

University Presbyterian Church



Sunday, January 25, 2026

10:30 a.m.

3rd Sunday after Epiphany, January 25, 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	Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern	Johann Pachelbel
	<i>How Brightly Shines the Morningstar</i>	

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship[†] (Psalm 27:1)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

We gather in the presence of God. Let us open our hearts and minds in worship.

*Prayer of the Day

Gracious and loving God, thank you for gathering us all here together to worship you. Let your love be known especially to our new members and to your beloved child being baptized. Amen.

*Hymn #33	Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show	Robert Williams
	<i>Llanfair</i>	

THE CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession[†]

Let us pause here to confess the sins that have kept us from recognizing and enjoying God's presence.

Prayer of Confession†

Gracious God, when despair and suffering overwhelm us, we cry out for you and feel abandoned. We doubt your presence and your promises. We believe you have turned away from us in anger. We ask why you have forsaken us. In these moments, strengthen us in faith and fill our hearts with courage. We believe, God. Help our unbelief. Amen.

There follows a moment of silent personal confession

Assurance of Pardon† (Psalm 103:17)

“The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.” Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

*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 of epiphanies, you reveal yourself to us in diverse and numerous ways. Free us the distractions that turn our focus away from you and your Word. Open us to the truth you reveal to us today. **Amen.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 27:1, 4-9

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.

For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary,
sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.
**My heart speaks your message “Seek my face.”
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your
servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper;
forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

First Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:1-4 (OT, p. 638)

Second Scripture Reading Matthew 4:12-23 (NT, p. 3)

Anthem My Song is Love Unknown Robert Powell

Children’s Sermon

Sermon “Immediately? That is Quick”

*Hymn #726 Will You Come and Follow Me Scottish Melody
Kelvingrove

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Presentation of New Members Pleasure Amaechi, Paul Gruzca

Profession of Faith

Question for the new members:

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.**

Questions for all:

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.**

Questions for the new members:

You have publicly professed your faith. Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? **I will, with God's help.**

Prayer

Welcome

Let us welcome Pleasure and Paul as they join with us in the worship and mission of the church.

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in him.

Baptism

Munachimso David Alaoma

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Cantabile

Benedetto Marcello

*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 #729

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

I want to be a Christian African American Spiritual

*Benediction

Postlude

Festival Toccata

Percy E. Fletcher

Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Henry Moorhouse
from his grandchildren, Tim and Linda (Kit).

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

†*Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott for the Office of Theology and Worship
PC(USA).*

One License #: A-723910

Participating in Worship:

The Rev. Dr. Christine James, Pastor

Rebecca Kroetsch, Choir Director

Gregory White, Organist

Lee Ann Grace, Liturgist

Kathryn Hallborg, Amy Maundrell & Vicki Moorhouse, Greeters
Val Macer, Live streamer

Next Week:

Jim Smyton, Liturgist

Kathryn Hallborg, Amy Maundrell & Sharon Melius, Greeters

Val Macer, Live streamer

This Week...

Sunday, January 25	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service~Food Offering
	11:30 am	Fellowship & Birthday Cake
	11:45 am	MCC Education Hour
Tuesday, January 27	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, January 29	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Sunday, February 1	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Annual Meeting & Lunch

You're Invited! The Ministry to Community Committee would like to tell you about our work. More than that, we want to hear your ideas and welcome your involvement! Join us for adult education hour today after worship in the Fellowship Hall, 11:45-12:45.

Souper Bowl Sunday, February 8th: Not only are we excited about the Super Bowl this year, but we are also excited about Souper Bowl Sunday. We will be bringing in canned goods (preferably with a tab top) for a food offering for the food pantry during worship. Also, consider bringing an extra can of soup down to the kitchen before worship for lunch afterwards, we will be mixing all of the extra soup together.

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>