

University Presbyterian Church



Sunday, March 15, 2026

10:30 a.m.

4th Sunday in Lent, March 15, 2026
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. Also, please do not bring any food or beverage, other than water, in the sanctuary. 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.

THE GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude

Arabesque

Louis Vierne

24 Pieces en style libre, Op. 13, Livre II

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship (from Psalm 146)

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to God all my life long.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord:

Who made heaven and earth, and all that is in them.

Who executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoner free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow,

But the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

***Prayer of the Day**

Gracious God, in order that the children of earth might discern good from evil you sent your Son to be the light of the world. As Christ shines upon us, may we learn what pleases you, and live in all truth and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Hymn #12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
St. Denio

Welsh Folk Melody

THE CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession (from Psalm 103:8)

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Confident of God's character, let us confess our sins together so that we might receive healing and peace.

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and merciful God, we continue to want more, blind to the blessings we already possess. We want everything now, blind to the value of patience and hard work. We take so much delight in our own accomplishments that we are blind to people in need. Forgive us! Cleanse us of our entitlement, anxiousness and pride. Help us see the world with your eyes so that we can be people of gratitude, courage and compassion, because of what we see in Christ Jesus our Lord. *(Time for Silent Prayer)*
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (from Jeremiah 33:31-34)

“The days are surely coming,” says the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel. I will put my law within them; I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God and they shall be my people. I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.”

We believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and our sins are remembered no more.

*Hymn #581 Glory Be to the Father Henry W. Greatorex
Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

*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

Holy, magnificent God, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, allow us to see you clearly in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. **Amen**

Responsive Reading Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they
comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

First Scripture Reading Ephesians 5:8–14 (NT p. 194)

Second Scripture Reading John 9:1-41 (NT p. 102)

Anthem

Cantate!
Sanctuary Choir

Emily Crocker

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Seeing Our Blindness

*Hymn # 415

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

Restoration

Walker's Southern Harmony

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Voluntary

Andante

Louis J.-A. Lefébure-Wely

*Doxology

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

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 #739

O for a Closer Walk with God

Scottish Psalter

Cathness

*Benediction

Postlude

Choeir de Voix humaines

Paul Fey

Trumpet Tune in G Major

*Please stand or rise in spirit as you are able and feel so led.

† Liturgy written by Tracey Davenport and provided for free distribution for © Presbyterian Outlook, 2026.

One License #: A-723910

Participating in Worship:

The Rev. Dr. Christine James, Pastor

Rebecca Kroetsch, Choir Director

Gregory White, Organist

Vicki Moorhouse, Liturgist

Grace Agbemenu & Sandy Robertson, Greeters

Val Macer, Live streamer

Linda Martin, Sunday School Assistant

Next Week:

Priscilla Maddock, Liturgist

Val Macer, Sharon Melius, Tom Somerville, Greeters

Nick Casseri, Live streamer

Scott Horton, Sunday School Assistant

This Week...

Sunday, March 15	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship Time
	11:30 am	Children's Choir
Tuesday, March 17	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Wednesday, March 18	7:00 pm	Session (in person)
Thursday, March 19	10:00 am	Property
	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
	6:30 pm	Zoom Prayer Service
Friday, March 20	<i>Deadline for Network Articles</i> <i>Easter Flower Orders Deadline</i>	
Saturday, March 21	7:30 pm	Vocalis Chamber Concert
Sunday, March 22	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship Time
	11:30 am	Children's Choir
	11:30 am	Hand bells

2026 Membership Directories: Now available in the narthex or church office.

Easter Flowers: We are again offering lilies and tulips. They are **\$12 per pot**. Please complete the form below and return it to the church office with payment by **March 20th**. In the Memo section of your check write Easter Flowers.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Dedication: _____

of Lilies _____

of Tulips _____

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University Presbyterian Church's Vision Statement

Let us be **BREAD:**

Beaming Christ's love to our neighbors and beyond

Resounding praise of God in worship with music while caring for one another and growing our faith

Enriching our neighborhood through creative use of our building

Acting with energy to foster a growing, vibrant, and welcoming church family

Developing diversity by engaging and welcoming all of God's beloved people

University Presbyterian Church Officers and Staff

Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Christine James
Organist	Gregory White
Choral Director	Rebecca Kroetsch
Treasurer	James W. Smyton
Clerk of Session	Pat Cookfair-Casseri
Stephen Ministry Referral Coordinator	Kathryn F. Hallborg
Administrative Assistant	Peg Kovach
Facilities Manager	Aaron Vivian
Custodian	Roll Tomosso

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