

University Presbyterian Church  
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Sunday, March 12, 2023

The Reverend Tracy S. Daub, Pastor  
Gregory White, Organist  
Allan Andrews, Minister of Music & Choral Director

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

3rd Sunday in Lent, March 12, 2023  
Service for the Lord's Day  
10:30 a. m.

## **GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

(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. 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. Ushers will take them from the plate and when the offering is brought forward, hand them to the Pastor.

Prelude

"Prelude"

A. Guilmant

Welcome and Announcements

\*Call to Worship (*please stand, if able*)

One: Come, all who are seeking God.

**All: We come seeking God only to discover that it is God who is seeking us!**

One: We rejoice in the good news that every one of us is precious to God!

**All: We worship the God of steadfast, saving love!**

+\* Hymn #435 *There's a Wideness In God's Mercy*

Prayer of Confession **(in unison)**

**God of Grace, forgive us the times we have lost our way.**

**When we cling to material wealth for security, forgive us.**

**When we fail to carry out your justice, when we blame those who are weaker or vulnerable, forgive us. When we**

**participate in the desolation of your creation, forgive us.**

**When we permit hate and resentment to lodge in our hearts,**

**forgive us. For all the ways we become lost, we seek your mercy and pray for you to come find us and lead us safely home. Amen.**

*(There follows a moment of silent personal confession)*

Assurance of God's Grace

One: The good news is that all of us who were far off, aliens and strangers to God because of our brokenness, have been brought near to the heart of God. We did not accomplish this ourselves, but through the gift of God's grace.

**All: We rejoice that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and raised to new life.**

+\* Lenten Song of Praise: *Kyrie* **(in unison)** bulletin insert  
*(The Latin words mean: Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord*

\*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 822) **(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)**

**Holy One, we pray that these words of scripture will help us find our way to you and to your realm of love and grace. Amen.**

First Scripture Lesson: Ephesians 2:1-10 (p. 192 of the NT in pew Bible)

Second Scripture Lesson: Luke 15:11-32 (p. 78 of the NT in pew Bible)

One: This is the Word of the Lord!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Musical Proclamation "Grant Us Thy Peace" Felix Mendelssohn

Sermon "Still Far Off"

\*Hymn #774 *There is Now a New Creation*

### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

Invitation to the Offering

Musical Offering "Folksong" B. Broughton  
Gabe Nieman, Trombone

Doxology (Hymn 606) **(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

.....(*concluding with the Lord's Prayer in unison*)

**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 #795 *Healer of Our Every Ill*

\*Benediction

Postlude "Festival Toccata" P. Fletcher

*(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, Organist  
Allan Andrews, Minister of Music & Choral Director  
Allan Andrews, Liturgist

Greeters: Val Macer, Amy Maundrell, Tom Somerville  
Live streamer: Scott Horton

*Next Sunday:*  
*Liturgist: Dennis Erickson*  
*Greeters: Amy Maundrell, Sandy Robertson, Tom Somerville*  
*Live streamer: Val Macer*

A-723910

### **DECREE**

Sunday, March 12	9:30 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship Time
Monday, March 13	9:30 am	Adult Ed
Tuesday, March 14	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
	2:30 pm	Zoom Community Committee Mtg.
Wednesday, March 15	7:00 pm	Session
Thursday, March 16	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
	7:30 pm	Choir
Sunday, March 19	9:30 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship Time

## Easter Flowers

Would you like to help beautify the sanctuary with flowers for Easter this year? We will be offering lilies and tulips. They are **\$ 10 per pot**. Please complete the form below and return it to the church office with payment by **March 26th**. In the Memo section of your check write Easter Flowers. Plants may be taken home after the Easter worship service.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Dedication: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Lilies \_\_\_\_\_ # of Tulips \_\_\_\_\_

## Spring outing to Buffalo Historical Society

What better way to welcome spring than with an outing on April 2, to the Buffalo Historical Society on Nottingham Terrace. Besides all the usual exhibits, they have a special show called "Say Their Names, Honor Their Legacies...Stories, Wisdom and Insights of the Black Community. It features the elders in the black community and their accomplishments and their leadership actions through the years in WNY.

The congregation is invited to a small lunch immediately after the 10:30 church service and then we'll go to the museum for a group tour for those interested, or you can walk the exhibit by yourselves. Please sign up for the outing on the bulletin board in the narthex or phone Peg at the office to RSVP. Contact Amy Erickson for more details. (716) 480-4591, home (716) 876-6874

**Joint Maundy Thursday Service  
and Soup Supper  
with Calvary Baptist Church  
April 6 at 7 p.m.  
at University Presbyterian**

This year, UPC is hosting a special joint service on Thursday of Holy Week (April 6) with our friends from Calvary Baptist. The traditional Tenebrae service will include the participation of UPC and Calvary members in a joint choir, the reading of the Passion narrative, the celebration of Holy Communion, and the extinguishing of candles.

The service will be preceded by a light Soup Supper in the Fellowship Room from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

A strong attendance from UPC would be a wonderful way to welcome our guests! Come break bread with our brothers and sisters from Calvary Baptist and join in this special Holy Week service in remembrance of Christ's great love!

**Member Directories**

The 2023 Member Directories are now available in the narthex and the church office. Pick up your copy today.

**Have you picked up your envelopes?**

**At today's postage rates the boxes are very expensive to have to mail to your home. Please take your box home...and if your friend has a box here also take it with you and give it to them!  
Thank you**

## **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
Organist	Gregory White
Minister of Music & 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”**