time for Every Purpose”

The Rev. Art Yost

MISSION MOMENT

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

DOXOLOGY #780 (unison) *

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all creatures here below.
Praise Holy Spirit, evermore,
One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.*

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****PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy One, In response to your Word in our lives, we ask you to bless this offering we bring, financial, from the work of our hands, and our spiritual desire to have you use us as we prepare to partake in the banquet you have given us. Amen

***HYMN # 342 “Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread”**

(Hymn on page 7)

HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: May God be with you.

All: May God also be with you.

One: People of God, open us your hearts and minds.

All: We open them to God and one another.

One: Beloved Community of God, give thanks for God’s sacrificial love.

All: It is right to give thanks to the One who offers us lives filled with grace.

COMMUNION PRAYER (seated)

Rev. Art

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE LOAF AND CUP

THE LORD’S PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***HYMN # 575**

“O For A World”

(Hymn on page 7)

***THE BENEDICTION**

THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

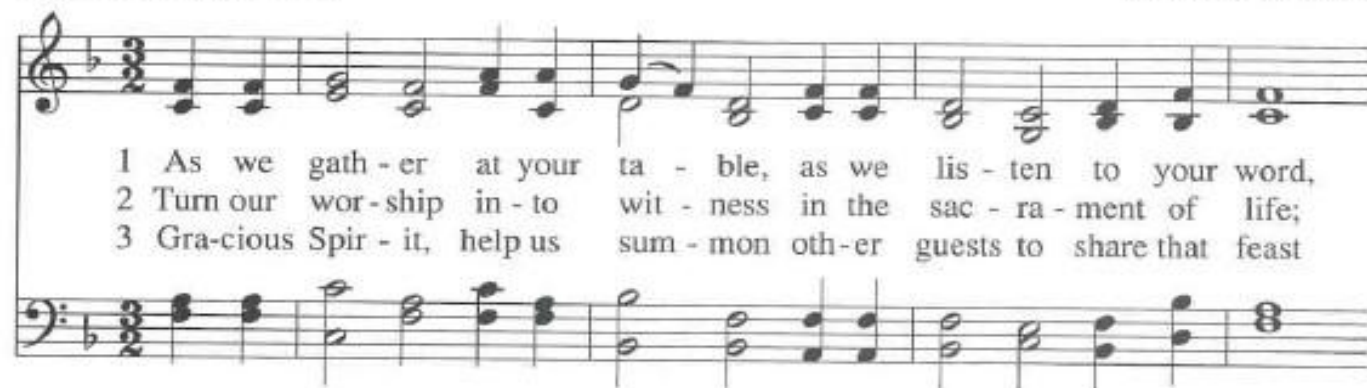
A MESSAGE FROM REV. JILL

I will be away from Thursday, July 10th - Monday, August 4th for our denomination's General Synod gathering, and for vacation. During that time, I will have limited access to email, but I'll look forward to responding to your inquiry upon my return.

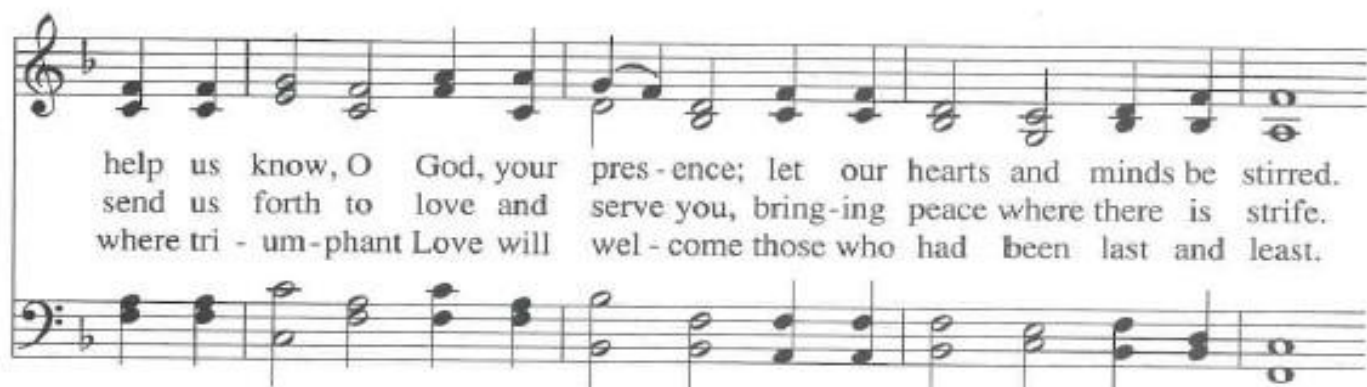
If you have a pastoral emergency, back-up coverage is available. Requests for contact information can be directed to Carol Topitzer in the church office, at (203) 878-3885 and at woodmontucc@gmail.com.

