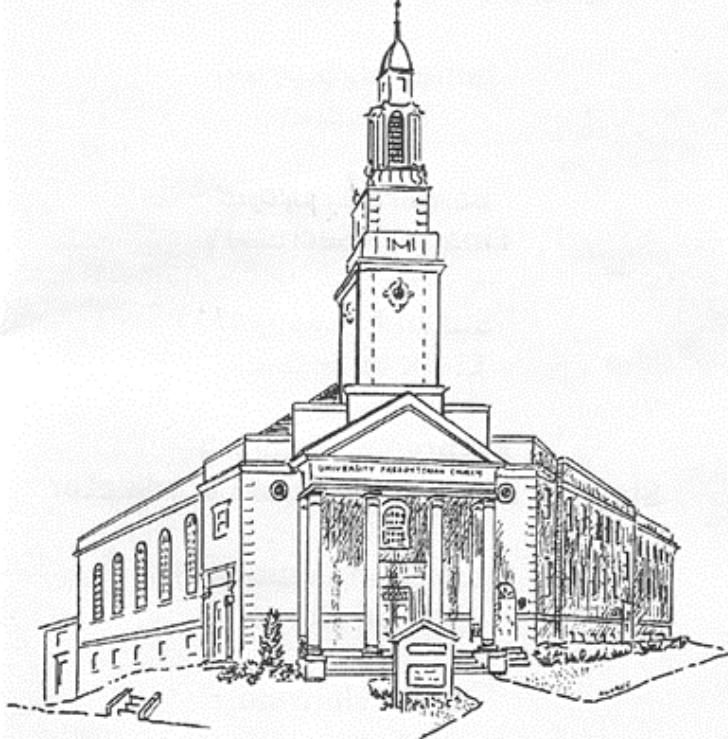


University Presbyterian Church



Sunday, December 28, 2025
10:30 a.m.

First Sunday after Christmas, December 28, 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

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship[†] (Psalm 148)

Praise the God of mercy and love.

Praise God with angels in the highest heavens.

Praise Christ, who came as a child.

Praise Christ with all God's children, young and old alike.

Praise the Holy Spirit who calls us here.

Praise the Spirit from the depths of our souls.

***Prayer of the Day**[†] (Isaiah 63, Hebrews 2, Matthew 2)

Loving God, we come into your presence with joy this holiday season. But we also come with sorrow for a world struggling in pain. Bring hope to our weary world. Bring love to our hearts. Bring joy to our lives. And help us bring hope, love, and joy, as we follow your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen.

***Carol #144**

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst

Cranham

THE CONFESSION AND PARDON

The Invitation

We have received so much light and love from Jesus Christ that we ought to live showing that light and love. However, we are human and often fall short. Therefore, let us bring our confessions to God.

The Prayer[†] (Isaiah 63, Hebrews 2, Matthew 2)

Merciful God, we yearn to be merciful and gracious, as you have been merciful and gracious to us. Grant us the mercy to redeem our lives, and give us the strength to live as those who are redeemed. Help us to resist the forces of evil and cruelty that kill our hope and destroy our souls. Fill us with your light and love, that we may overflow with mercy, compassion, help, and hope for our world. In your holy name, we pray.

There follows a moment of silent personal confession

The Pardon[†] (Isaiah 63)

In love and mercy, God redeems us. In grace and joy, God lifts us. In strength and security, God carries us all the days of our lives.

*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

1st Lesson Luke 1:26-38, 46-56

***Carol #133** O Come, All Ye Faithful John Francis Wade
Adeste Fideles

2nd Lesson Luke 2:1-14

***Carol #113** Angels We Have Heard on High French Carol
Gloria

3rd Lesson Luke 2:15-20

Homily Letting God Lead

***Carol #136** Go Tell It on the Mountain
Go Tell It African American Spiritual

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Response to the Word[†]

May the work of Christmas begin with us.

May the work of discipleship guide our lives.

May the gifts of mercy and grace flow through us.

May praise and joy strengthen our journey.

May Christ light the way.

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

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.

***Carol #119**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

Felix Mendelssohn

*Benediction[†] (Isaiah 63, Hebrews 2)

In love and mercy, God sends us forth.

In love and mercy, we go to serve.

Let Christ lead the way.

Postlude

Caprice sur les grands jeux

L.-N. Clérambault

Participating in Worship:

The Rev. Dr. Christine James, Pastor

Rebecca Kroetsch, Choir Director

Gregory White, Organist

Howard Henry, Liturgist

Nick Casseri & Amy Erickson, Greeters

Val Macer, Live streamer

Next Week:

Jim Smyton, Liturgist

Nick Casseri Kathryn Hallborg & Amy Maundrell, Greeters

Val Macer, Live streamer

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

[†]From the Abingdon Worship Annual 2025. Copyright © 2024 by Abingdon Press.

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This Week...

Sunday, December 28	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship & Cake
Tuesday, December 30	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, December 31	<i>New Year's Day ~ Church Office closed</i>	
Saturday, January 3	10:00 am	Breakfast with Friends
Sunday, January 4	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship Time

Chili Cook Off: On your mark, get set, go! Break open your recipe books and get stirring that fabulous chili that you are known for!! The Chili cook-off will be coming Sunday, January 11 at 11:30 am. Find out who will be named the best Chili Maker of UPC. You aren't a cook? Come anyway and sample the chili varieties. All are welcome.

January 18 Adult Education Hour: On Sunday January 18, UPC's Adult Education hour (11:45 - 12:45) will host Dr James Maynard, Curator at University at Buffalo Libraries' Poetry Collection. Dr. Maynard is currently overseeing the completion of the new James Joyce Museum, which will be housed in Abbott Hall on UB's South Campus - across the street from UPC. The noted Irish novelist, poet, and literary critic, James Joyce (1882-1941), will be UPC's new neighbor! Dr. Maynard's presentation will focus on the importance of James Joyce within 20th century English language literature, describe how UB acquired the world's largest collection of James Joyce materials, and explain the value of a publicly accessible James Joyce Museum to the greater Western New York community.

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>