

**University Presbyterian Church  
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**Sunday, September 7, 2025**

**The Rev. Dr. Tom Yorty, Interim Pastor  
Rebecca Kroetsch, Choral Director  
Gregory White, Organist**

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

13th Sunday after Pentecost, September 7, 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. 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:                                      St David                                      Richard Proulx

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (*please stand, if able*)

Happy are those who delight in God's word.  
**They are like trees planted by the water.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Direct and help us, O Lord,  
in all our deeds,  
that in all our works  
begun, continued, and ended in you,  
we may glorify your holy name,  
and finally, by your mercy,  
obtain everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

## **THE CONFESSION AND PARDON**

### The Invitation

When we pass through deep waters or go through times of fiery trial, the Lord our God is with us.

With confidence in God, our creator and redeemer, let us confess our sin.

### The Prayer

**Gracious God,  
our sins are too heavy to carry,  
too real to hide,  
and too deep to undo.  
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,  
what our hearts can no longer bear,  
and what has become for us  
a consuming fire of judgment.**

**Set us free from a past that we cannot change;  
open to us a future in which we can be changed;  
and grant us grace  
to grow more and more in your likeness and image;  
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. 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

Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by name; you are mine.

God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth! By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

## 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:

Speak to us, living God, as you have spoken to our ancestors:  
through the voices of your prophets, the breath of your Spirit,  
and the life of your Son, so that we may live according to your  
word; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Psalter: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

LORD, you have searched me out; O LORD, you have known me.  
**You know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

You trace my journeys and my resting-places  
and are acquainted with all my ways.  
**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,  
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

You encompass me, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.  
**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

For you yourself created my inmost parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
**I will thank you because I am marvelously made;  
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

My body was not hidden from you, while I was being made in  
secret and woven in the depths of the earth.  
**Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;  
all of them were written in your book;  
my days were fashioned before they came to be.**

How deep I find your thoughts, O God!  
How great is the sum of them!  
**If I were to count them, They would be more in number  
than the sand; to count them all, my life span would need  
to be like yours.**

The Reading: Jeremiah 18:1-11 (p. 720 of the OT in the pew bible)

Anthem: The Grace Divine arr. Roger Price

Sermon: "We Belong to God"

Hymn #224 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross Edward Miller  
*Rockingham*

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

Invitation to the Offering

Voluntary O Lamb of God Most Holy arr. Gerald Near  
*O Lamm Gottes, Nicholas Decius, 1541*

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

## THE EUCHARIST

The Invitation:

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst  
for righteousness, for they will be filled.

## 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.**

We give you thanks, O God, through your beloved Servant,  
Jesus Christ, whom you have sent in these last times  
as Savior and redeemer, and messenger of your will.  
He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you made  
all things and in whom you take delight. You sent him from  
heaven into the Virgin's womb, where he was conceived, and  
took flesh. Born of the Virgin by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
he was revealed as your Son.

In fulfillment of your will he stretched out his hands in suffering  
to release from suffering those who place their trust in you,  
and so won for you a holy people.

He freely accepted the death to which he was handed over,  
in order to destroy death and to shatter the chains of the evil  
one; to trample underfoot the powers of hell and to lead the  
righteous into light; to fix the boundaries of death  
and to manifest the resurrection.

And so he took bread, gave thanks to you, and said:

"Take, and eat; this is my body, broken for you."

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

"This is my blood, shed for you. When you do this, do it for the

remembrance of me.”

Remembering therefore his death and resurrection, we set before you this bread and cup, thankful that you have counted us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you as your priestly people.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of the holy church. Gather into one all who share these holy mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory, through your Servant, Jesus Christ.

Through him all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Sanctus: *(Page 11 of bulletin)*

Holy God, we thank you for Jesus Christ, your Son. In Jesus, born of Mary, your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. He lived as one of us, knowing joy and sorrow. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, welcomed sinners, and proclaimed good news to the poor. Dying on the cross, he gave himself for the life of the world. Rising from the grave, he won for us victory over death. Seated at your right hand, he reigns with you in glory and will come again to make all things new.

The Memorial Acclamation:

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ’s body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

In union with your Church in heaven and on earth,  
we pray, O God, that you will fulfill your eternal purpose  
in us and in all the world.

Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final  
victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your  
eternal realm.

