

University Presbyterian Church



Sunday, November 30, 2025
10:30 a.m.

1st Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2025
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

"Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme"

J. S. Bach

Sleepers Awake! A Voice Astounds Us

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath[†]

The Hickey Family

Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer. We light this candle in hope.

Hear God's promise of hope from Isaiah 2:2-4: In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Faithful God, out of war's chaos, you bring the order of peace. Renew us in hope, that we may work toward Christ's advent of peace among all nations. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. Amen.

Hymn #35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Lobe Den Herren

Stralsund Ernewerten Gesangbuch

THE CONFESSION AND PARDON

The Invitation[‡]

There is a voice crying out in the wilderness of sin. God is calling to us with love. Let us confess our sin, trusting in God's saving grace.

The Prayer[‡]

**We confess to you, O God,
that we are not prepared to welcome your way of righteousness, justice,
and peace. You call us to repentance, but we refuse to change our ways.
You call us to resist oppression, but we resign ourselves to evil. You call
us to be reconciled, but we remain divided and afraid. Forgive us, God of
grace. Pour out your Spirit in our lives so that we may be forgiven, set
free, and made ready to meet you at the coming of your holy realm;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

There follows a moment of silent personal confession

The Pardon[‡]

Every valley shall be filled and every mountain made low and the crooked made straight and the rough made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. This is the good news we are waiting for:

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

*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†

The prayer for illumination is led from the lectern or pulpit. Speak to us this day,
O Lord. Visit us with your wisdom, overshadow us with your Spirit, and let it be
with us according to your Word: Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**

Responsive Reading Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."
Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;
**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls and quietness with-in your towers.
**For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.
Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good."**

First Scripture Reading Isaiah 2:1-5 (OT, p. 631)

Second Scripture Reading Matthew 24:36-44 (NT, p. 27)

Anthem

People Look East

arr. Richard Shepard

Children's Sermon

Sermon

“Beginning Preparations”

*Hymn #88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Plainsong

Veni Emmasnul

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“Once He Came in Blessing”

Michael Burkhardt

The Good Shepherd

*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 #313

Lord, Make Us More Holy

African American Spiritual

Lord, Make Us More Holy

*Benediction

Postlude

“Toccata”

Richard Hudson

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

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

† From The Office of Theology and Worship Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

‡ From *Connections: Worship Companion*

One License #: A-723910

Participating in Worship:

The Rev. Dr. Christine James, Pastor

Rebecca Kroetsch, Choir Director

Gregory White, Organist

Ginna Coon, Liturgist

Amy Maundrell & Tom Somerville, Greeters

Val Macer, Live streamer

Next Week:

Jim Smyton, Liturgist

Kathryn Hallborg, Amy Maundrell & Sharon Melius, Greeters

Val Macer, Live streamer

This Week...

Sunday, November 30

9:00 am

Choir

10:30 am

Worship Service

11:30 am

Fellowship & Birthday Cake

11:45 am

Adult Ed

Monday, December 1

7:00 pm

Deacons' Meeting-Zoom

Tuesday, December 2

12:00 pm

Food Pantry Open

Thursday, December 3

12:00 pm

Food Pantry Open

Saturday, December 6

10:00 am

Breakfast with Friends

Sunday, December 7	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Hand bells
	11:45 am	Adult Ed

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT CAMPAIGN 2025: The focus this year is the Children's Enrichment Ministry of Frontera de Cristo in Agua Prieta, Sonora. All children are welcome, especially children who are at risk of dropping out of school. When a child is enrolled in this safe and nurturing place, then their cousins and school friends join too, because their mothers like to know they are growing and happy. CEM works with 10 elementary schools, churches, the Children's Home and other organizations. They have 3 sites in different neighborhoods of the city and want to expand. Your donation will allow them to purchase the most basic needs: pencils, markers, crayons, balls, storage boxes, foam sheets, paints and other items. From Sunday November 30 to Sunday December 21, there will be a table in the narthex staffed by a Ministry to Community member where you can make a donation and receive a card or cards (designed by Janet Mazzaroppi) to let a friend or loved one know you have made this gift in their honor. Or you may simply make a donation. Any amount is welcome! Checks may be made payable to "University Presbyterian Church" with "Alt Gift" in the subject line. Thank you for your consideration.

Annual University Presbyterian Church Family Christmas Dinner: Please join us for our Christmas Dinner on December 14th following the worship service. Tickets are: Adults \$15, Youth (5-13) \$10, Children under 5 Free, Special family rate available. RSVP to the Church Office 836-7660

University Presbyterian Church's Vision Statement

Let us be **BREAD:**

Beaming Christ's love to our neighbors and beyond

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

Enriching our neighborhood through creative use of our building

Acting with energy to foster a growing, vibrant, and welcoming church family

Developing 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

3330 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14214-1316
Phone: (716) 836-7660
Email: office@upcbuffalo.org
Website: www.upcbuffalo.org

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