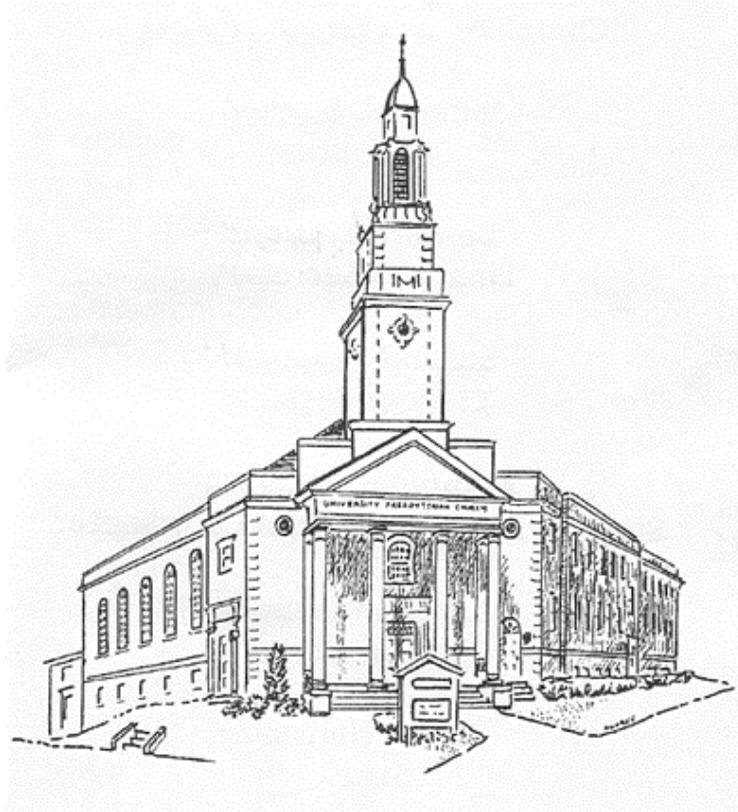


University Presbyterian Church



Sunday, March 8, 2026
10:30 a.m.

3rd Sunday in Lent, March 8, 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

O Lord, Have Mercy
Adagio

J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship[†] (Psalm 95:1-7a)

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God, and a great ruler above all gods. In God's hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are God's also.

The sea is the Lord's, for God made it, and the dry land, which God's hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture, and the sheep of God's hand.

***Prayer of the Day† (John 9:6,25,38)**

Holy God, why is it that we look but do not see? Bring us again and again into your light until your ways become visible to us, and bear fruit in us. Touch us so that we are utterly changed, a “before” and “after,” a “now” and “then;” that we may also say, “one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” Lord we believe; help our unbelief. In Christ’s light, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn #1

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Nicaea

John Bacchus Dukes

THE CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession†

As we wander through the wilderness of Lent, we come closer and closer to confronting human sin, both our own sin and our collective sin. It is with honesty about how we have hurt others, and hurt ourselves, that we can move closer to the healing that God wills for us. Confession allows us to exercise such honesty, knowing that the God who hears us is the God who already loves us. Therefore, we need not fear confession, but draw near to the love is God, in honesty and candor, first together, and then in silence...

Prayer of Confession†

God of endless renewal, God who calls us to lives restored, God who rescues the lost and saves the afflicted, there are times when our way grows confused. We struggle to know what to do. Or worse, we know what needs to be done and find it easier to stay on the wrong path. Forgive us for failing to heed opportunities to follow a better way. Remind us that you stand more ready to forgive than we are to confess those aspects of our lives that stand in need of your grace. And thus forgiven, help us to lean in to what you would teach us about how we are to be. We pray all these things in Jesus’ name, and for his sake.
(Time for Silent Prayer) Amen.

Assurance of Pardon† (Romans 8:34)

Who is to condemn?

It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes who was raised, who is at the right hand of God who indeed intercedes for us.

Believe the promise of the gospel: **In 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†

May the words of my mouth, and the meditations of all of our hearts, be acceptable, even pleasing in your sight, O Lord, our strength and redeemer.
Amen.

Responsive Reading Psalm 95

Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.
In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.

The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!
"Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.

There your ancestors tested me, they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.
Forty years I loathed that generation, saying, 'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'

Indeed I swore in my anger, 'They shall never come to my rest.'"

First Scripture Exodus 17: 1-7 (OT, p. 64)

Second Scripture Reading John 4: 5-42 (NT, p. 94)

Anthem Bright Morning Stars Are Rising Audrey Snyder
Sanctuary Choir

Children's Sermon

Sermon "Looking beyond Difference"

*Hymn #494 Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts Henry Baker
Quebec

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Trio Sonata No. 1 in G Minor J. S. Bach

*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 # 733

We All Are One in Mission

Es flog ein kleins waldvögelein

George Ratcliffe Woodward

*Benediction

Postlude

Plein Jeu (7th Tone)

Jacques Boyvin

Grand Mixture - Maestoso

*This morning's flowers are given in celebration
of Cindy Hickey's 80th birthday on March 11.*

With love from Jerilyn, Ben, Alexa, Mac, Violet, Don and Ranger.

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

† Liturgy written by Baron Mullis 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

Val Macer, Liturgist

Scott Horton Sharon Melius & Tom Somerville, Greeters

Nick Casseri, Live streamer

Jude Hammer, Sunday School Assistant

Next Week:

Vicki Moorhouse, Liturgist

Grace Agbemenu, Greeters

Val Macer, Live streamer

Linda Martin, Sunday School Assistant

This Week...

Sunday, March 8	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Italian Potluck Luncheon
	11:30 am	Children's Choir
	11:30 am	Hand bells
Monday, March 9	10:00 am	Worship & Education
Tuesday, March 10	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
	2:30 pm	Ministry to Community-Zoom
Thursday, March 12	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
	6:00 pm	Prayer Service
Sunday, March 15	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship Time
	11:30 am	Children's Choir

Hand bells: If you are interested, the rehearsal dates are today and March 22 and 29.

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

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