

**University Presbyterian Church  
3330 Main Street  
Buffalo, New York 14214-1316  
Phone: (716) 836-7660  
Fax: (716) 836-7662**

**www.upcbuffalo.org  
office@upcbuffalo.org**



**Sunday, July 20, 2025**

**The Reverend Dr. Tom Yorty, Interim Pastor  
Rebecca Kroetsch, Choral Director  
Gregory White, Organist**

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

6th Sunday after Pentecost, July 20, 2025  
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                                      Omit Prelude                                      arr. Diane Bish

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (*please stand if able*)

Christ is the image of the invisible God;  
**in him the fullness of God came to dwell.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Eternal God, Author of our life and End of our pilgrimage:  
Guide us by your Word and Spirit amid all perils and  
temptations, that we may not wander from your way,  
nor stumble in the darkness; but may finish our course in  
safety, and come to our eternal rest in you; through the grace  
and merit of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with  
you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Hymn #331

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

*National Hymn*

George William Warren

## **Confession and Pardon**

### The Invitation

When we pass through deep waters or go through times of fiery trial, the Lord our God is with us. With confidence in God, our creator and redeemer, let us confess our sin.

### The Prayer:

**Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*There follows a moment of silent personal confession*

### The Pardon:

Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by name; you are mine.

God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth! By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.**

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:

God our helper, by your Holy Spirit, open our minds, that as the scriptures are read and your word is proclaimed, we may be led into your truth and taught your will, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Psalter: Psalm 52

You mighty, why do you boast of wickedness  
against the godly all day long?  
**Continually you plot ruin; your tongue is like  
a sharpened razor that commits deceit.**

You love evil more than good  
and lying more than speaking the truth.  
**You love all words that devour,  
O you deceitful tongue.**

Oh, that God would demolish you utterly,  
topple you, and snatch you from your dwelling,  
and root you out of the land of the living!  
**The righteous shall see and be awestruck,  
and they shall laugh at you, saying,**

"This is the one who did not take God for a refuge,  
but trusted in great wealth and found strength in destruction."  
**But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God;  
I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.  
I will thank you forever for what you have done;  
in the presence of the faithful I will long for your name,  
for it is good.**

Heavenly Father, you cut down trees that bear no fruit, and you  
prune fruitful trees that they may bear more. Make us grow like  
rich olive trees in your kingdom, firmly rooted in the power and  
mercy of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Gospel Reading: Luke 10-38-42 (p. 72 in the NT of the pew bible)

Duet: Alleluia W. A. Mozart  
*From: Motet: Exsultate, Jubilate*  
*Sharon Kroetsch, Cello and George Kroetsch, Trombone*

Sermon "Getting Ready for the Next Leg of the Journey-  
Peace That Passes Understanding"

Hymn #444 Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive  
*Detroit* harm. Margaret W. Mealy

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

Invitation to the Offering

Voluntary Prière à Notre-Dame Léon Boëllmann  
*From: Suite Gothique, Op. 25*

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

## 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.**

## Benediction

Postlude	Toccata	Léon Boëllmann
	<i>From: Suite Gothique, Op. 25</i>	

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Participating in Worship  
The Rev. Dr. Tom Yorty  
Rebecca Kroetsch, Choir Director  
Gregory White, Organist  
Howard Henry, Liturgist  
Sharon Melius, Greeter  
Nick Casseri, Live streamer

*Next Week:  
Amy Erickson, Liturgist  
Tom Somerville, Greeter  
Live streamer*

## This Week...

Sunday, July 20	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Visioning Session
Tuesday, July 22	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
	5:00 pm	Pickle ball Meeting

Thursday, July 24	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Friday, July 25	7:30 pm	Unity Concert at Zion Missionary Baptist Church
Sunday, July 27	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Congregational Meeting
	11:45 am	Fellowship & Birthday Cake

**July 25<sup>th</sup> (Friday) Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra's Unity Concert!** JoAnn Falletta, the BPO, and the Buffalo United Community Choir (BUCC) present a performance continuing our commitment to share musical experiences that bring together and uplift the Western NY community. The concert is free and begins at 7:30 at Zion Missionary Baptist Church, located at 179 E. Ferry St. contact Amy Erickson (716-480-4591) or Peg in the church office (716-836-7660).

**Pledge Statements:** Counters are working on pledge statements and they will be distributed within the next few weeks.

**Community Day: July 27<sup>th</sup>,** Calvary Baptist Church's "Community Day" connects families to community resources. UPC will be showcasing our ministries. Come join us for worship at Calvary from 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. and/or visit the event from 11:45 a.m. through 3 p.m. Free food, entertainment, raffles, amusements for kids – 1184 Genesee Street, Buffalo. Please contact Howard Henry for information.

**Please note:** There will be a Congregational Meeting after the worship service on Sunday, August 3.

**Bisons Game:** The event yesterday was cancelled due to low attendance numbers. Hopefully we will be able to reschedule for sometime in August. Be sure to sign up then.

## **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
Choral Director	Rebecca Kroetsch
Organist	Gregory White
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

### **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"**