

Woodslee United Church

Sunday, July 5, 2026

Matthew 11:25-30

Minister: The Rev. Carl Emke

Pianist for Today: Anita Leschied



For my yoke is easy and
my burden is light.

Matthew 11:30

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 Eunice Lucas.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP: “To God Be the Glory”

PRAYER OF APPROACH: Heavenly Father, we come before You today, and in our hearts, we bow in Your presence. Hold on to us, Lord, because there are times when our own grip on what we think we can do on our own can let us down. Remind us by Your Spirit that You never let us down. You hold us in Your hands and You provide the strength we need to face each day.

As we worship You, we open our hands to Your will for us. Remind us not to tell You how to run our lives, but we would ask You to direct us to the pathway that You know we need. As the world hears us, we ask that they would hear You speaking through us. Speak to us through our worship today that we might reflect Your will and Your love. In the name of Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

HYMN: # 395 “Come In, Come In and Sit Down”

RECOGNITION OF CANADA DAY: July 1st was the 157th Birthday

of our great nation. Singing of “O Canada”

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.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – A NEW CREED: We are not alone, we live in God’s world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Anita Leschied 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: # 652 “Be Still, My Soul”

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:25-30; p. 792 in the Bible in the pews.

SERMON: “Take His Yoke – and That’s No Joke!”

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

HYMN: # 657 “He Leadeth Me”

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please remember to pray for all those listed on our church family prayer list and all members 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 morning.
- Wednesday – from 12:30 - 4 p.m. – The Woodslee Friendship Club plays pepper at the Church.
- Wednesday – evening – Karate at the Church.
- Thursday – 7 p.m. – Viewing of “The Chosen” with discussion following.
- Sunday – 10:00 a.m. – Worship in the Hall. Remember, no Sunday School for the summer.

THANK YOU FROM REV. EMKE:

From the bottom of my heart, I am thankful to the church family here at Woodslee for the wonderful celebration of the 40th Anniversary of my Ordination. You gave such meaningful tributes as you went 'all out' to make it a fantastic day. The decorations were 'above and beyond'; the food was superb; the music was 'top notch'! There were many lovely surprises and special treats. The lamb that I was given is standing quietly of my desk. Thank you for following the sheep theme in so many ways. Your cards and well-wishes are a treasure.

So many people did so much to help to decorate and prepare food. It was really appreciated. Thank you for being the kind and gracious people that you are. The musicians and singers were a 'noteworthy' addition to the day. It is a privilege and honour to serve here among you. Together, we serve a risen Saviour!

- Rev. Carl Emke

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.

Thought for the Day: "People are not the author of your story. God is." - from Joel Osteen, in his book, "Speak the Blessing."

Woodslee United Church - Service Time: 10:00 am

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