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 Words of Institution

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

Holy God, we give you thanks  
that you have claimed us as your own  
and nourished us in this meal  
as members of Christ's body.  
By the work of your Spirit within us  
give us the grace to glorify you  
as one living body in the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn # 719

Come, Labor On  
*Ora Labora*

Thomas Tertius Noble

Benediction

Postlude

Toccata

Eugene Butler

*(The congregation is invited to remain seated during the Postlude)*

*Chancel flowers are given in memory of Amy Maundrell's father,  
John Gross' birthday*



### **Participating in Worship:**

The Rev. Dr. Tom Yorty, Interim Pastor

Rebecca Kroetsch, Choral Director

Gregory White, Organist

Jim Smyton, Liturgist

Kathy Hallborg & Sharon Melius, Greeters

Val Macer, Live streamer

Marietta Bratton, Amy Erickson & Barbara Kraemer, Communion Servers

### **Next Sunday:**

Val Macer, Liturgist

Grace Agbemenu, Amy Maundrell & Vicki Moorhouse, Greeters

,Live streamer

### **This Week...**

Sunday, September 7	<i>Rally Day!</i>	
	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship Time
Monday, September 8	7:00 pm	Zoom Deacon Meeting
Tuesday, September 9	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
	2:30 pm	Zoom Ministry to Community
Thursday, September 11	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Sunday, September 14	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship Time

**Peg thanks you for your prayers:** My granddaughter Taylor has had a great post-op appointment with the surgeon. They have found no fluid around her heart or lungs and was not only able to spend time camping with family, but returned to nursing school and work. Prayer works!

## Summer Session Highlights

There's been a lot of positive movement over the summer! We've made significant strides in various areas, from supporting the community to enhancing church facilities and tech infrastructure. Here's a quick breakdown of the highlights that have been approved by Session and have been completed or are in process:

- 1.) Community Support: UPC raised \$1320 for school supplies for the Charles Drew School and Early Childhood Center. A group from UPC and Calvary Baptist welcomed them on the first day of school -- building community ties and making a difference for the children in our community.
- 2.) Improved Communication: There's a new wallboard and mobile board in the Fellowship Room which should make sharing information and updates much easier and more effective.
- 3.) Student Outreach: The welcoming bags for university students are being distributed and the first University & Friends luncheon has been a thoughtful touch, making them feel supported by their church family.
- 4.) Sanctuary Upgrade: The upgrades to the front doors, pillars, façade, and landscaping are being worked on- making a big difference in first impressions and overall aesthetics.
- 5.) Digital Sign: Work is being done to install a new digital sign in front of the church- A great tool for announcements, events, and keeping everyone informed.
- 6.) Website Revamp: A new website design is almost ready to unveil- it will be a huge plus in improving your online presence and making it more user-friendly.
- 7.) Office Upgrades: The new equipment (laptop, PC, printer, etc.) will surely streamline office operations. A fresh coat of paint for the minister's office- a welcoming touch for our new minister!
- 8.) Tech Enhancements: The WiFi has been upgraded and digital phones and fiber optic wiring have been installed- a major step forward in making everything more efficient and connected. WiFi is secured throughout the building!
- 9.) Vision Input: Feedback has been gathered from the congregation about UPC's Unifying Vision and will be presented to Session and UPC within the month -- essential to the church's growth and direction.

565

## Holy, Holy, Holy

Capo 3: (Em) (D) (C) (D) (Em) (Am)  
 Gm F E<sup>b</sup> 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)  
 E<sup>b</sup> F Gm Cm F

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

(Em) (D) (Em) (D) (C)  
 Gm F Gm F E<sup>b</sup>

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

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

## **Welcome Visitors**

University Presbyterian Church (UPC), the members and officers, welcomes you today. Your presence strengthens our faith and our commitment as Christ's disciples.

University Presbyterian Church welcomes all who seek to follow the Way of Jesus—the way of compassion and justice—regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identification. UPC does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in celebrating the rites of marriage.

### **University Presbyterian Church Officers and Staff**

The Rev. Dr. Tom Yorty	Interim Pastor
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

### **Mission Statement of University Presbyterian Church**

We are a hungry people who receive Christ, the Bread of Life, who sustains us on our journey. We strive to feed as we are fed, sharing the Bread to nourish others in body, mind and spirit.

**“Let Us Be Bread”**