

University Presbyterian Church



Sunday, December 14, 2025
10:30 a.m.

3rd Sunday of Advent, December 14, 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	Gottes Sohn ist Kommen	J.S. Bach
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Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath[†] Sunday School Children
Watch and wait for Christ's coming! With joy we wait for Jesus' birth!

*Hymn #33 Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show Robert Williams
Llanfair

*Call to Worship[†] (Isaiah 35, Luke 1, James 5, Matthew 11)

We gather today in great hope, longing to see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

The Almighty has done great things for us. Holy is God's name.

May our worship strengthen our hands, make firm our trembling knees, and unburden our fearful hearts.

The Almighty has done great things for us. Holy is God's name.

Knowing that God is near, let us be patient with the times and with one another.

The Almighty has done great things for us. Holy is God's name.

To all who ask about our hope, let us tell the good news of what we have seen and heard.

**The Almighty has done great things for us. Holy is God's name.
Let us Worship God.**

***Prayer of the Day[†]**

(Isaiah 35, James 5, Matthew 11)

Joyful and patient God, you break into our Advent busyness with your extravagant promise of glory and joy. Fire up our imaginations with holy trust in your goodness. Inspire us with a patience that sees beyond our habitual longing for past glories and understandings. Move us beyond our too familiar criticisms of one another and of ourselves. Open our eyes and help us see your compassion, already at work in our world: healing, restoring, strengthening, and telling the good news that you are near. Make us signs of your everlasting joy for your people and for all the world. We pray in the name of Jesus, whose nearness we proclaim. Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND PARDON

The Invitation[†]

Through Jesus Christ, whose birth we await, we receive forgiveness. With that assurance, let us freely confess our sin.

The Prayer[†](Isaiah 35, Luke 1, James 5, Matthew 11)

Advent God, we yearn to rejoice, as we tell of Jesus coming into our world. We long to see your promise of mercy, justice, and restoration, fulfilled for all people everywhere. In our yearning, we discover that our hands are weak, our knees are feeble, and our hearts are full of fear. Stuck in old stories and remembered glories, we grow critical of one another and of ourselves. We even wonder whether Jesus is near. Then our desire to rejoice sputters in frustration and impatience. Restore us, yearned-for God. for your joy is not our accomplishment,

but your gift. Set us on the Holy Way of Advent, forgiven, strengthened, and healed, rejoicing in your glory and majesty.

There follows a moment of silent personal confession

The Pardon (Isaiah 35)

Advent People of God, as those ransomed by the Lord, walk the Holy Way, where no traveler goes astray. Come, rejoicing and singing, knowing that sorrow and sighing shall flee and that God's everlasting joy shall surround and hold you.

*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

Holy God, as we read your word, help us to feel your presence in this place. Guide us as we journey towards Christmas Day so that we may follow your will. **Amen.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 146:5–10

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in
them; who keeps promises forever;**

who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those
who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**

The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout
all generations. Hallelujah!**

First Scripture Reading James 5:7-10 (NT, p. 231)

Second Scripture Reading Matthew 11:2–11 (NT, p. 11)

Anthem Behold a Star from Jacob Rising Mendelssohn

Children's Sermon

Sermon "The One We Wait For"

*Hymn #102 Savior of the Nations Come Erfurt Enchiridion
Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Der Tag der ist so freudenreich 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 #720

Jesus Calls Us
Galilee

William H. Jude

*Benediction

Postlude

Herr Christ der éin'ge Gottes Sohn

J.S.Bach

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

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Participating in Worship:

The Rev. Dr. Christine James, Pastor

Rebecca Kroetsch, Choir Director

Gregory White, Organist

Howard Henry, Liturgist

Marietta Bratton, Kathryn Hallborg & Amy Maundrell, Greeters

Scott Horton, Live streamer

Next Week:

LeeAnn Grace, Liturgist

Kathryn Hallborg, Scott Horton & Amy Maundrell, Greeters

Val Macer, Live streamer

This Week...

Sunday, December 14	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Christmas Dinner
Tuesday, December 16	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Wednesday, December 17	7:00 pm	Session
Thursday, December 18	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Sunday, December 21	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship Time
	11:30 am	Hand bells

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 next 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.

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>