

**University Presbyterian Church
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Sunday, September 21, 2025

**The Rev. Dr. Christine James, Pastor
Rebecca Kroetsch, Choral Director
Gregory White, Organist**

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

15th Sunday after Pentecost, September 21, 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. Ushers will take them from the plate and when the offering is brought forward, hand them to the pastor.

If you would like to borrow a hearing device for the worship service, please see one of this morning's Greeters.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude: Dialogue sur les grands jeux L.-N. Clérambault
Récits de Cromorne et de Cornet séparé en Dialogue
Duo

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (*please stand if able*)

The Lord raises the poor from the dust
and lifts up the needy from the ashes.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you created the heavens and the earth,
and humankind in your image. Teach us to discern your hand in
all your works and to serve you with reverence and

thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn #1

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Nicaea

John Bacchus Dykes

Confession and Pardon

The Invitation:

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; yet we are justified by the gift of God's grace through the redemption that is ours in Christ Jesus. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

The Prayer:

**Eternal God, our judge and redeemer,
we confess that we have tried to hide from you,
for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves,
and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors,
and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have
ignored the pain of the world, and passed by the hungry,
the poor, and the oppressed.**

**In your great mercy forgive our sins and free us from
selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your
commandments; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen**

There follows a moment of silent personal confession

The Pardon:

Because we were buried with Christ in these waters,
we are also raised to life with him. Believe the gospel!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

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:

O God, by your Holy Spirit tell us what we need to hear
and show us what we ought to do to obey Jesus Christ our
Savior. **Amen**

The Psalter: Psalm 79:1-9

God, the nations have come into your inheritance; they have
profaned your holy temple;
they have made Jerusalem a heap of rubble.
**They have given the bodies of your servants as food for
the birds of the air, and the flesh of your faithful ones to
the beasts of the field.**

They have shed their blood like water on every side of
Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them.
**We have become a reproach to our neighbors,
an object of scorn and derision to those around us.**

How long will you be angry, O LORD?
Will your fury blaze like fire forever?
Pour out your wrath upon the nations who have not

known you and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon your name.

For they have devoured Jacob and made his dwelling a ruin.

Remember not our past sins; let your compassion be swift to meet us; for we have been brought very low.

Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive us our sins, for your name's sake. Gracious God, in times of sorrow and depression, when hope itself seems lost, help us to remember the transforming power of your steadfast love and to give thanks for that new life we cannot now imagine; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

The Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7 (p. 208 of the NT in the pew bible)

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:1-13 (p. 79 of the NT in the pew bible)

Anthem: Let There be Peace on Earth
Sanctuary Choir Sy Miller & Jill Jackson/Raney

Sermon "Wealthy in Love"

Hymn #366 Love Divine , All Loves Excelling!
Hyfrydol Rowland Hugh Prichard

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Basse et Dessus de Trompette L.-N. Clérambault

Doxology Hymn #606

**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 #300 We are One in the Spirit Peter Scholtes
They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Benediction

Postlude: Caprice sur lest grands jeux L.-N. Clérambault

A-723910

Participating in Worship:

The Rev. Dr. Christine James, Pastor

Rebecca Kroetsch, Choir Director

Gregory White, Organist

Vicki Moorhouse, Liturgist

Kathy Hallborg, Scott Horton & Sharon Melius, Greeters

Val Macer, Live streamer

Next Week:

Dennis Erickson, Liturgist

Grace Agbemenu, Nick Casseri & Amy Maundrell, Greeters

Scott Horton, Live streamer

This Week...

Sunday, September 21	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship Time
	4:00 pm	Gail Archer Organ Recital
Tuesday, September 23	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, September 25	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Friday, September 27	9:30 am	Plant & Seed Exchange
Sunday, September 28	9:00 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship & Birthday Cake
	1:00 pm	PFlag

Gail Archer Recital: Gail is an international concert organist, recording artist, choral conductor and lecturer who draws attention to composer anniversaries or musical themes with her annual recital series. Her 2017 European tour took her to Germany, Italy, the British Isles, Russia, Ukraine and Poland. She will be with us at 4:00 pm today. Suggested donation at the door: \$10.

Trunk or Treat: As everyone knows by now, we're entering autumn with cooler temps and the return of football. I wanted to get the word out early about Halloween at UPC with our annual Trunk or Treat. It has increased exponentially since our beginning 3 years ago, so I'm hoping for the same outcome this year!! We would like to make it bigger and better if it is possible with more congregational support.

We need volunteers to either use their cars or one of the church's tables to hand out candy. We hold it between 6 to 8 pm in the church parking lot. In the past it has been a wonderful evening with adorable trick or treaters and hopefully the Buffalo Fire Dept. will be joining us again. It's a great way to provide a safe and fun celebration for our neighbors.

If you're unable to join us, we could always use a donation of candy for the event. Last year we totaled over 300 participants so there's no such term as "too much candy for this activity!!" If the weather is cold or rainy it will be held in the gym on tables.

For more information or questions, please contact Amy Erickson at (716) 876-6874 or our secretary, Peg, at the church office (716) 836-7660.

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. Christine James	Pastor
Rebecca Kroetsch	Choral Director
Gregory White	Organist
James W. Smyton	Treasurer
Pat Cookfair-Casseri	Clerk of Session
Kathryn F. Hallborg	Stephen Ministry Referral Coordinator
Peg Kovach	Administrative Assistant
Aaron Vivian	Facilities Manager
Roll Tomosso	Custodian

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”