

University Presbyterian Church



Sunday, June 21, 2026
10:30 a.m.

4th Sunday after Pentecost, June 21, 2026
Service for the Lord's Day
10:30 a.m.

THE GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude

Prelude on St. Flavian

Healey Willan

Partita

Grave; Var. I – Andante; Var. II – Andante

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship[†] (from Matthew 10:29-31)

Not one sparrow will fall to the ground apart from their Creator.

God tells us we are of more value than many sparrows.

God knows us and loves us. Even the hairs of our head are all counted.

We praise you, O God! Grateful are we for your love and care!

***Prayer of the Day[†]** (Psalm 119: 130)

God, you have given us a dream of your world made whole, a heavenly realm that is near in heart and close at hand, and it is ours to choose each day. May our smallest acts of courtesy, when transformed by your love, grow abundantly into a realm of flourishing for all. **Amen.**

*Hymn #14

For the Beauty of the Earth

Conrad Kocher

Dix

THE CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession[†]

Before we hear the Word read and proclaimed, let us prepare our hearts through the confession of our individual and collective sins.

Prayer of Confession†

You send us, God of the Great Commission, but we hedge and hesitate. Forgive our fear and our excuses. We are witnesses of your grace and glory but allow others to silence our praise. We imprison ourselves with doubt and shame and fail to shine your light for all to see. Forgive our fears. Free our testimony. Help us be your faithful disciples. (*Time for Silent Prayer*) Amen. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon†

Through Christ's death and resurrection, we are a new creation, ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and freed. 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

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†

Savior God, your Word is a lamp to our feet on this discipleship road. Walk with us. Guide us with your wisdom and grace. Open us to discerning your will and your way. **Amen**

Responsive Reading Psalm 105:1-11

O give thanks to the Lord; call on his name; make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles and the judgments he has uttered,

O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth.

He is mindful of his covenant forever, of the word that he commanded for a thousand generations,

the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac, which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, **saying, “To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance.”**

First Scripture Reading 1 Kings 3:5-12 (OT p. 306)

Second Scripture Reading Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52 (NT p. 14)

Solo Panis Angelicus (O Lord Most Holy) Cesar Franck

Jacob Fleuricot, Baritone

Hail Mary full of grace, blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Pray for us now and in the hour of our death.

Sermon Our Friend Jesus

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

Hall

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Voluntary

Prelude on St. Flavian

Healey Willan

Var. III – Moderato; Var. IV – Moderato

*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

Prelude on St. Flavian

Healey Willan

Var. V – Andante

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

† Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott and provided for free distribution for © Presbyterian Outlook, 2026.

‡ Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion

One License #: A-723910

Participating in Worship:

The Rev. Dr. Christine James, Pastor

Rebecca Kroetsch, Choir Director

Gregory White, Organist

Lee Ann Grace, Liturgist

Marietta Bratton & Paul Grucza, Greeters

Val Macer, Live streamer

Next Week:

Howard Henry, Liturgist

Nick Casseri & Kathryn Hallborg, Greeters

Nick Casseri, Live streamer

Notes and Announcements

If you are new, welcome! We are so glad you have joined us this morning! All are welcome to worship with us.

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. If you would like more info about Sunday School please see one of the deacons, someone handing out bulletins.

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.

This Week...

Sunday, June 21		<i>Happy Father's Day!</i>
	10:30 am	Worship Service
Tuesday, June 23	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
	Dusk	Shakespeare in the Park
Thursday, June 25	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Friday, June 26	6:00 pm	Show of Support for Torture Victims
Sunday, June 28	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship & Cake

Friday, June 26 - International Day in Support of Victims of Torture: You are invited to stand in silence and prayer with supporters of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) in front of University Presbyterian Church on Friday June 26 from 6 to 7 p.m. in witness to God's divine image in all people. Please contact Howard Henry for details.

Shakespeare In Delaware Park: Join us on "The Hill" on Tuesday, June 23rd to see Pericles, Prince of Tyre (a Shakespeare favorite). The show is free. (They ask for donations as you are able.) Bring your snacks, drinks, and chair. The show starts at dusk but be there early to secure your space or go for an early dinner at the Terrace. Let us know you are attending and we will help to reserve a spot for your chair. Relax and watch the show! Rain Date: June 25th.

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>