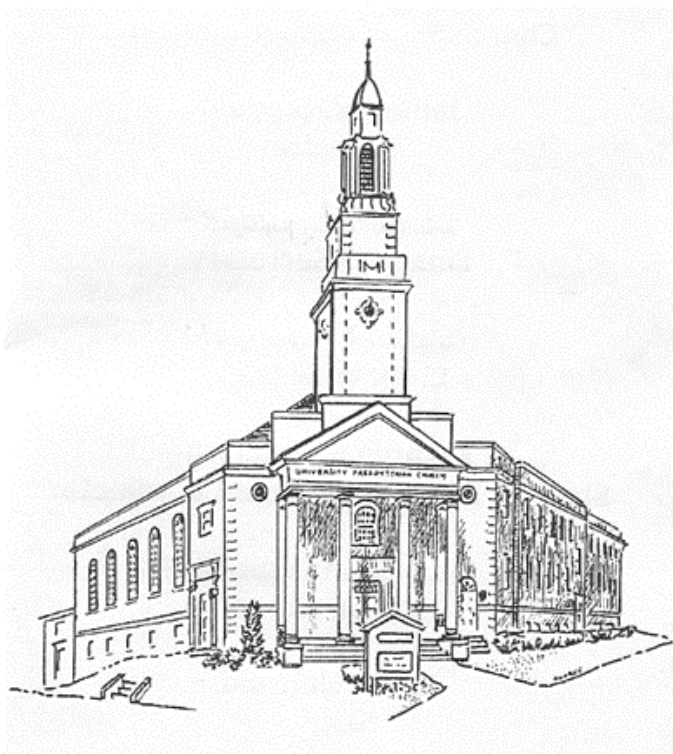


University Presbyterian Church

Installation of The Reverend Dr. Christine James



Sunday, October 12, 2025
3:00pm

Service of Installation for The Reverend Dr. Christine James as Pastor of University Presbyterian Church

As You Prepare for Worship

Thank you for joining us this afternoon as we install The Rev. Dr. Christine James as our next pastor. 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! If you would like to borrow a hearing device for the worship service, please see one of the Greeters.

GATHERING

Prelude

Suite Gothique, Op. 25
Introduction - Choral

Léon Boëllmann

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Christine James

Opening Sentences

Elder Duncan Hemink

Gal. 3:27; Eph. 4:4

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.
There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling.

Gathering Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, by your grace you have called us to this time and place to be your servant people as we follow our servant Lord. Make your Holy Spirit move within and among us, that together we may live a new life in the crucified and risen Christ. Bind us together in faith, so that as we receive all spiritual gifts needed to fulfill our calling, we may support one another in common ministry; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Hymn 450*

Be Thou My Vision
Slane

Irish Ballad

****Call to Confession***

Eph. 2:4–6

Rev. Jennifer Harris Dault

Even when we were dead through our sin, our merciful and loving God made us alive together with Christ and raised us up through him. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

****Prayer of Confession***

Merciful and loving God, you have called us to be your people and claimed us for the service of Jesus Christ. We confess that we have not lived up to our calling to proclaim the good news in word and deed.

We are quick to speak when we ought to listen and remain silent when it is time to speak. We put too much faith in our own actions and fail to trust the strength of your Spirit.

O God, forgive our foolish and sinful ways. Strengthen us anew to follow Christ’s way in the world. By your Holy Spirit, give us the grace we need to be faithful disciples and fulfill our common calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. (*Time of silent confession*) Amen.

****Assurance of Forgiveness***

Eph. 2:8

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.**

****Passing of the Peace***

Eph. 4:1–3

Lead a life worthy of your calling—with humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another in love, and making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

As God’s forgiven people we extend the peace of Christ to one another saying, “the peace of Christ be with you.”

WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Corey Gibson

Send us your Holy Spirit, O God, that these words might speak to us as your word, and our lives bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Micah 6:6-8

Anthem

Order my Steps
Sanctuary Choir

Arr. Jack Schrader

New Testament Readings

Romans 15: 13-14, 20-21
John 20:19-23

Rev. Laura Norris Buisch

Sermon

“Sent Out”

Rev. Laura Norris Buisch

**Hymn 69*

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky
Here I Am

Daniel L. Schutte

INSTALLATION

Sentences of Scripture

Rev. Katelyn Nutter Dowling

1 Cor. 12:4–7, 27

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God’s purpose that is accomplished.

To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

The Presbytery of Western New York, by means of this commission, welcomes Christine as a minister of Word and Sacrament and installs her as pastor of University Presbyterian Church.

Profession of Faith

As God calls some to particular forms of ministry, God calls us all to bear gladly the yoke of Christ given in the covenant of Baptism.

Let us, therefore, reaffirm our baptismal vows, renouncing all that opposes God and God's rule and affirming the faith of the holy catholic church.

