

**University Presbyterian Church
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Sunday, February 18, 2024

**The Rev. Dr. Tom Yorty, Interim Pastor
Gregory White, Organist
Allan Andrews, Minister of Music & Choral Director**

Services are live-streamed on YouTube at: <https://tinyurl.com/upcbuffalo>

1st Sunday in Lent, February 18, 2024
Service for the Lord's Day
10:30 a. m.

AS YOU PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

In order that people may listen to the music or pray in silence without distraction, please refrain from conversation after the music begins and kindly silence all cell phones. Thank you.

Children of all ages are welcome to remain in worship. A playroom is available near the sanctuary for young children who are accompanied by their parents.

Prayer Requests: If you have a prayer request which you would like the pastor to include in "Prayers of the People," please fill out the yellow prayer request slip found in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate when passed. Ushers will take them from the plate and when the offering is brought forward, hand them to the Pastor.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude

Herzliebster Jesu
Ah, Holy Jesus

Phillip McIntyre

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (*please stand, if able*)

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in love.

Litany for Lent

For forty days and nights the rain fell,
and the waters covered the face of the earth.
Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

For forty years the people wandered
seeking the land of God's promise.
Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.
Moses spent forty days on the mountain,

learning the commandments of God.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Elijah traveled forty days in the wilderness
to hear the voice of God in the silence.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Jonah cried out to the people of Nineveh:
Repent, or in forty days you will perish.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days
and was tested by the devil.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you give your life to save us,
even though we crucify you.

Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Hymn #166

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

Confession and Pardon

The Invitation:

In the name of Christ, I urge you:
be reconciled to God.

The Prayer:

**God of mercy,
you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.
we confess that we have strayed from you
and turned aside from your way.
We are misled by pride,
for we see ourselves pure when we are stained,**

**and great when we are small.
We have failed in love,
neglected justice,
and ignore your truth.**

**Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin.
Return us to paths of righteousness
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

There follows a moment of silent personal confession

The Pardon:

Listen, the time has come at last.
Look, now is the day of Salvation!

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Amen.**

Kyrie: *See Insert*

Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

Sharing the Peace and Greetings

*As God's forgiven people we extend the peace of Christ to one another
saying, "the peace of Christ be with you."*

Sung response Hymn #822

**Shalom to you now, shalom my friends.
May God's full mercies, bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination:

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness,
guide us, by your Word, through these forty day,
and minister to us with your Holy Spirit,

so that we may reformed, restored, and renewed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Genesis 9:8-17 (p. 7 of the OT in bible)

Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:9-15 (p. 34 of the NT in bible)

And from the cloud there came a voice, saying:
This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!

Thanks be to God!

Anthem Give Me Jesus arr. Mark Patterson
 African American Spiritual
 Tiffany Whitefield, Saxophone

Sermon "God Everywhere"

Hymn #170 You Walk along Our Shoreline

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Voluntary Walk with Me Phillip McIntyre
 I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

Doxology Hymn #606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication of Offering

Ordination & Installation of Officers

We are all called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism,
and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit.

This is our common calling,

to be disciples of Jesus Christ
and servants of our servant Lord.

Within the community of the church,
some are called to particular service
as deacons, as ruling elders,
and as ministers of Word and Sacrament.

Ordination is Christ's gift to the church,
assuring that his ministry continues among us.
Through ordination, God provides
for acts of care and compassion in the world,
for the ordering and governance of the church,
and for the preaching of the word
and celebration of the sacraments.

Constitutional Questions for the Candidates

In baptism,
you were claimed by the love of God,
clothed in the grace of Jesus Christ,
and anointed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit
to share Christ's mission in the world.

Now you are called by God through the voice of the church
for new service and ministry in Jesus' name.

In accordance with the Constitution
of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),
show your commitment to this calling
by responding to these questions:

Do you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ your Savior,
acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church,
and through him believe in one God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? **I do.**

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments
to be, by the Holy Spirit,
the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ
in the Church universal,
and God's Word to you? **I do.**

Do you sincerely receive and adopt

The essential tenets of the Reformed faith
as expressed in the confessions of our church
Do we, the members of the church,

As authentic and reliable expositions
of what Scripture leads us to believe and do,
and will you be instructed and led by those confessions
as you lead the people of God? **I do and I will.**

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ,
under the authority of Scripture,
and be continually guided by our Confessions? **I will.**

Will you be governed by our church's polity,
and will you abide by its discipline?
Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry,
working with them,
subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit? **I will.**

Will you in your own life
seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ,
love your neighbors,
and work for the reconciliation of the world? **I will.**

Do you promise to further the peace, unity,
and purity of the church? **I do.**

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people
with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? **I will.**

For Deacons

Will you be a faithful deacon,
teaching charity, urging concern,
and directing the people's help
to the friendless and those in need,
and in your ministry will you try to show
the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

For Ruling Elders

Will you be a faithful ruling elder,
watching over the people,
providing for their worship, nurture, and service?
Will you share in government and discipline,
serving in councils of the church,

And in your ministry will you try to show
The love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

Do we, the members of the church,
accept these friends as *ruling elders and deacons*,
chosen by God through the voice of this congregation
to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for *them*, to encourage *them*,
to respect *their* decisions, and to follow as *they* guide us,
serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

Prayer for Ordination
(*Those ordained as elders and deacons
may come forward for the laying on of hands*)

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Gracious and eternal God,
with joy we give you thanks and praise.

