

# University Presbyterian Church



Sunday, February 1, 2026  
10:30 a.m.

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany, February 1, 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                    Wie schön leuchtet der Monrgenstern                    Johann Pachelbel  
                          *How Brightly Shines the Morningstar*

## Welcome and Announcements

### \*Call to Worship†

Lord, we come into your sanctuary with eagerness. May we hear your call and speak your truth. Lord, we come to abide with you in love. Gather us in honest and faithful community. Lord, prepare us to be people of hope and grace. Kindle in us courage to live as brave and faithful disciples.

**Let us worship our God together in this holy place. Alleluia. Amen.**

## \*Prayer of the Day<sup>‡</sup>

Redeeming God, you come to us in Christ to rescue us from slavery and lead us out of captivity. Guide us by the wisdom of the cross, and show us how to live a life of justice, love, and blessedness. **Amen.**

\*Hymn #643

Now Thank We All Our God

*Nun danket alle gott*

Felix Mendelssohn

## THE CONFESSION AND PARDON

The Invitation<sup>†</sup>

With what shall I come before the Lord? We come, knowing we've lived imperfectly, knowing we need forgiveness, and we ask what we could possibly offer for such a gift. But when we come in honesty and repentance, we find a God who is ready to love, ready to forgive, and ready to renew us as children of God. Trusting in that grace, let us confess our sin, first together and then in silent prayer.

The Prayer<sup>†</sup>

**Merciful God, we come before you in confession. You have showered us with blessings, but we hoard those gifts, refusing to share with our neighbors in need. You have given us freedom to live justly, but we choose to oppress and judge others. You have called us to live in peaceful community, but we sow discord and breed fear among ourselves. Forgive us. Soften our hearts and open our minds to hear your call. Inspire us to act justly, love fiercely, and walk in your way each and every day. Amen.**

*There follows a moment of silent personal confession*

Kyrie Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison

*Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy*

New World Symphony

The Pardon<sup>†</sup>

The mercy of the Lord is deeper than the depths of the sea and wider than the whole of the earth. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, healed and made whole. Alleluia. Amen.**

\*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>

God of wonder, awaken us! As we hear your Word read and proclaimed, open us to be surprised! Enliven us with the power of the Word and presence of your Spirit. Transform us for our walk with you. **Amen**

Responsive Reading    Psalm 15

**LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?**

**Who may abide upon your holy hill?**

**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart; they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.**

In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

**They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.**

First Scripture Reading

Micah 6:1-8 (NT p. 866)

## Second Scripture Reading Matthew 5:1-12 (NT p. 4)

## Anthem Prepare the Lord, All Ye People Michael Haydn

## Children's Sermon

## Flipped Blessings

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

## Invitation to the Offering

## Offertory Cantabile Benedetto Marcello

### \*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

\*Hymn # 525      Let Us Break Bread Together      Let Us Break Bread  
*Melva Wilson Costen*

## THE EUCHARIST

The Invitation (Luke 13:29; 24:30–31)

This is the joyful feast of the people of God! People will come from north and south and from east and west to sit at table in the kingdom of God. According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. This is the Lord's Table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast that he has prepared.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Praise to you, O God, for all your works. You created the world and called it good and made us in your image to live together in love. You made a covenant with us, and even when we turned from you, you remained ever faithful.

Therefore, with all creation we sing your praise:

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Holy, Holy, Holy

Capo 3: (Em) (D) (C) (D) (Em) (Am)  
 Gm F Eb F Gm Cm

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

(Em) (Am6) (B7) (Em) (D)  
 Gm Cm6 D7 Gm F

pow - er, God of might, heav - en and earth are

(C) (D) (Em) (Am) (D)  
 Eb F Gm Cm F

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

(Em) (D) (Gm) (F) (Em) (D) (C)  
 Gm F Gm F Eb

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the

(D) (A) (Am) (Cm) (D)  
 F C Gm F

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

(Em) (Am) (D) (Bm7) (E)  
 Gm Cm F Dm7 G

high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thank you, O God, for sending us your Son. He lived among us and told your story. He healed the sick and welcomed sinners. He shared our pain and died our death, then rose to new life that we might live, and all creation be restored. Remembering your boundless love revealed to us in Jesus Christ, we break bread and share the cup, giving ourselves to you to live for him in joy and praise.

The Memorial Acclamation:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come a - gain.  
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come a - gain.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ and that we may be his body for the world. By your Spirit unite us with Christ and one another until we feast with him and with all your saints in your eternal realm of justice and peace. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Intercessions for the Church and the World

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.**

## The Words of Institution

When Jesus was at table with his disciples he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat. Whenever you do this, remember me. In the same way he took and poured the cup, saying: Take and drink. Whenever you do this, remember me. Now, whenever we eat and drink at this table, we celebrate Christ's death and resurrection until he comes again.

## Distribution of the Bread and Cup

## Prayer after Communion

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

\*Hymn # 749

Come! Live in the Light!  
*We are called*

David Hass

\*Benediction

Postlude

Festival Toccata

Percy E. Fletcher

*The chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Connie Michael's parents, Emily and Aaron Wells.*

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

† Liturgy written by Rae Watson and provided for free distribution for © Presbyterian Outlook, 2026.

‡ 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

Jim Smyton, Liturgist

Kathryn Hallborg, Amy Maundrell & Sharon Melius, Greeters

Val Macer, Live streamer

Scott Horton, Amy Maundrell & John Swaine, Communion Servers

*Next Week:*

*Howard Henry, Liturgist*

*Amy Erickson, Dennis Erickson & Amy Maundrell, Greeters*

*Nick Casseri, Live streamer*

**This Week...**

Sunday, February 1	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Annual Meeting & Lunch
Monday, February 2	10:00 am	Worship & Education Committee
	7:00 pm	Deacons' Mtg. Zoom
Tuesday, February 3	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, February 5	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Saturday, February 7	10:00 am	Breakfast with Friends
Sunday, February 8	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Souper Bowl Sunday

**Souper Bowl Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>** We will be collecting cans of soup for our food pantry. You are also invited to bring an extra can of soup; we will mix all the extras together and have lunch.

**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, February 15 in the Fellowship Hall 11:45-12:45.

**Adult Ed.:** On February 22 immediately after our service, Craig Steger will again do an adult education session to celebrate Black History Month. Craig recently retired from the Club's Board of Directors where he served as its historian. This year, Craig will show a brief video about Buffalo's Historic Colored Musicians Club and Buffalo Local 533, the American Federation of Musicians black standalone union that founded it, and discuss his most recent research on the 100+ year histories of these amazing organizations. His most recent research can be downloaded from Western New York Heritage magazine's Fall issue for a mere \$2 at [https://www.wnyheritage.org/content/buffalos\\_pioneering\\_african\\_american\\_musicians\\_union\\_its\\_histori/index.html](https://www.wnyheritage.org/content/buffalos_pioneering_african_american_musicians_union_its_histori/index.html). The magazine is still available for purchase (and Craig will have copies on hand to loan out)."

## **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>