Matt. 22:1-10; Luke 14:16-24

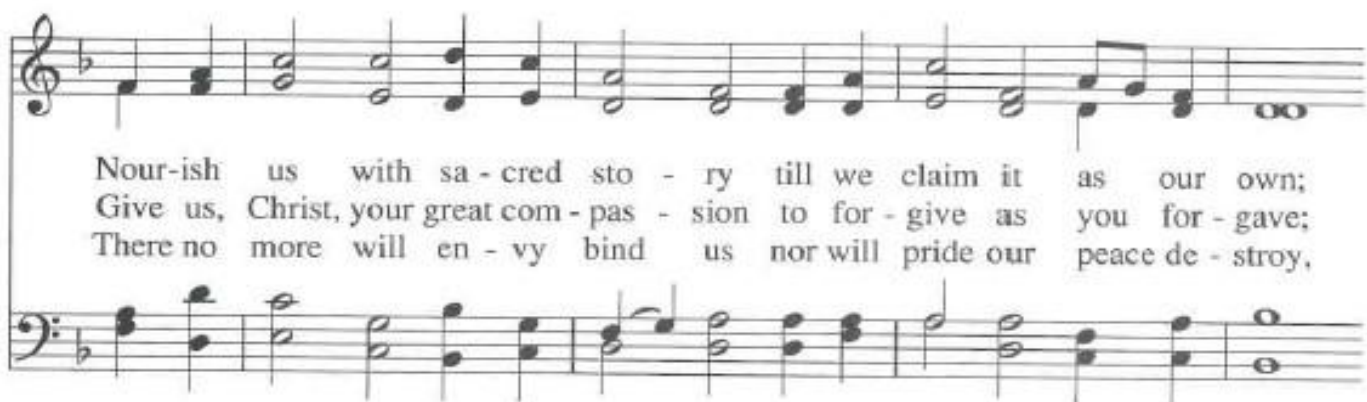
Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989



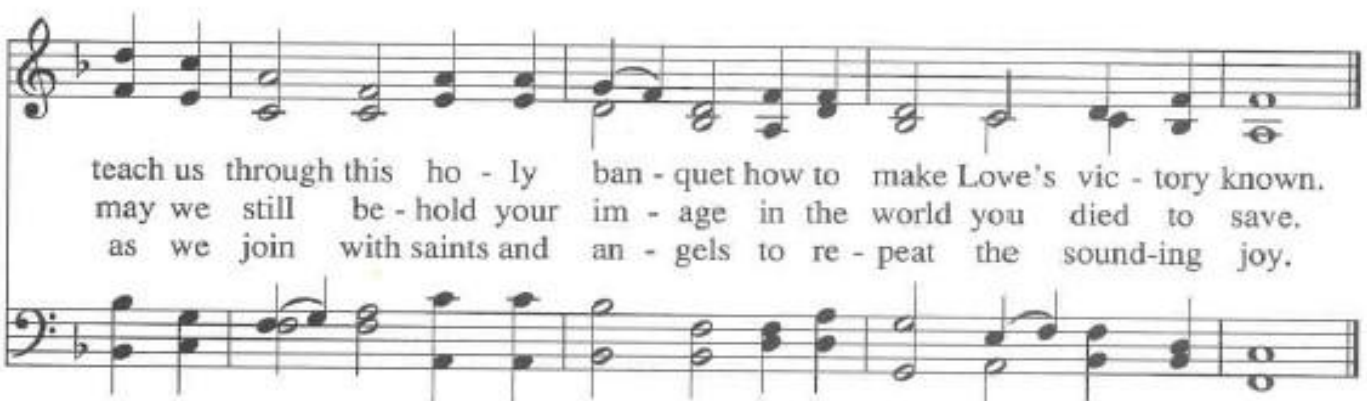
1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.



Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



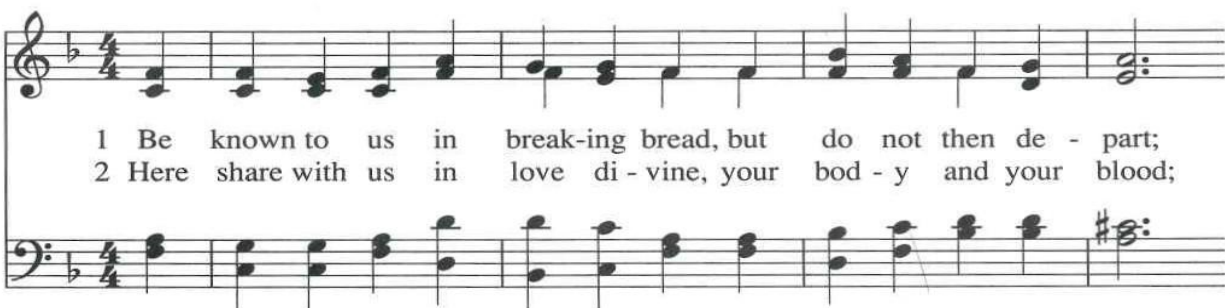
teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

342

James Montgomery, 1825; alt.

Luke 24:30-31, 35



1 Be known to us in break-ing bread, but do not then de - part;
2 Here share with us in love di - vine, your bod - y and your blood;



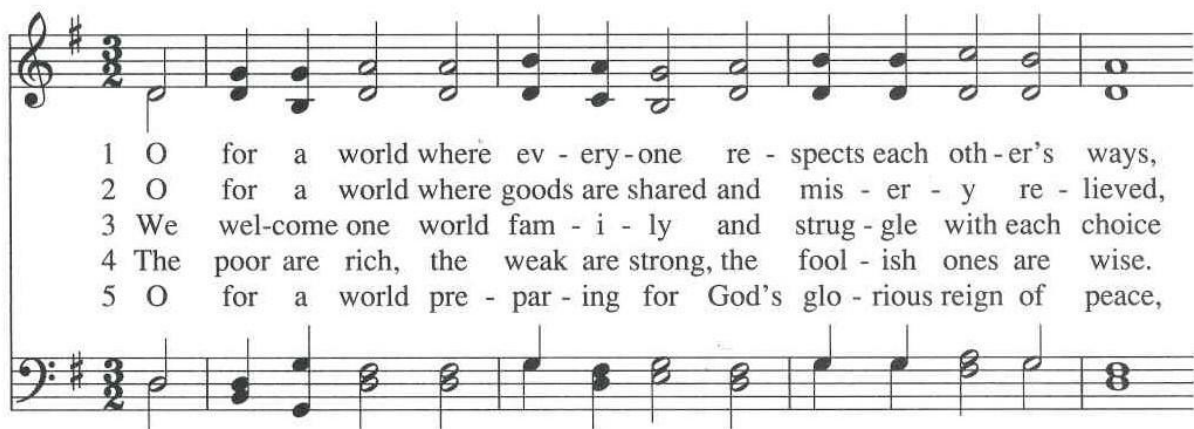
O Sav - ior, stay with us and spread your ta - ble in our heart.
That liv - ing bread, that heaven-ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

