

University Presbyterian Church
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Sunday, December 4, 2022

The Reverend Tracy S. Daub, Pastor
Gregory White, Interim Organist
Allan Andrews, Interim Choral Director

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

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Merciful God, we sing of your light. Yet, we know darkness. We try to follow your path. Yet, we lose our way. Forgive our lip service, our hypocrisies, and our selfish interests. When others look at us and do not see signs of your love, your justice, your compassion, forgive us. Lead us once again to the path of salvation and the way of your love. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

(There follows a moment of silent personal confession)

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Friends, we are given good news: through Jesus Christ, God comes to us with healing, redeeming love.

All: Emmanuel, God with us, is the sign of God's forgiveness and love. We are new creations in Christ!

+* Song of Praise (sung 3 times in unison) (#583 hymnal)

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

*Sharing the Peace and Greetings

As God's forgiven people we extend the peace of Christ to one another. Worshippers may greet one another with a hand shake, fist bump, or steeped hands saying, "the peace of Christ be with you."

+*Sung response (sung to the tune of Hymn 400) (In unison)

**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 (In unison)

O God, give us, we pray, open hearts and minds to your message of hope and life. Amen.

First Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10 (p. 640 of the OT in pew Bible)

Second Scripture Lesson: Matthew 3:1-12 (p. 2 of the NT in pew Bible)

One: This is the Word of the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!

Musical Proclamation "Of the Father's Love Begotten" Plainsong

Sermon "Christmas Cards"

*Hymn #96 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Musical Offering "Once He Came in Blessing" M. Burkhardt

Doxology (Hymn 592) **(In unison)**

**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 of Offering

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(Communion at University Presbyterian Church is open to all individuals of all ages. The elements served include bread, a gluten-free option in the center of each tray, and non-alcoholic grape juice. After the elements are passed, you are invited to hold the bread and the cup so that we all might partake together.)

Invitation and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Brothers and sisters, this is the joyful feast of God's people.

This is the Lord's Table. Our Savior invites us to share the feast he has prepared.

According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them,

And their eyes were opened and they recognized him. We trust in him and want our eyes and hearts opened. We come eagerly to this table to be with him.

Then lift up your hearts to the Lord.

We give our hearts to him, and our thanks and praise, because it is right to do this.

Through all time, our God has been fair and kind to us. God's works are great and wonderful and the Lord's ways are just and true.

God of power and majesty, the heavens and the earth show your glory, and holy is your name.

Holy God, we thank you for your son Jesus, who lived with us sharing joys and sorrows. He told your story, healed the sick and was a friend of sinners like us. Obeying you, he took up his cross and was murdered by people he loved.

We praise you that he is not dead but is risen to rule the world and that he is still a friend of sinners. We trust him to overcome every power that tries to hurt or divide,

So that when his promised reign comes, we will celebrate this victory with him.

Holy Spirit, fill these elements with your spirit so that through them we may enjoy the gift of life and unity with you.

O God, you called us from death to life. We give ourselves to you. With the church through all ages, we thank you for the love of Jesus Christ our Saving Lord, who taught us to pray saying.....

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.

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Bread and Cup
Communion Music

Prayer after Communion

*Hymn #93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

*Benediction

Postlude "Herr Christ, der einig Gottes Sohn" J. S. Bach
 "*Lord Christ, the Only Son of God*"
 (The congregation is invited to remain seated during the Postlude)

*congregation may stand
+latecomers may be seated

Participating in Worship: The Rev. Tracy S. Daub, Pastor
Gregory White, Interim Organist
Allan Andrews, Interim Choral Director
Dennis Erickson, Liturgist

Greeters: Val Macer, Tom Somerville, Sharon Melius
Live streamer: Scott Horton

Next Sunday:

Liturgist: Amy Erickson

Greeters: Sandy Boag, Bob Hallborg, Vicki Moorhouse

Live streamer: Val Macer

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ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT CAMPAIGN: The focus of this Advent's Alternative Christmas Gift Campaign will be on Education and Empowerment for Women and Girls, as offered through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. From 11/27 to 12/18, there will be a table in the narthex where you can make a donation and receive a card or cards (designed by Janet Mazzaroppi) to let friends or loved ones know you have made this gift in their honor. Or you may simply make a donation. Any amount is welcome!

DECREE

Sunday, Dec. 4	9:30 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship Hour
Monday, Dec. 5	9:30 am	Zoom Adult Ed
	7:00 pm	Zoom Deacons' Meeting
Tuesday, Dec. 6	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, Dec. 8	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
	7:30 pm	Choir
Sunday, Dec. 11	9:30 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship Hour



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

Join us for our church family Christmas dinner in the fellowship room after the service on Sunday, December 18th. Tickets are on sale now until December 11th.

**Adults: \$15,
Youth (age 4-12): \$10,
Children under 4:Free**

Contact Pat Cookfair-Casseri (716-440-9833) or Peg in the church office (836-7660) to purchase your ticket.

P.S. We are still looking for some volunteers to help set up, serve, and take down the dinner.

Welcome Visitors

University Presbyterian Church (UPC), its 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. Moreover, UPC does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in celebrating the rites of marriage.

University Presbyterian Church Officers and Staff

Pastor	The Reverend Tracy S. Daub
Interim Organist	Gregory White
Interim Choral Director	Allan Andrews
Treasurer	James W. Smyton
Clerk of Session	Pat Cookfair-Casseri
Financial Secretary	Barbara C. Lyons
Stephen Ministry Referral Coordinator	Kathryn F. Hallborg
Administrative Assistant	Peg Kovach
Youth Director	Mackintosh Barker
Custodian	David Winiarski

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”