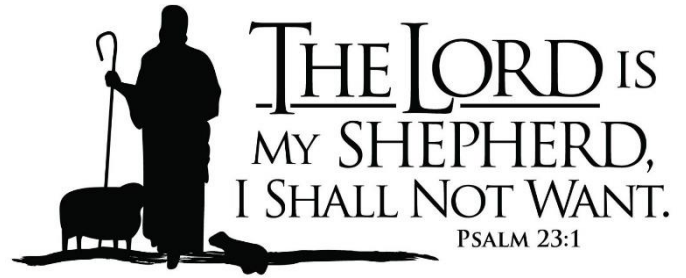


**Woodslee United Church**  
**Sunday, May 31, 2026**  
**Minister: The Rev. Carl Emke**  
**Pianist for Today: Diana Dennis**  
**Worship Leader: Janet Lord**



As you enter the sanctuary this morning, remember that we are entering a space in which we worship Almighty God. By your hushed reverence, please allow those who are already seated to focus their hearts on ways in which God might be speaking to them. At the same time, ask God to speak to your own heart. May the music that you hear be a blessing to your soul.

## **PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP – PRELUDE**

**PRE-WORSHIP SINGING – (Starting at 9:50 a.m.)**

## **THE WORSHIP SERVICE**

**REFLECTIONS and PRAISE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES**

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:**

We light the Christ candle to remind us that we want the light of Christ to shine on our time of worship; and that the words that the Pastor shares would point us to that light. This is the

understanding of the symbolism of the lighted candle in front of the pulpit.

Jesus said in John 8:12, **“I am the Light of the World: the one who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”**

We are thankful for this year and this day when God has given us opportunities to worship Him with others of like precious faith. The Christ candle reminds us that we need Jesus Christ to guide us in each step that we take as we walk with God. We want to ‘step’ in the light of Jesus.

This morning, the Christ Candle will be lit by Tim Pearce.

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP: “This Is the Day” (#412 in V.U., vs. 1)**

**PRAYER OF APPROACH:**

**Gracious God, We come to you today just as we are. Some of us are carrying heavy things – worry about people we love, grief we have not finished felling, questions we cannot answer, fears we carry quietly.**

**Some of us are tired. Some of us are grateful. Some of us are not quite sure what we are. But we are here. And we believe – or we are trying to believe – that you are here too. Meet us in this space today.**

**Speak to us through the old words of the psalm. Remind us that we are known, that we are held, that no valley is too dark for your presence to find us. We open our hearts to you now. Come, Good Shepherd. We are listening. Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S STORY**

**THE LORD'S 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 them that 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:** Diana Dennis is the pianist for today. As we listen to the music she presents, allow your heart to absorb the blessing of God. God is in the business of speaking to us as long as we are in the business of listening to Him.

**PREPARATION FOR PRAYER:** Please remain seated as the pianist plays # 400 "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" (sung twice)

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

**HYMN:** # 395 "Come In, Come In and Sit Down"

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Psalm 23; p. 435-436 in the Bible in the pews.

**SERMON:** "The Lord is My Shepherd"

## **OUR GIFTS IN SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH:**

The Bible tells us: "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all His benefits."

We read in Deuteronomy, "No one shall come into the presence of the Lord empty-handed. Each of you shall bring such a gift as he can in proportion to the blessing which the Lord your

God has given you.” The ushers will now receive the offering.

**HYMN OF DEDICATION: MV #191 “What Can I Do?” (2 X)**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**

**Generous God, You have given us green pastures and still waters. You have restored our souls more times than we can count. You have walked with us through the valleys we thought would never end.**

**Out of all that you have given us, we return a portion now – gratefully, and freely. May these gifts go where they are needed. May they carry something of your goodness into the lives of people who are still looking for the shepherd. Receive what we offer, and multiply it in ways we cannot imagine. Amen.**

**HYMN: “The Lord’s My Shepherd” (pg. 747 VU)**

**COMMISSIONING**

**BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION: “Go Now In Peace”**

**POSTLUDE**

Woodslee Pastoral Charge CCLI # 465534

**Right after the service**, please stay for a time of friendship and fellowship in the Hall. We hope that everyone can stay and enjoy this time together. The friendships are a blessing, and the time together is a treat.

**Thought for the Day:** “The Lord is with me, I will not be afraid”

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please keep all those listed on our Church Family Prayer list in your prayers as well as all those living in care homes.

Please also pray for family members of individuals who are facing the challenges of depression and the struggles that come with that. Pray for all of the people who are trying to understand their own feelings of loneliness and discouragement – that they may allow God to surround them with His love.

Please pray for those who are victims of injustice; for the families of those who are needlessly killed; for people who are brutalized and charged with crimes they have never committed. We know that this happens world-wide, in many races and cultures. Help us to treat all people with the respect and kindness they deserve.

### **THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE:**

- Monday – from 12:30 - 4 p.m. -The Woodslee Friendship Club plays euchre at the Church.
- Monday – evening – Karate at the Church.
- Tuesday – The Knotty Blanketeers meet this afternoon.
- Wednesday – from 12:30 - 4 p.m. – The Woodslee Friendship Club plays pepper at the Church.
- Wednesday – evening – Karate at the Church
- Thursday – Stewards Meeting at the Church, 7 pm
- Sunday – 10:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Worship

**Board Meeting** – June 18, 2026, 7 pm. Committee Reports to be submitted. Discussion on upcoming events. All members are welcome to attend.

**IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE** – about what is going on in the wider United Church as a denomination, please google or call the United Church of Canada. You will be able to find out what mission causes are supported and what our official response is to various issues that arise in different parts of the globe.

**Woodslee United Church - Service Time: 10:00 am**

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P. O. Box 35, Woodslee N0R 1V0

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**Church E-Mail Address: [woodsleeuc@gmail.com](mailto:woodsleeuc@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.woodsleeunitedchurch.com](http://www.woodsleeunitedchurch.com)**

**Minister:** The Rev. Carl Emke

**Phone:** 226-275-2118 **Email:** [revemke@gmail.com](mailto:revemke@gmail.com)

Typical working hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Hours may change for meetings or  
appointments.