

# University Presbyterian Church



Sunday, March 22, 2026

10:30 a.m.

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent, March 22, 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

Choral No. 3  
*Andante*

César Franck

Welcome and Announcements

\*Call to Worship<sup>†</sup> (Psalm 130)

Out of the depths we call to you, O Lord.

**Let your ears hear our supplication.**

We wait for you, O God. In your word is our hope.

**We wait for you, O Lord, for with you there is mercy.**

Come. Let us worship God.

**\*Prayer of the Day<sup>‡</sup>**

**God of grace, you pour out your mercy with abundance and your grace with boundless generosity. Make us ever more faithful, and ever more grateful, as we strive to give to others in the same measure you give to us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## THE CONFESSION AND PARDON

### Call to Confession†

Psalm 130 reminds us that our God is loving and merciful. Let us come before God now, together and then privately and silently, to confess our sin.

### Prayer of Confession†

**God, we are a busy people. We become pre-occupied with the demands of work, our relationships, and our communities. We tend to focus on our own needs and fail to see the needs of those around us. We do that which we should not and fail to do that which we should. We ask for your forgiveness and for your guidance in following the path you have set before us. Hear us now as we humbly come before you silently and privately to confess our sin. (*Time for Silent Prayer*) Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon† (Psalm 130, The Message)

“If you, God, kept records on wrongdoings, who would stand a chance? As it turns out, forgiveness is your habit, and that’s why you’re worshiped.” Friends, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

### \*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†

Gracious God, we come before you now to worship you and listen to your Word. Open our ears to hear. May we understand your Word more fully and follow the path you have set before us. **Amen.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

**O LORD, hear my voice!**

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand?

**Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.**

I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

**For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

First Scripture Reading Romans 8:6-11 (NT p. 158)

Second Scripture Reading John 11:1-45 (NT p. 104)

Anthem

The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee

Jean Berger

*Sanctuary Choir*

Children's Sermon

*The Children are dismissed to Sunday School downstairs in the Fellowship Hall*

Sermon “Answers Beyond our Understanding”

\*Hymn #450

Be Thou My Vision  
*Slane*

Irish ballad

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Voluntary

Lamento

Alexandre Guilmant

\*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 #542

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

William G. Tomer

*God Be With You*

\*Benediction

Postlude

Marche Solennelle  
*de Procession*

Charles Gounod

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

† Liturgy written by Jane Holtzclaw and provided for free distribution for © Presbyterian Outlook, 2026.

‡ Feasting on the Word: Lenten Companion  
*One License #: A-723910*

Participating in Worship:

The Rev. Dr. Christine James, Pastor

Rebecca Kroetsch, Choir Director

Gregory White, Organist

Priscilla Maddock, Liturgist

Val Macer, Sharon Melius & Tom Somerville, Greeters

Nick Casseri, Live streamer

Amy Erickson, Sunday School Lead

Scott Horton, Sunday School Assistant

*Next Week:*

Jerilyn Hickey, Liturgist

Kathryn Hallborg, Vicki Moorhouse & Tom Somerville, Greeters

John Swaine, Live streamer

Amy Erickson, Sunday School Lead

Jude Hammer, Sunday School Assistant

**This Week...**

Sunday, March 22	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship Time
	11:30 am	Children's Choir
	11:30 am	Hand Bells
Tuesday, March 24	11:30 am	Personnel
	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, March 26	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
	6:00 pm	Zoom Prayer Service
Sunday, March 29	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	
	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship Time & Cake
	11:30 am	Children's Choir
	11:30 am	Hand Bells

**Easter tide Bible Study / Discussion:** On the first three Sundays following Easter (April 12, 19, & 26) join John McClester in UPC's Adult Education hour (11:45 - 12:45) for a discussion-focused Bible Study on contemporary Christian Practice. Our method will be to read the short play, "Ezekiel's Wheel" - yes, you will need to read the play prior to our first meeting! Our discussion will commence with examining the biblical themes and passages which inform, inspire, confuse, and disappoint the characters in "Ezekiel's Wheel." Contact John McClester at [icecreamemperor@yahoo.com](mailto:icecreamemperor@yahoo.com) to request a digital copy (PDF format) of "Ezekiel's Wheel" via email. Requesting (and reading) the play does not obligate you to attend the discussions.

## 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>