

# University Presbyterian Church



Sunday, January 11, 2026  
10:30 a.m.

Epiphany of the Lord, January 11, 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 Pastorale in F J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

\*Call to Worship<sup>†</sup> (Isaiah 60: 1,3-5,6b)

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**The brightness of God's light shines upon all the nations.  
All are welcomed to the brightness of God's dawn.**

God gathers us from far away and carries us. With radiant eyes, with rejoicing hearts, we receive the abundance God gives.

**We respond in praise. With our gifts, with our very selves,  
we worship God.**

\*Prayer of the Day<sup>†</sup> (Isaiah 60: 1-2, 4-5; Matthew 2:1, 10-11)

**O Lord our God, your glory shines as far as the east is  
from the west, from the north to the south, so that all  
people may see and be radiant, so that every heart might  
thrill and rejoice. Guide us on our baptismal journey in  
Christ. Overwhelm us with the joy of your presence. May**

**we enter your house and pay homage to him whose infant arms are already reaching out to the ends of the earth that all might be gathered in. In your triune name, we pray. Amen.**

\*Hymn #151 We Three Kings of Orient Are John Henry Hopkins Jr.  
*Kings of Orient*

## **THE CONFESSION AND PARDON**

The Invitation<sup>†</sup> (John 3:19, CEB; Eph. 3:12)

The Gospel of John tells us the basis for our judgment is this: "The light came into the world, and people loved darkness more than the light, for their actions are evil." We confess our sins to God, to whom we have access through faith in Christ. We come in boldness and confidence, not according to our merit, but according to God's grace.

The Prayer<sup>†</sup> (Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14)

**God of justice, we confess that our actions are misguided whenever we remain passive while others are oppressed; whenever we guard our own prosperity at the expense of those who are poor; or when we ignore the cries of those in need of help. Forgive us, we pray, for hiding in the darkness of this world more than loving the light of your righteousness made known to us in Jesus Christ. Judge us with mercy, we pray, and extend your grace to us. Strengthen our faithfulness to you and to all who are precious in your sight. We pray in the name of Christ, our Light. Amen.**

*There follows a moment of silent personal confession*

The Pardon<sup>†</sup> (John 3:17)

Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason God sent the Son into the world-not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. We declare the good news of the Gospel:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to live a new life in him.**

\*Hymn #581                      Glory Be to the Father                      Henry W. Greatorex

**Glory Be to the Father, And to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen, Amen.**

\*Sharing the Peace and Greetings

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

\*Sung response    Hymn #822

**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<sup>†</sup>

O God of wonder, as that ancient star rose and guided the magi, illuminating the place where Jesus was, so now may the light of your Holy Spirit shine in our hearts and minds as the Word is read and proclaimed. Guide us again to Christ, and direct us in new paths of faithfulness. In Christ we pray. **Amen.**

Responsive Reading    Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;  
**that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**

that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.  
**Let him defend the needy among the people,**

**rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an  
abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

May all kings bow down before him,  
and all the nations do him service.

**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

He has compassion on the lowly and poor,  
and preserves the lives of the needy.

**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

First Scripture Reading     Isaiah 60:1-6 (OT, p. 690)

Second Scripture Reading     Matthew 2:1-12 (NT, p. 2)

Anthem                                      Born 'Neath a Star                                      Cynthia Gray

Children's Sermon

Sermon                      "Will we be overwhelmed by fear or joy?"

\*Hymn #133                      O Come, All Ye Faithful                      John Francis Wade  
*Adeste Fideles*

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

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory                      The Star Proclaims the King is Here                      Flor Peeters

\*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 #147

The First Nowell

English Carol

*The First Nowell*

\*Benediction

Postlude

Trumpet Tune in C Major

Paul Fey

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

† 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

Val Macer, Liturgist

Dennis & Amy Erickson, Greeters

Nick Casseri, Live streamer

*Next Week:*

*Priscilla Maddock, Liturgist*

*Scott Horton & Amy Maundrell, Greeters*

*Nick Casseri, Live streamer*

## **This Week...**

Sunday, January 11	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Chili Cook-off
Tuesday, January 13	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
	2:30 pm	Ministry to Community
Thursday, January 15	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Saturday, January 17	3:00 pm	Game Night & Taco Bar
Sunday, January 18	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:45 am	James Joyce Library Presentation

**Chili Cook Off:** Yum! Doesn't that chili smell great? Join us after worship for chili tasting and find out who will be named the best Chili Maker of UPC. All are welcome to come and sample the chili varieties.

**Taco Bar and Game Night:** Join us on Saturday, January 17 from 3:00-6:00pm for tacos and board games. Plenty of games will be provided but if you have a favorite board game please bring it with you.

**January 18 Adult Education Hour:** On Sunday January 18, UPC's Adult Education hour (11:45 - 12:45) will host Dr James Maynard, Curator at University at Buffalo Libraries' Poetry Collection. Dr. Maynard is currently overseeing the completion of the new James Joyce Museum, which will be housed in Abbott Hall on UB's South Campus - across the street from UPC. The noted Irish novelist, poet, and literary critic, James Joyce (1882-1941), will be UPC's new neighbor! Dr. Maynard's presentation will focus on the importance of James Joyce within 20th century English language literature, describe how UB acquired the world's largest collection of James Joyce materials, and explain the value of a publicly accessible James Joyce Museum to the greater Western New York Community.

**You're Invited!** The Ministry to Community Committee would like to tell you about our work. More than that, we want to hear your ideas and welcome your involvement! Join us for adult education hour on Sunday January 25 in the Fellowship Hall 11:45-12:45.

## **University Presbyterian Church's Vision Statement**

Let us be **BREAD:**

**B**eaming Christ's love to our neighbors and beyond

**R**esounding praise of God in worship with music while caring for one another and growing our faith

**E**nriching our neighborhood through creative use of our building

**A**cting with energy to foster a growing, vibrant, and welcoming church family

**D**eveloping 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

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