

**University Presbyterian Church  
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March 28, 2024

The Rev. Dr. Tom Yorty, Interim Pastor  
Gregory White, Organist  
Allan Andrews, Minister of Music & Choral Director

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

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024  
7:30 p.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. 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.*

## **GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

Prelude                      Herzliebster Jesu                      arr. Phillip B. McIntyre  
   Ah, Holy Jesus

Were You There  
*Were You there When They Crucified my Lord?*

Welcome and Announcements                      Pastor Yorty

Call to Worship: *(please stand, if able)*                      Pastor Gibson

Jesus said: I give you a new commandment,  
that you love one another.

**Just as Christ has loved us,  
let us love one another.**

Beloved people of God:

This is the day  
when Christ, our Passover Lamb,  
surrendered himself to those who would kill him,  
setting us free from sin and death forever.

This is the day

when Christ, our Teacher and Lord,  
knelt down to wash the disciples' feet,  
showing us how to love and serve one another.

This is the day  
when Christ, the bread of heaven,  
shared a holy meal with his followers,  
offering a feast of abundant life and grace for all.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, your love is embodied in Jesus Christ,  
who washed disciples' feet on the night of his betrayal.  
Wash us from the stain of sin,  
so that, in hours of danger, we may not fail,  
but follow your Son through every trial,  
and praise him always as Lord and Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn: Draw Me Nearer

I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,  
And it told Thy love to me;  
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,  
And be closer drawn to Thee.

Refrain:

Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
To the cross where Thou hast died;  
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
To Thy precious, bleeding side.

Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,  
By the pow'r of grace divine;  
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,  
And my will be lost in Thine. [Refrain]

Oh, the pure delight of a single hour  
That before Thy throne I spend,  
When I kneel in prayer, and with Thee, my God,

I commune as friend with friend! [Refrain]

There are depths of love that I cannot know  
Till I cross the narrow sea;  
There are heights of joy that I may not reach  
Till I rest in peace with Thee. [Refrain]

Source: African American ecumenical hymnal

## **CONFESSION AND PARDON**

The Invitation:

Elder Marietta Bratton

The proof of God's amazing love is this:  
while we were sinners Christ died for us.  
Because we have faith in him,  
we dare to approach God with confidence.  
In faith and penitence  
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

The Prayer:

**Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken,  
we confess that we fail to fulfill your will.  
Though you have bound yourself to us,  
we will not bind ourselves to you.  
In Jesus Christ you serve us freely,  
but we refuse your love  
and withhold ourselves from others.**

**We do not love you fully  
or love one another as you command.  
In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us.  
Lead us once again to your table  
and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life  
and the vine from which we grow in grace.**

**Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

The Pardon:

Sis. Darlene Hines-Williams

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.  
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,  
you are forgiven. **Amen.**

May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins,  
strengthen you in all goodness,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit  
keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace and Greetings:

Elder Marietta Bratton

Since God has forgiven us in Christ,  
let us forgive one another.

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you all. **And also with you.**

Voluntary

*Just As I Am*

arr. Phillip B. McIntyre

*(As God's forgiven people we extend the peace of Christ to one  
another saying, "the peace of Christ be with you".)*

## **PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

Prayer for Illumination:

Deacon Sam Andrews

Eternal God, by your Word and Spirit,  
you have given us a new commandment:  
to love and serve one another in Jesus' name.  
Let the good news of your liberating love  
be sealed in our hearts and shown in our lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-4 (p. 58 of the OT in pew Bible)  
Deacon Sam Andrews

Psalm: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
Elder Sarah Smith

I love the Lord, because he has heard  
my voice and my supplications.

**Because he inclined his ear to me,  
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

What shall I return to the Lord  
for all his bounty to me?

**I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the Lord,**

I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.

**Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful ones.**

O Lord, I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your serving-maid.  
You have loosed my bonds.

