

# The First Church of Christ Woodbridge

(United Church of Christ)

Established in 1738

An Open, Welcoming, and Affirming  
Congregation



Shepard Parsons, Senior Pastor

Nenad Iovic, Director of Instrumental Music

Faye Chen, Director of Choir and Handbell Choir

Bob Turner, Facilities Custodian

**THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE  
EPIPHANY  
JANUARY 26, 2020**

## Preparation

*A life of hospitality begins in worship, with a recognition of God's grace and generosity. Hospitality is not first a duty and responsibility; it is first a response of love and gratitude for God's love and welcome to us.*

— Christine Pohl

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

Welcome to our service of worship. It is no accident you are here today. Feel free use this time before worship to make the transition from “getting here” to “being here.” Take a few moments to get in touch with the calm places, the still, deep places in you. Relax your body; follow the meanderings of your thoughts. Be aware of those around you. Feel the spirit of the community. Feel the Spirit of God.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Cathy Hubbard

(Please stand if you are able.)

Leader: This is the time and this is the place;

**People: Here and now God wants to break into our experience: to change our minds, to change our lives, to change our ways;**

Leader: To make us see the world and the whole of life in a new light; to fill us with hope, joy and courage for the future.

**People: This is the place, as are all places; this the time as are all times. Here and now, let us praise God!**

**HYMN: #55 Black Hymnal** *Rejoice, You Pure in Heart*

## OPENING PRAYER

(Please be seated.)

Leader: Sisters and brothers, let us ask God to take our service of worship and make it holy.

**People: Dear Lord, as we gather this morning to sing Your praise and offer our prayers, to hear Your word and dare to dream, please make holy our time together.**

**Fill us up with faith so in the moments and days ahead we may**

trust Your faithfulness to us. Pour Your hope into our lives in such quantity that it overflows into the world. Flood our lives with Your love that we may walk upon its waters in service to You. As we worship You this morning open our eyes and change our lives in preparation for the coming Realm of Jesus Christ, in Whose name we pray. Amen.

**SINGING TO GOD’S GLORY** (unison) (Please stand.)

Let all things their Creator bless,  
And worship God in humbleness:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God and Jesus Christ the Son,

And Holy Spirit, Three in One:

O Praise God, O Praise God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Please sit and remain seated for hymn.)

**HYMN: #233 Red Hymnal** *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND PASTORAL PRAYER**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** (using “debts”)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

**MESSAGE FOR ALL**

**PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Please stand.)

“The peace of Christ be with you.”

“And also with you.”

**THE FIRST LESSON:** Philippians 4:4-9 (page 1024)

(Please be seated.)

**THE SECOND LESSON:** Zechariah 9:9-12 (page 824)

(Please be seated.)

**SERMON** *Cheerleaders for Hope* Rev. Shepard Parsons

**THE CALL TO OFFERING**

Leader: Whatever we give, it is never enough and it is sufficient.

Let us give freely so the cries of the world may turn to song. The morning’s offering will now be given and received to the glory of God.

**Offertory:** *Instrumental*

**Doxology:** 514 Red/778 Black (Please stand.)

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow

Praise Him, all creatures here below

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication** (unison)

All: Compared to the ocean of need our offerings seem utterly inconsequential; but You take the smallest of things and feed thousands, lighting the world on fire. Bless these gifts to Your use alone. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

**HYMN: #408 Black Hymnal** *All My Hope on God Is Founded*

**BENEDICTION:**

*On the number rack, hymns from the red Pilgrim Hymnal are designated with a “P” and those from the black New Century Hymnal with a “C.” Extra hymnals are in the lower pew rack*