O for a World

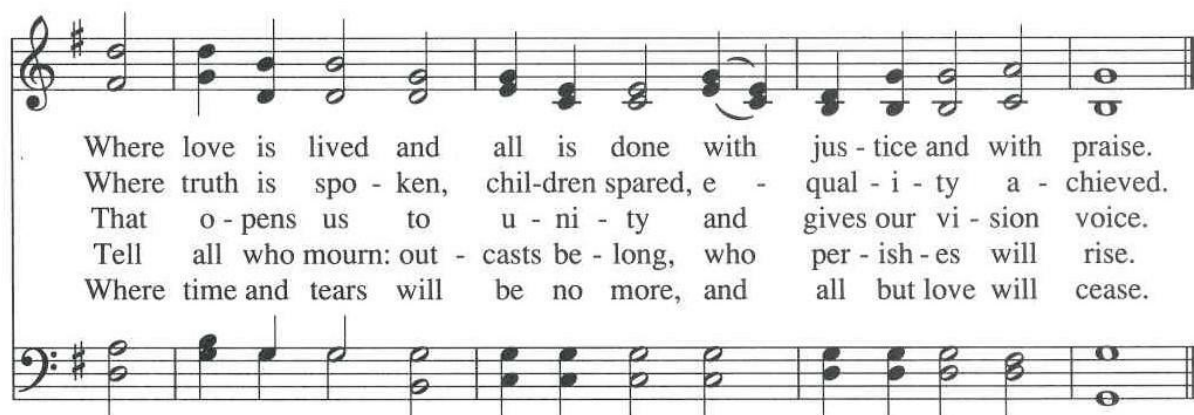
575

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Acts 4:32-35; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; 1 Pet. 3:8-12



1 O for a world where ev - ery-one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel-come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,



Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil-dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

♥ *In Our Prayers...*

Terry, fighting lymphoma (friend of Barbara Viets); Packy Paules (Ginna's brother); the Camarro family; John Stanley (Tricia's husband); Eileen and Dave Doyle; Audrey, family, and friends of Don Moore, on his passing; Danielle; Cindy Volpe, for healing; the family and friends of Nancy Hall, on her passing; Kim's niece, Kali (and three young children), whose husband Brian took his own life; Becky Baker and her family; the family of Vicki Riggione upon her passing; Deborah Jones (Hibbard), going through chemo and radiation; Bob Gavigan recovering from a stroke; Cathy Markle recovering from a stroke; Lissa's grandmother Ella, as she is hospitalized with a head injury after a fall; the family of Jasmine Pecor, upon her passing; Melissa Osanitsch Schwartz, as she recovers from surgery; Alana Masciana and her family; Ellouise McDonald & Wendy McDonald (friends of Bev); Brittany Silveira (Maureen's daughter); Tricia Walker; Raymond Ianniello (Audrey's brother-in-law); Jecy (Ann Yost's godson); medical & emergency personnel; those impacted by hurricanes, wildfires, and other natural disasters; those serving in the military; those suffering or recovering from addictions; the unemployed or under-employed; the homeless; those in prison; peacemakers; those suffering emotional illness; those suffering religious persecution; the staff and churches of the Southern New England Conference UCC; and our elected leaders.

NOTE: Please inform the church office or Rev. Jill if you would like to have someone's name added (please seek permission first), or removed. Please also note that you may be hearing from us every so often, so that we can keep the prayer list updated.

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### **AUGUST MISSION SUPPORT – THE PURPLE PANTRY**

Beginning today, please use the green envelopes in your bulletin to make your donations. These funds will be used to supplement our food supply for the Purple Pantry box.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support!



## **Church Office Hours**

### **Rev. Jill's Office Hours:**

Mon. & Thurs. 9:30 am - 3:00 pm, Tues. afternoons by appointment

### **Carol's Office Hours:**

Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 11am - 3pm

*Hours are somewhat flexible, so kindly call ahead, appointments preferred.*

*Also note: Rev. Jill's days off are Fridays & Saturdays.*

*She does not check emails during that time, and will only return phone messages on those days in the event of an emergency.*

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## **Woodmont United Church of Christ**

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