**I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice  
and call on the name of the Lord.**

I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

**Praise the Lord!**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (p. 173 of the NT in pew Bible)  
Bro. Aidan Walker

Gospel Reading: John 14:1-6 (p. 108 of the NT in pew Bible)  
Elder Ginna Coon

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem                      Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed &  
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross A medley

Hymn #525

Let Us Break Bread Together

Prayers of Intercession:

Chinomnso Awazie, Bro. John Walton

Liberating and redeeming God,  
we give thanks that you hear the cries of your people.  
Therefore, in our time of trial, we call upon your name,  
saying: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As you delivered our ancestors from slavery  
and led them to a land of promise and plenty,  
liberate all who are captive or oppressed  
and bring them to a place of abundant life.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As you saved your people from death  
on the night of the Passover,  
redeem us from sin and death  
through Jesus Christ the Lamb.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord  
stooped down to wash his disciples' feet,  
teach us to love and serve our neighbors  
with Christlike compassion and humility.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As Christ the Lord has handed on to us  
a feast of grace in his body and blood,  
help us to share with all who hunger  
the gifts we have received from you.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our liberator and redeemer,  
we give thanks that you have heard our cry.  
Continue to lead us from death to life eternal,  
and let our lives be a sign of your saving love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **EUCCHARIST**

### The Invitation:

The Lord said to Moses:

This shall be a day of remembrance for you,  
you shall celebrate it as a festival of the Lord.

Paul says to the Church:

As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,  
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## **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.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy  
to give you thanks and praise,  
O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.

You made us in your image,  
and freed us from the bonds of slavery.  
You claimed us as your people,  
and made covenant to be our God.

You fed us manna in the wilderness,  
and brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey.  
When we forgot your covenant  
you spoke through prophets,  
calling us to turn again to your ways.

Therefore we praise you,  
joining our voices with the celestial choirs  
and with all the faithful of every time and place,  
who forever sing to the glory of your name:



The Sanctus:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.  
In humility he descends from your heights,  
to kneel in obedience to love's commands.

He who is boundless takes on the bondage of our sin.  
He who is free takes our place in death's prison.  
He who is risen leads us to eternal life.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts,  
we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given  
us, and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus  
Christ.

Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving  
as a living and holy offering of ourselves,  
that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Memorial Acclamation:

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,  
that the bread we break and the cup we bless

may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ  
and with all who are baptized in his name,  
that we may be one in ministry in every place.  
As this bread is Christ's body for us,  
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Lead us, O God, by the power of your Spirit  
to live as love commands.  
Bound to Christ,  
set us free for joyful obedience and glad service.

As Jesus gave his life for ours,  
help us to live our lives for others  
with humility and persistent courage.

Give us strength to serve you faithfully  
until the promised day of resurrection,  
when, with the redeemed of all the ages,  
we will feast with you at your table in glory.

Through Christ,  
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,  
with the Holy Spirit in the holy church,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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:

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Distribution of the Elements:

Jesus, Lamb of God, **have mercy on us.**

Jesus, bearer of our sins, **have mercy on us.**

Jesus, redeemer of the world, **grant us peace.**

Hymn #227                      Jesus, Remember Me  
*(Sung during the receiving of the elements)*

Prayer after Communion:

God of grace, we give you thanks  
for the feast of redemption we have shared  
in the body and blood of our Savior.

As you have nourished us with love,  
let our lives proclaim your great love for the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Stripping of the Church:

Elder Derek Fisher, Deaconess Lynne Richardson

*The candles are extinguished, and all linens,  
paraments and banners are removed*

Psalm 22:    Rev. John McClester, Trustee Myrna Eldridge,  
Trustee Letizia Conrad, Sis. Carol Benton, Sis. Gwen Walker

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why so far from saving me,

so far from the words of my groaning?

**My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer;  
by night, but I find no rest.**

Yet you are the Holy One,

enthroned on the praises of Israel.

**Our ancestors put their trust in you,  
they trusted, and you rescued them.**

They cried out to you and were delivered;  
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

**But as for me, I am a worm and not human,  
scorned by all and despised by the people.**

All who see me laugh me to scorn;  
they curl their lips; they shake their heads.

**“Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver;  
let God rescue him if God so delights in him.”**

Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb,  
and kept me safe on my mother’s breast.

**I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born;  
you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.**

Be not far from me, for trouble is near,  
and there is no one to help.

**Many young bulls encircle me;  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.**

They open wide their jaws at me,  
like a slashing and roaring lion.