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? **I do.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love? **I do.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?
I will, with God's help.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith. Do you believe in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Thanksgiving for Baptism

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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. We praise you for leading your people Israel through the waters of the sea, out of bondage and into freedom in the land of your promise. We praise you for sending Jesus your Son, who for us was baptized in the waters of the Jordan, and was anointed as the Christ by your Holy Spirit. Through the baptism of his death and resurrection you set us free from the bondage of sin and death, and give us cleansing and rebirth.

We praise you for pouring out your Holy Spirit, who teaches us and leads us into all truth, filling us with a variety of gifts, that we might proclaim the gospel to all nations and serve you as a royal priesthood.

We rejoice that you have claimed us in our baptism and anointed us for service in Christ's name, and that by your grace we are born anew. By your Holy Spirit renew us, that we may be empowered to do your will and continue forever in the risen life of Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever. **Amen.**

Remember your baptism and be thankful. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Constitutional Questions

Christine, 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 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? **I will.**

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.**

Will you be a faithful minister of Word and Sacrament, proclaiming the good news, teaching faith and caring for people? **I will.**

Will you be active in government and discipline, serving in the councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

Questions of the Congregation

Elder Pat Cookfair-Casseri

Do we, the members of the church, accept Christine as our pastor, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

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

Do we promise to pay her fairly and provide for her welfare as she works among us; to stand by her in trouble and share her joys? **We do.**

Will we listen to the word she preaches, welcome her pastoral care, and honor her authority as she seeks to honor and obey Jesus Christ our Lord? **We will.**

Prayer of Installation

Rev. Katelyn Nutter Dowling

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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, we also give you thanks for your servant Christine as she continues in the ministry to which you have called her. Help her to rely on the gifts of your Spirit and to follow Christ faithfully in this calling.

Give her a spirit of truthfulness that she may proclaim your Word in Christ from pulpit, table, and font, and in the words and actions of daily living.

By the gifts of your Holy Spirit empower her to build up the church, to strengthen the common life of your people, and to lead with compassion and vision.

In the walk of faith and for the work of ministry, give to all your servants gladness and strength, discipline and hope, humility, humor, and courage, and an abiding sense of your presence.

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit of power and truth upon the whole church, that we may be for you a holy people baptized to serve you in the world.

Sustain your church in ministry. Ground us in the gospel, secure our hope in Christ, strengthen our service to the outcast, and increase our love for one another.

Show us the transforming power of your grace in our life together, that we may be effective servants of the gospel, offering a compelling witness in the world to the good news of Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Declaration of Installation

Christine, you are now a minister of Word and Sacrament, in the church of Jesus Christ [and for this congregation].

Be faithful and true in your ministry so that your whole life will bear witness to the crucified and risen Christ. **Amen.**

Welcome

Charge to the Newly Ordained

Rev. Dr. Jason Cashing

Charge to the Congregation

****Hymn 726***

Will You Come and Follow Me
Kelvingrove

arr. John L. Bell

Offering

Rev. Abigail Trautman

Today's offering is for our Presbytery's Candidates Emergency Fund. With it we make gifts to ministry candidates who have financial emergencies or who need special kinds of training. It is an important part of our effort to make preparation for ministry a more personalized and caring relationship between the Church and the new minister. Your generous participation is important to all of us.

SENDING

Blessing and Charge

Rev. Dr. Christine James

Benediction

The Lord Bless You and Keep You
Sanctuary Choir

Peter C. Lutkin

Postlude

Toccata"
From: Suite Gothique, Op 25

Léon Boëllmann

Reception

All are invited to join us downstairs in the fellowship hall after worship for a reception.

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

Liturgy from the Book of Common Worship
One License #: A-723910

Thank you to all who participated in the service this afternoon!

Commission:

Rev. Dr. Jason Cashing	Clarence Presbyterian Church
Rev. Laura Norris Buisch	Riverside Presbyterian Church
Rev. Katelyn Nutter Dowling	Westminster Presbyterian Church, Moderator
Elder Pat Cookfair-Casseri	University Presbyterian Church
Elder Duncan Hemink	North Presbyterian Church Williamsville

Ecumenical Representation:

Rev. Corey Gibson	Calvary Baptist Church
Rev. Jennifer Harris Dault	Mennonite Church USA

Additional Participants:

Rev. Abigail Trautman	Presbytery of Western New York EP
Rev. Dr. Christine James	University Presbyterian Church

Organist	Gregory White
Choral Director	Rebecca Kroetsch
Greeters	Marietta Bratton, Nick Casseri, and Scott Horton
Live Stream	Val Macer

Thank you to the PNC who worked hard to find Rev. Dr. Christine James!

Pat Cookfair-Casseri	Gladys Gifford	Howard Henry
Cindy Hickey	Priscilla Maddock	Amy Maundrell
Matt Smith	Craig Steger	

Thank you to the PNC, Fellowship Committee, and Deacons for organizing the reception following the service in the fellowship hall downstairs!

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>