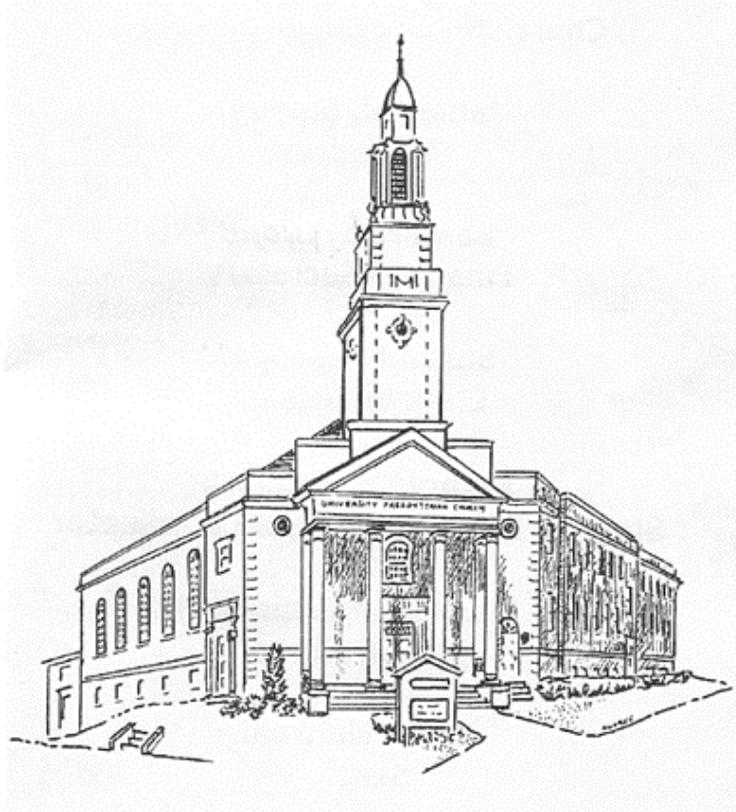


# University Presbyterian Church



Sunday, February 22, 2026  
10:30 a.m.

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent, February 22, 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

Prelude

César Franck

Welcome and Announcements

\*Call to Worship<sup>†</sup>

The steadfast love of God surrounds us always — even in the wilderness!  
Thanks be to God! Let us be glad and worship!

**\*Prayer of the Day<sup>†</sup>** (Matthew 4:1-11)

Wild God of wilderness, as we devote these forty days to you, shape us by your Holy Spirit into the image of Christ our Lord, so that we may be ready, by your grace, to confront the power of death with the promise of eternal life. **Amen.**

\*Hymn #618

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

*Deo Gracias*

*The Agincourt Song*



## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

### Prayer for Illumination

Still-speaking God, guide us by your Word and Spirit that we might hear, and by hearing, grow in faith and love. **Amen**

### Responsive Reading Psalm 32

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!  
**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.  
**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."  
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.  
**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you  
in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.  
**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye.**

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."  
**Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in  
the LORD.**

**Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

First Scripture Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 (OT, p. 2)

Second Scripture Reading Matthew 4:1-11 (NT, p. 3)

Anthem Lift Every Voice and Sing arr. Greg Gilpin  
*Sanctuary Choir*

Children's Sermon

Sermon

"How do we Face the Wilderness?"

\*Hymn #166

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

Day's Psalter

*St. Flavin*

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Profession of Faith

*Questions for the new member:*

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? **I do.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love? **I do.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love? **I will, with God's help.**

*Questions for all:*

Do you believe in God the Father? **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God? **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit? **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Question for the new member:*

You have publicly professed your faith. Will you be a faithful member of this

congregation, share in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts,  
your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?  
**I will, with God's help.**

Welcome

Let us welcome Paul as he joins with us in the worship and mission of the church.

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of  
Christ, for we are all one in him.**

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.**

\*Hymn #313

Lord, Make Us More Holy African American Spiritual  
*Lord, Make Us More Holy*

\*Benediction

Postlude

Richmond  
*Andante*

Healey Willan

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

† Liturgy written by Shea Watts 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

Sandy Robertson, Liturgist

Kathy Hallborg, Scott Horton & Grace Agbemenu, Greeters

Val Macer, Live streamer

*Next Week:*

*Jim Smyton, Liturgist*

*Kathryn Hallborg & Sharon Melius, Greeters*

*Val Macer, Live streamer*

**This Week...**

Sunday, February 22	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship & Cake
	11:45 am	Adult Ed-Black History Month
Tuesday, February 24	10:00 am	Personnel Committee
	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Wednesday, February 25	7:00 pm	Zoom Session Meeting
Thursday, February 26	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
	6:00 pm	Zoom Prayer Service
Saturday, February 28	3:00 pm	Game Night & Tacos
Sunday, March 1	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship Time
	11:30 am	Children's Choir
	11:30 am	Hand Bells

**Adult Ed:** Today after our worship service, Craig Steger will hold an adult education session to celebrate Black History Month. Craig recently retired from the Club's Board of Directors where he served as its historian. This year, Craig will show a brief video about Buffalo's Historic Colored Musicians Club and Buffalo Local 533, the American Federation of Musicians black standalone union that founded it, and discuss his most recent research on the 100+ year histories of these amazing organizations.

### **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

3330 Main Street  
Buffalo, New York 14214-1316  
Phone: (716) 836-7660  
Email: [office@upcbuffalo.org](mailto:office@upcbuffalo.org)  
Website: [www.upcbuffalo.org](http://www.upcbuffalo.org)

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