**I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart within my breast is melting wax.**

My strength is dried up like a potsherd;  
my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;  
and you have laid me in the dust of death.

**Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round  
me; they pierce my hands and my feet.**

I can count all my bones  
while they stare at me and gloat.

**They divide my garments among them;  
for my clothing, they cast lots.**

But you, O LORD, be not far away;  
O my help, hasten to my aid.

**Deliver me from the sword,  
my life from the power of the dog.**

Save me from the lion’s mouth!

From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.  
**I will declare your name to my people;  
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.**

You who fear the LORD, give praise!  
All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.  
**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their  
poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them;  
but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the  
LORD.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied.  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise!  
May your hearts live forever!**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead,  
shall kneel before the LORD.

**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

**They shall proclaim God's deliverance  
to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"**

Closing Prayer:

Pastor Yorty

Eternal God, your Son cried out in anguish from the cross, and you delivered him. Do not hide your face from those who cry out to you. By his death and resurrection bring life where there is death: feed the hungry, strengthen the weak, and break the chains of

oppression, that all people may rejoice in your saving deeds through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**This Evening's Offering : Buffalo 5/14 Survivors Fund**  
**Offering Baskets are located at Sanctuary Entrances**

On May 14, 2022, the Buffalo community suffered a devastating act of violence when a gunman opened fire at the Tops Friendly Market on Jefferson Avenue, killing ten people and wounding three. Many have asked how to help.

In partnership with Tops, the National Compassion Fund has established the Buffalo 5/14 Survivors Fund to provide direct financial assistance to the survivors of the deceased and those directly affected by this tragedy.

One hundred percent of the contributions donated to this Fund will go directly to survivors and victims of this tragedy. Donations made to this Fund are tax deductible.

The National Compassion Fund is a subsidiary of the National Center for Victims of Crime, the nation's leading resource and advocacy organization for crime victims and those who serve them. The National Center for Victims of Crime is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and a leading authority in compensating victims of mass casualty events.



# PASSION Week

- **March 24<sup>th</sup>** - Palm Sunday - Worship Service • 10AM
- **March 28<sup>th</sup>** - Maundy Thursday - Joint Worship held at University Presbyterian • 6PM
- **March 29<sup>th</sup>** - Good Friday - Elim Christian Fellowship • 9AM
- **March 30<sup>th</sup>** - Easter Eggstravaganza • 1PM
- **March 31<sup>st</sup>** - Sunrise Worship collaboration with First Shiloh Baptist Church • 6AM
- **March 31<sup>st</sup>** - Resurrection Sunday - Worship Service • 10AM



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Rev. Corey B. Gibson, M.Div. - Senior Pastor



*University Presbyterian Church invites you to worship with us...*



*Good Friday Tenebrae 7:30 pm*

*Easter Sunday Breakfast at 9:00 am and  
Worship Service 10:30 am*



***The UPC Ministry in Community Committee invites  
you to join with our friends from Calvary Baptist  
Church in two service opportunities:***



**Re-Scheduled Opportunities**

**Tuesday, May 14th**

**Hearts for the Homeless of WNY Inc.**

**Food Pantry & Cafe**

**890 Tonawanda St., Buffalo 14207**

**@ the corner of Riverside Ave.**

Parking lot in between two of the buildings (870 and 890)

Street parking on Tonawanda St., Riverside Ave., and Royal Ave.

Contact Person: Kelsey Jeff (Chief of Staff & Executive Assistant)

1(585)689-4771

Arrival Time: 10:30 am – 10:45 am

Maximum Number of Volunteers: 20 – 25



**Saturday, May 18th**

**Jericho Road's VIVE Shelter**

**1500 Main St., Buffalo 14209**

**(Former Bristol Home)**

Parking in Rear / Side door entrance

Arrival Time: 11:00 am

\*Number of Residents/Staff will be received a week prior

Contact Person: Rachel Wood/Kitchen Manager (716) 940-7374

Activities:

Bingo Game/Prizes / Arts & Crafts / Clean Dining Room

Provide Lunch: Pizza & Wings for Residents/Staff

\*No picture taking