Throughout the ages and in every place
you have chosen servants from among your people
to point the way to salvation by your grace.

We are grateful for ancestors in the faith
who followed without fear,
placing their trust in you alone—
for judges and monarchs
who ruled in righteousness and peace;
for prophets and apostles
who spoke your bold words of mercy and of truth;
for leaders and teachers in every age
who have nurtured your people in faith and faithfulness.

Above all, we praise you for Jesus Christ,
who came not to be served, but to serve,
and to give his life to set others free.
Anointed by your Holy Spirit,
he proclaimed your reign on earth,
revealing your saving love
in all he said and did.

Gracious God,
pour out your Spirit upon these your servants whom you called by
baptism as your own.
Grant them the same mind
that was in Christ Jesus.

Gracious God,
Help them to rely on the gifts of your Spirit
and to follow Christ faithfully in this calling.

Give them a spirit of truthfulness
that *they* may show the compassion of Christ
in the actions of daily living
and rightly govern your people.

Declaration of Ordination and Installation

You are deacons and ruling elders,
ordained and installed into ministries of service and governance
in the church of Jesus Christ and for this congregation.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and 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 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 forever. Amen.

Hymn #231 Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers

Benediction

Postlude Rockingham Phillip McIntyre
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
(The congregation is invited to remain seated during the Postlude)

Chancel flowers are given by Connie Michael
in memory of her parents, Emily and Aaron Wells

Participating in Worship:

The Rev. Dr. Tom Yorty, Interim Pastor

Gregory White, Organist

Allan Andrews, Minister of Music & Choral Director

Priscilla Maddock, Liturgist

Greeters: Amy Maundrell, Kathryn Hallborg

Live streamer: Val Macer

Next Sunday:

Liturgist: Val Macer

Greeters: Pat Cookfair-Casseri, Sharon Melius

Live streamer: Scott Horton

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THIS WEEK ...

Sunday, February 18	9:30 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship
	11:30 am	UPC Students & Friends Bible Study
	11:30 am	Lenten Study
Monday, February 19	<i>President's Day</i>	<i>Church Office closed</i>
Tuesday, February 20	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Wednesday, February 21	7:00 pm	Session
Thursday, February 22	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
	7:30 pm	Choir
Sunday, February 25	9:30 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship
	11:30 am	Birthday Cake
	11:30 am	Lenten Study

Today's service music is in honor of **Black History Month**; music composed by the late **Phillip Bernette McIntyre** who was born on February 2, 1951, in Portsmouth, VA. Beginning piano studies at age six, he eventually received a Master of Music degree from Catholic University. He served numerous churches as music director and organist and was noted for ability to take choir members without formal training and transform his choirs into excellent ensembles. A gifted composer, conductor, service player and improviser, today's service music is most likely taken from his improvisations. Phillip McIntyre died on March 21, 1991, at the age of 41 in Washington, D.C.

Prelude: *Hertzleister Jesu (Ah, Holy Jesus)* is colored with dissonances, symbolizing the death and suffering of Christ on the cross.

Voluntary: *Where You there?* is composed in a plaintive and reflective style using chromatic harmonies, suspensions, and mild dissonance for harmonic interest.

Postlude: *Rockingham (When I Survey the Wondrous Cross)* is written with homophonic texture and lush harmonies and remains true to the tune of this hymn. Harmonic variants and an interlude leading to the conclusion, marked by crescendos to full organ with a triumphant conclusion.

UPC Students & Friends Bible Study: John McClester will be leading the UPC Students & Friends Bible Study this semester. The study will be today, March 10, and April 21. This group meets on Sundays after worship in the Mary & Martha Room (off the narthex). Join us!

Welcome Visitors

University Presbyterian Church (UPC), the members and officers, welcomes you today. Your presence strengthens our faith and our commitment as Christ's disciples.

University Presbyterian Church welcomes all who seek to follow the Way of Jesus—the way of compassion and justice—regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identification. UPC does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in celebrating the rites of marriage.

University Presbyterian Church Officers and Staff

The Rev. Dr. Tom Yorty	Interim Pastor
Organist	Gregory White
Minister of Music & Choral Director	Allan Andrews
Treasurer	James W. Smyton
Clerk of Session	Pat Cookfair-Casseri
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Stephen Ministry Referral Coordinator	Kathryn F. Hallborg
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Custodian	David Winiarski

Mission Statement of University Presbyterian Church

We are a hungry people who receive Christ, the Bread of Life, who sustains us on our journey. We strive to feed as we are fed, sharing the Bread to nourish others in body, mind and spirit.

“Let Us Be Bread”