

**University Presbyterian Church  
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**Sunday, September 14, 2025**

**The Rev. Dr. Christine James, Pastor  
Rebecca Kroetsch, Choral Director  
Gregory White, Organist**

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

14th Sunday after Pentecost, September 14, 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.*

*If you would like to borrow a hearing device for the worship service, please see one of this morning's Greeters.*

## **GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

Prelude                      Partita on St. Flavian                      Healey Willan  
Grave, Var. I – Andante, Var. II – Andante, Var. III – Moderato,  
Var. IV – Moderato

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (*please stand if able*)

Rejoice with me! The lost are found.  
**There is joy in the presence of God.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, you call your church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you. Help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**Confession and Pardon**

## The Invitation:

Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weakness, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

## The Prayer:

**Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.**

**Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

*There follows a moment of silent personal confession*

## The Pardon:

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **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:

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God, and prepare our hearts to accept your word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing, we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Psalter: Psalm 14:1-7

Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God." They are corrupt, every deed is vile; there is no one who does any good.  
**The LORD looks down from heaven upon us all, to see if there is anyone who is wise, who seeks after God.**

They have all proved faithless; all alike have turned bad; there is none who does good; no, not one.

**Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers  
who eat up my people like bread  
and do not call upon the LORD?**

because God is in the company of the righteous.  
**our aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted,  
but the LORD is their refuge.**

**Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion!  
When the LORD restores the fortunes of the people,  
Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.**

God of wisdom and truth, without you our lives go astray, and we face corruption within and around us. Show your mighty presence among us, that we may joyfully proclaim your deliverance in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

The Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17 (p. 208 of the NT in the pew bible)

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-10 (p. 78 of the NT in the pew bible)

Anthem: Create a Pure Heart in Me Susan Matsui  
*Sanctuary Choir*

Sermon: Back to Basics

Hymn #649 Amazing Grace arr. Edwin O. Excell  
*Amazing Grace*

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

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Prelude on St. Columbia Healey Willan  
*The King of Love*

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

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 #69

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky  
Here I Am

Daniel L. Schutte

## Benediction

## Postlude:

# Partita on St. Flavian

## *Var. V – Andante*

Healey Willan

A-723910

Chancel Flowers are given by Val Macer  
in honor of Pastor Christine's call to UPC

### Participating in Worship:

The Rev. Dr. Christine James, Pastor

Rebecca Kroetsch, Choir Director

Gregory White, Organist

Val Macer, Liturgist

Grace Agbemenū, Amy Maundrell & Vicki Moorhouse, Greeters

John Swaine, Live streamer

*Next Week:*

*Vicki Moorhouse, Liturgist*

*Kathy Hallborg, Scott Horton & Sharon Melius, Greeters*

Val Macer, Live streamer

## This Week...

Sunday, September 14

10:30 am

# Worship Service

11:30 am

# Welcome Luncheon

Tuesday, September 16

12:00 pm

## Food Pantry Open

Wednesday, September 17

7:00 pm

## Session

Thursday, September 18

12:00 pm

## Food Pantry Open

Friday, September 19

10:00 am

## Ashley Memorial Service

Sunday, September 21

9:00 am

Choir

10:30 am

Worship Service

11:30 am

## Fellowship

4:00 pm

Organ Recital—Gail Archer

## **From the Pastoral Nominating Committee**

Today, Sunday **September 14**, we joyfully welcome **Rev. Christine James** as she begins her ministry with us at UPC. Please stay after the service for a celebratory luncheon as we greet her with open hearts and warm hospitality. Let's come together in gratitude and hope as we mark this meaningful transition in our church community.

**Trunk or Treat:** As everyone knows by now, we're entering autumn with cooler temps and the return of football. I wanted to get the word out early about Halloween at UPC with our annual Trunk or Treat. It has increased exponentially since our beginning 3 years ago, so I'm hoping for the same outcome this year!! We would like to make it bigger and better if it is possible with more congregational support.

We need volunteers to either use their cars or one of the church's tables to hand out candy. We hold it between 6 to 8pm in the church parking lot. In the past it has been a wonderful evening with adorable trick or treaters and hopefully the Buffalo Fire Dept. will be joining us again. It's a great way to provide a safe and fun celebration for our neighbors.

If you're unable to join us, we could always use a donation of candy for the event. Last year we totaled over 300 participants so there's no such term as "too much candy for this activity!!" If the weather is cold or rainy it will be held in the gym on tables.

For more information or questions, please contact Amy Erickson at (716) 876-6874 or our secretary, Peg, at the church office (716) 836-7660.

**Gail Archer Recital:** Gail is an international concert organist, recording artist, choral conductor and lecturer who draws attention to composer anniversaries or musical themes with her annual recital series. Her 2017 European tour took her to Germany, Italy, the British Isles, Russia, Ukraine and Poland. She will be with us at 4:00 pm on Sunday, September 21. Suggested donation at the door: \$10.

## **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. Christine James	Pastor
Rebecca Kroetsch	Choral Director
Gregory White	Organist
James W. Smyton	Treasurer
Pat Cookfair-Casseri	Clerk of Session
Kathryn F. Hallborg	Stephen Ministry Referral Coordinator
Peg Kovach	Administrative Assistant
Aaron Vivian	Facilities Manager
Roll Tomosso	Custodian

### **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”**