

University Presbyterian Church



Sunday, December 7, 2025
10:30 a.m.

2nd Sunday of Advent, December 7, 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. 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	Pastorale on Three Advent Themes	Randolph Currie
	<i>Watchman Tell Us of the Night</i>	
	<i>O Come, Divine Redeemer</i>	
	<i>Comfort, Comfort Ye My People</i>	

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath⁺ Kelly & Nicholas Laroure
Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer. We light this candle in hope. We light this candle for peace. Hear God's promise of peace from Isaiah 11:1-10:

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the

wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Faithful God, you are at work to restore all of creation in its intended harmony. Give us your shalom that we may be reconciled to all enemies in the peace that passes all understanding through Christ Jesus our Lord.

God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. Amen.

*Hymn # 347

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Picardy

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

THE CONFESSION AND PARDON

The Invitation⁺

Friends, let us trust in God's love for us and confess our sin,
confident in God's mercy.

The Prayer⁺

Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

There follows a moment of silent personal confession

Kyrie Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy New World Symphony

The Pardon⁺

Friends, I am confident of this: if we repent, God is sure to forgive us. The One who began a good work in us will bring it to completion. Grateful for the promise of joy and of peace, let us share that peace with one another.

*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.

*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 One, through your Holy Spirit instruct us by the light of your prophets. Illumine our hearts, that we may hear your call to become your path into the world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.
Amen.

Responsive Reading Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

**Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more.

**Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

**And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory.
Amen. Amen.**

First Scripture Reading Romans 15:4-13 (NT p.163)

Second Scripture Reading Matthew 3:1-12 (NT p. 2)

Anthem Breath of Heaven arr. Lloyd Larson

Sermon "Going Backwards to go Forward"

*Hymn #83 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Stuttgart Witt's Psalmodia Sacra

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

*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

THE EUCHARIST

The Invitation (Luke 13:29; 24:30–31)

This is the joyful feast of the people of God! People will come from north and south and from east and west to sit at table in the kingdom of God. According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. This is the Lord's Table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast that he has prepared.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Praise to you, O God, for all your works. You created the world and called it good and made us in your image to live together in love. You made a covenant with us, and even when we turned

from you, you remained ever faithful.

Therefore, with all creation we sing your praise:

565 Holy, Holy, Holy

Capo 3: (Em) (D) (C) (D) (Em) (Am)
Gm F Eb F Gm Cm

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

(Em) (Am6) (B7) (Em) (D)
Gm Cm6 D7 Gm F

pow - er, God of might, heav - en and earth are

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text

SANCTUS (Haugen)

(C) (D) (Em) (Am) (D)
Eb F Gm Cm F

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

(Em) (D) (Em) (D) (C)
Gm F Gm F Eb

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the

(D) (A) (Am) (D)
F C Cm F

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

(Em) (Am) (D) (Bm7) (E)
Gm Cm F Dm7 G

high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thank you, O God, for sending us your Son. He lived among us and told your story. He healed the sick and welcomed sinners. He shared our pain and died our death, then rose to new life that we might live, and all creation be restored. Remembering your boundless love revealed to us in Jesus Christ, we break bread and share the cup, giving ourselves to you to live for him in joy and praise.

The Memorial Acclamation:



Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ and that we may be his body for the world. By your Spirit unite us with Christ and one another until we feast with him and with all your saints in your eternal realm of justice and peace. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Intercessions for the church and the world

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.

The Words of Institution

When Jesus was at table with his disciples he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat. Whenever you do this, remember me. In the same way he took and poured the cup, saying: Take and drink. Whenever you do this, remember me. Now, whenever we eat and drink at this table, we celebrate Christ's death and resurrection until he comes again.

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*Hymn #707 Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord Calvin Weiss Laufer
Hall

*Benediction

Postlude Trio on "Kremser" Wilbur Held

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

† From The Office of Theology and Worship Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

‡ Feasting on the Word: Advent Companion

One License #: A-723910

Participating in Worship:

The Rev. Dr. Christine James, Pastor

Rebecca Kroetsch, Choir Director

Gregory White, Organist

Jim Smyton, Liturgist

Kathryn Hallborg, Amy Maundrell & Sharon Melius, Greeters

Val Macer, Live streamer

Marietta Bratton, Barbara Kraemer & Amy Maundrell, Communion Servers

Next Week:

Howard Henry, Liturgist

Marietta Bratton, Kathryn Hallborg & Amy Maundrell, Greeters

Scott Horton, Live streamer

This Week...

Sunday, December 7

9:00 am Choir

10:30 am Worship Service

11:30 am Fellowship Time

11:30 am Hand bells

Tuesday, December 9

12:00 pm Food Pantry Open

2:30 pm Ministry to Community-Zoom

Thursday, December 11

12:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Sunday, December 14

9:00 am Choir

10:30 am Worship Service

11:30 am Christmas Dinner

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER, DECEMBER 14TH: Tomorrow is the last day to make reservations for the UPC Christmas Dinner. See Pat Cookfair-Casseri to RSVP.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT CAMPAIGN 2025: The focus this year is the Children's Enrichment Ministry of Frontera de Cristo in Agua Prieta, Sonora. All children are welcome, especially children who are at risk of dropping out of school. When a child is enrolled in this safe and nurturing place, then their cousins and school friends join too, because their mothers like to know they are growing and happy. CEM works with 10 elementary schools, churches, the Children's Home and other organizations. They have 3 sites in different neighborhoods of the city and want to expand. Your donation will allow them to purchase the most basic needs: pencils, markers, crayons, balls, storage boxes, foam sheets, paints and other items. From Sunday November 30 to Sunday December 21, there will be a table in the narthex staffed by a Ministry to Community member where you can make a donation and receive a card or cards (designed by Janet Mazzaroppi) to let a friend or loved one know you have made this gift in their honor. Or you may simply make a donation. Any amount is welcome! Checks may be made payable to "University Presbyterian Church" with "Alt. Gift" in the subject line. Thank you for your consideration.

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>