

University Presbyterian Church



Sunday, January 4, 2025
10:30 a.m.

2nd Sunday of Christmas, January 4, 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

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship[†] (Jeremiah 31)

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

Give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people."

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion;

They shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

With expectation and joy as we begin a new year, let us worship the living God!

***Prayer of the Day[‡]**

Giving God, you have adopted us as your children, siblings of your beloved, Jesus Christ. Empower us to be holy and blameless witnesses to your glorious reigns of peace and love new come into this world. **Amen.**

*Hymn #276

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius

Es Ist Ein' Ros'

THE CONFESSION AND PARDON

The Invitation[†] (1 John 1:8)

"If we say we have no sin, the truth is not in us." And yet, we know that we need to begin again for we have fallen short of the glory of God. So, we come to the baptismal font seeking a fresh start. With confidence that God hears our prayers and has adopted us as beloved children, let us confess our sins.

The Prayer[†] (*adapted from Jeremiah 31:7-9, 13*)

We cry out: "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel," for we are a people in need of saving. You promise to gather your people, but we confess that we want to put limitations on who is saved. We want you to save those we define as strong and beautiful and wise; You call the blind and the lame, the children and those in labor. Forgive us, O Holy God, for our prejudice and narrow vision. Forgive us for our lack of faith. Forgive us for doubting your promise and declining your invitation. By your Spirit, renew us. Turn our mourning into joy and our sorrow into gladness that we might return to you and your way.

There follows a moment of silent personal confession

Kyrie Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

New World Symphony

The Pardon[†] (from Ephesians 1)

God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. According to the riches of Christ's grace, we are redeemed. Hear and believe this good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! 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.

*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[†]

Inspire us by your Holy Spirit that the words we read on the page might become living words in our hearts and lives as we encounter the grace, love, and peace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Responsive Reading Psalm 147:12-20

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,
**who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.**

God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

**God sends out a command to the earth,
a word that runs very swiftly.**

God gives snow like wool,
scattering frost like ashes.

**God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand against God's cold?**

The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

**God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgments to Israel.**

**The LORD has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!**

First Scripture Reading Jeremiah 31:7-14 (OT p. 734)

Second Scripture Reading John 1:1-18 (NT p. 91)

Anthem This Christmastide Donald Fraser

Sermon

*Hymn #157

I Danced in the Morning
Lord of the Dance

Sydney Carter

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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

THE EUCHARIST

The Invitation (Luke 13:29; 24:30-31)

This is the joyful feast of the people of God! People will come from north and south and from east and west to sit at table in the kingdom of God. According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. This is the Lord's Table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast that he has prepared.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Praise to you, O God, for all your works. You created the world and called it good and made us in your image to live together in

love. You made a covenant with us, and even when we turned from you, you remained ever faithful.

Therefore, with all creation we sing your praise:

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Holy, Holy, Holy

Capo 3: (Em) (D) (C) (D) (Em) (Am)
Gm F Eb F Gm Cm

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

(Em) (Am6) (B7) (Em) (D)
Gm Cm6 D7 Gm F

now - er God of might heav - en and earth are

(C) (D) (Em) (Am) (D)
Eb F Gm Cm F

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

(Em) (D) (Em) (D) (C)
Gm F Gm F Eb

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the

(D) (A) (Am) (D)
F C Cm F

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

(Em) (Am) (D) (Bm7) (E)
Gm Cm F Dm7 G

high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thank you, O God, for sending us your Son. He lived among us and told your story. He healed the sick and welcomed sinners. He shared our pain and died our death, then rose to new life that we might live, and all creation be restored. Remembering your boundless love revealed to us in Jesus Christ, we break bread and share the cup, giving ourselves to you to live for him in joy and praise.

The Memorial Acclamation:



Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come a - gain.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come a - gain.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ and that we may be his body for the world. By your Spirit unite us with Christ and one another until we feast with him and with all your saints in your eternal realm of justice and peace. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Intercessions for the church and the world

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.

The Words of Institution

When Jesus was at table with his disciples he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat. Whenever you do this, remember me. In the same way he took and poured the cup, saying: Take and drink. Whenever you do this, remember me. Now, whenever we eat and drink at this table, we celebrate Christ's death and resurrection until he comes again.

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*Hymn #134

Joy to the World

George Frederick Handel

Antioch

*Benediction

Postlude

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

† Liturgy written by Matthew A. Rich 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

Jim Smyton, Liturgist

Nick Casseri, Kathryn Hallborg & Amy Maundrell, Greeters

Val Macer, Live streamer

Marietta Bratton, Ginna Coon & Cindy Hickey, Communion Servers

Next Week:

Val Macer, Liturgist

Dennis & Amy Erickson, Greeters

Nick Casseri, Live streamer

This Week...

Sunday, January 4

9:00 am Choir
10:30 am Worship Service
11:30 am Fellowship Time

Monday, January 5

7:00 pm Deacons' Meeting-Zoom

Tuesday, January 6

12:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Wednesday, January 7

Deadline for Annual Reports

Thursday, January 8

12:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Sunday, January 11

9:00 am Choir
10:30 am Worship Service
11:30 am Chili Cook-off

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.

Taco Bar and Game Night: Join us on Saturday, January 17 from 3:00-6:00pm for tacos and board games. Plenty of games will be provided but if you have a favorite board game please bring it with you.

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.

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 on Sunday January 25 in the Fellowship Hall 11:45-12:45.

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>