

University Presbyterian Church  
3330 Main Street  
Buffalo, New York 14214-1316  
Phone: (716) 836-7660  
Fax: (716) 836-7662

[www.upcbuffalo.org](http://www.upcbuffalo.org)  
[office@upcbuffalo.org](mailto:office@upcbuffalo.org)



Sunday, March 5, 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>

2nd Sunday in Lent, March 5, 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                      "O Lord, Have Mercy"                      J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

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

One: We gather to hear a special story, a sacred story.

**All: It is a story of God who loves us and acts to save us.**

One: God seeks the lost, forgives the broken, and delivers the oppressed.

**All: We worship and serve our God of saving, liberating love!**

+\* Hymn #625                      *How Great Thou Art*

Prayer of Confession: **(read responsively)**

One: God of mercy, we come seeking your grace. When we have clung to bitterness and anger . . .

**All: Grant us your grace, O God, and free us.**

One: When we have lived indulgent lives in the face of need and neglect . . .

**All: Grant us your grace, O God, and free us.**

One: When we have placed our security in the false gods of money, weapons, and social status . . .

**All: Grant us your grace, O God, and free us.**

One: When we have succumbed to pessimism and cynicism . . .

**All: Grant us your grace, O God, and free us. 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 have mercy)*

\*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 steepled 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)**

**O God, from these holy words may we receive holy insight for the faithful living of our days. Amen.**

First Scripture Lesson: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (p. 175 of the NT in pew Bible)

Second Scripture Lesson: John 3:1-17 (p. 93 of the NT in pew Bible)

One: This is the Word of the Lord!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Musical Proclamation "Drop, Drop, Slow Tears" Orlando Gibbons

Sermon "The Nature of God"

\*Hymn #44 *Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us*

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

Invitation to the Offering

Musical Offering "O Christ, Thou Lamb of God" P. Manz  
*Christe, du Lamm Gottes*

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

## **SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*(Communion at University Presbyterian Church is open to all individuals of all ages. Worshippers may come down the center aisle and receive the bread or gluten-free option and the non-alcoholic grape juice. Empty juice cups may be deposited in the baskets as worshippers return to their seats via the side aisles.)*

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 #425      *Son of God Whose Heart Is Peace*

\*Benediction

Postlude

“Plein Jeu (7th Tone)”

J. Boyvin

*(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

James Smyton, Liturgist

Greeters: Scott Horton, Robert Hallborg, Kathryn Hallborg

Live streamer: Val Macer

*Next Sunday:*

*Liturgist: Allan Andrews*

*Greeters: Val Macer, Amy Erickson*

*Livestreamer: Scott Horton*

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## **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 \_\_\_\_\_

## DECREE

Sunday, March 5	9:30 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship Time
	1:00 pm	Youth Group @ North Presbyterian
Monday, March 6	9:30 am	Adult Ed
	10:45 am	Worship & Education Committee
	7:00 pm	Zoom Deacons Meeting
Tuesday, March 7	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, March 9	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
	7:30 pm	Choir
Saturday, March 11	<i>Set clocks ahead before going to bed</i>	
Sunday, March 12	9:30 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship Time

## Response to Turkey-Syria Earthquake

The death-toll of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria is nearly 40,000 and counting. Thousands of survivors are without basic resources of shelter, food, clothing, and medical care.

UPC invites our members to respond with their financial gifts to the relief efforts. All contributions will be channeled through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, which in turn sends the funds to long-established partners in the region. Today is the last day to contribute to the relief efforts. Please put cash in an envelope marked EARTHQUAKE and make checks out to University Presbyterian Church with the word EARTHQUAKE in the memo line.

## **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”**