

# University Presbyterian Church



Sunday, March 29, 2026

10:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday, March 29, 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. 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.

### **THE GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

Prelude

Pastorale

Louis Vierne

*24 Pieces en style libre, Op. 13, Livre II*

\*Hymn #197

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

*Ellacombe*

Welcome and Announcements

\*Call to Worship<sup>†</sup>

Awake to the day of triumph for our Savior!

**Give thanks for this day that leads to the cross!**

Come with your branches, hosannas, and songs!

**Fill the air with welcome to the Lord!**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**\*Prayer of the Day<sup>†</sup>**

**Lord Jesus Christ, as you upturn all expectations make us ready to follow you, whatever that path may bring, loving and serving one another in your name. Amen.**

\*Hymn #196

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

William Henry Monk

*Valet Will*

## THE CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession<sup>†</sup> (1 Sam. 16:7)

The Lord sees our hearts and knows our innermost thoughts. We can deny our wrongs to ourselves but we cannot hide them from God. As we confess our sins, let us do so knowing we say nothing that is already known to God, who is not fooled by our strengths, but loves us in our weakness.

Prayer of Confession<sup>†</sup> (John 13:1-17, 31b-35)

Lord Jesus Christ, how well you know our hearts,  
**and still you love us - you have loved us to the end.**

We have denied you,  
**and we have denied our calling to serve one another.**

We have betrayed you,  
**And we have betrayed your commandment to love one another.**

Pour out your Spirit of grace upon us.  
**Teach us to love and serve you faithfully and to love and serve one another by the example you have set for us; in your holy name we pray.**  
*(Time for Silent Prayer) Amen.*

Assurance of Pardon

We give thanks for the good news of Easter, Jesus rose and ascended into heaven that we may be forgiven and have eternal life.  
**Thanks be to God!**

\*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†

Let your Word, O God, break open our hearts this day through the power of the Holy Spirit, that we may enter into the coming Holy Week ready to meet Jesus as he is, not what we expect him to be. **Amen**

Responsive Reading Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.

**Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."**

Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

**"This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."**

I give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation.

**The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.

**This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Hosanna! O LORD, save us!

We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days!

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD;  
we bless you from the house of the LORD.**

The LORD is God and has given us light.

Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.

**You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will exalt  
you. Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.**



\*Hymn # 736

I Want to Be as Close to You  
*Davidson*

Hal H. Hopson

\*Benediction

Postlude

Prelude and Fugue in F

Vincent Lübeck

*Chancel flowers are given by John & Priscilla Maddock in honor of their grandchildren, Luca & Siena Giancarlo and Koen Maddock Grau*

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

† Feasting on the Word: Lenten Companion

*One License #: A-723910*

Sunday Leadership:

The Rev. Dr. Christine James, Pastor

Rebecca Kroetsch, Choir Director

Gregory White, Organist

Jerilyn Hickey, Liturgist

Kathryn Hallborg & Tom Somerville, Greeters

John Swaine, Live streamer

Amy Erickson, Sunday School Lead

Jude Hammer, Sunday School Assistant

*Next Week:*

*Jim Smyton, Liturgist*

*Nick Casseri, Sandy Robertson & Tom Somerville,, Greeters*

*John Swaine, Live streamer*

*Amy Erickson, Sunday School Lead*

*Linda Martin, Sunday School Assistant*

## This Week...

Sunday, March 29	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship Time & Cake
	11:30 am	Children's Choir
	11:30 am	Hand bells
Tuesday, March 31	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, April 2		
		<i>Maundy Thursday</i>
	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
	6:00 pm	Potluck Supper with Calvary Baptist
	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship
Friday, April 3	12-3 pm	Good Friday Worship @ St. John's Grace
Sunday, April 5		<i>Easter Sunday</i>
	9:00 am	Easter Breakfast
	9:30 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service

**Eastertide Bible Study / Discussion:** On the first three Sundays following Easter (April 12, 19, & 26) join John McClester in UPC's Adult Education hour (11:45 - 12:45) for a discussion-focused Bible Study on contemporary Christian Practice. Our method will be to read the short play, "Ezekiel's Wheel" - yes, you will need to read the play prior to our first meeting! Our discussion will commence with examining the biblical themes and passages which inform, inspire, confuse, and disappoint the characters in "Ezekiel's Wheel." Contact John McClester at [icecreamemperor@yahoo.com](mailto:icecreamemperor@yahoo.com) to request a digital copy (PDF format) of "Ezekiel's Wheel" via email. Requesting (and reading) the play does not obligate you to attend the discussions.

**2026 Member Directories** are available from the church office.

## University Presbyterian Church's Vision Statement

Let us be **BREAD:**

**B**eaming Christ's love to our neighbors and beyond

**R**esounding praise of God in worship with music while caring for one another and growing our faith

**E**nriching our neighborhood through creative use of our building

**A**cting with energy to foster a growing, vibrant, and welcoming church family

**D**eveloping 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>