

# University Presbyterian Church



Sunday, April 19, 2026

10:30 a.m.

3rd Sunday of Easter, April 19, 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. If you would like more info about Sunday School please see one of the deacons, someone handing out bulletins.

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

Prélude

Alexandre Guilmant

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Call to Worship<sup>†</sup> (from Psalm 116)**

I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.

**I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,**

in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

**Praise the Lord!**

**\*Prayer of the Day<sup>‡</sup> (Luke 24:34-35)**

**Almighty God, Jesus our risen Lord, was made known to the disciples in the breaking of the bread. Open the eyes of our hearts that we may recognize his presence and with his disciples cry, "The Lord has risen, indeed!" Through Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## THE CONFESSION AND PARDON

### Call to Confession†

1 Peter 1:21 says, “Through Christ you have come to trust in God, who raised Jesus from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.” It is because of our trust in the resurrection that each week we confess together the ways our faith and hope have not been set on God. When we confess, we name our sins and commit to turn toward the life God calls us into again. With that in mind we join our voices praying together.

### Prayer of Confession†

**Merciful God, even as we proclaim the saving life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we fail to see the living Christ in our midst. We find ourselves preoccupied with our own well-being and success, forgetting your imperative to love our neighbor as ourselves. We turn away from systems that challenge our way of thinking, choosing to justify our actions instead of examining our intentions. Show us again how to live a resurrection faith, a faith that sees life and hope in the midst of death and destruction. Transform our hearts so that where they are hardened toward you, neighbor and self, they may once again be filled with love and moved to actions of grace and mercy. In your holy name, we pray.**  
*(Time for Silent Prayer) Amen.*

### Assurance of Pardon†

In Acts 2:39, Peter says: “For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” Receive the good news, Children of God, you 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†

Holy Creator, reveal yourself to us in the reading and proclamation of your Word. Give us ears to hear your voice, eyes that see you among us, and hearts that are willing to follow where you lead. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. **Amen**

Responsive Reading Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,  
**for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**

The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;  
I came to grief and sorrow.

**Then I called upon the name of the LORD:**

**"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."**

**How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things God has done for me?**

I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

**I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people.**

Precious in your sight, O LORD, is the death of your servants.

**O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.**

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the LORD.

**I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people, in the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

First Scripture Reading      Acts 2:14, Acts 2:36-41 (NT p. 119)

Second Scripture Reading    Luke 24:13-35 (NT p. 90)

Anthem                              Rejoice! Our Christ is Risen!              Jonathan Willcocks

Children's Sermon

Sermon                              Opening our Eyes

\*Hymn #238                              Thine Is the Glory              George Frederick Handel  
*Judas Maccabeus*

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

Invitation to the Offering

Voluntary                              Offertoire                              Théodore Dubois

\*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 # 729

Lord, I want to be a Christian, in my heart, in my heart

*I Want to be a Christian*

*African American spiritual*

\*Benediction

Postlude

Fanfare in D Major

Charles Ore

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

† Liturgy written by Ashley Mertz 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

Howard Henry, Liturgist

Val Macer, Amy Maundrell & Sharon Melius, Greeters

Nick Casseri, Live streamer

Amy Erickson, Sunday School Leader

Jude Hammer, Sunday School Assistant

*Next Week:*

Paul Grucza, Liturgist

Grace Agbemenu, Kathryn Hallborg & Sharon Melius, Greeters

Val Macer, Live streamer

Amy Erickson, Sunday School Leader

**This Week...**

Sunday, April 19

9:00 am      Choir  
10:30 am     Worship Service  
11:30 am     Fellowship Time  
11:45 am     Adult Ed  
2:00 pm      PFLAG

Monday, April 20

*Network deadline*

Tuesday, April 21

12:00 pm     Food Pantry Open  
2:30 pm      Ministry to Community

Wednesday, April 22

7:00 pm      Session

Thursday, April 23

10:00 am     Property  
12:00 pm     Food Pantry Open

Saturday, April 25

9:00 am      Clean Up Day

Sunday, April 26

9:00 am      Choir  
10:30 am     Worship Service  
11:30 am     Fellowship Time & Cake  
11:45 am     Adult Ed.

**Clean Up Day:** All are welcome to UPC's Annual Spring Clean-up scheduled for Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to noon (rain or shine). We will be working mostly outside so bring gloves and any tools you might need.

## University Presbyterian Church's Vision Statement

Let us be **BREAD:**

**B**eaming Christ's love to our neighbors and beyond

**R**esounding praise of God in worship with music while caring for one another and growing our faith

**E**nriching our neighborhood through creative use of our building

**A**cting with energy to foster a growing, vibrant, and welcoming church family

**D**eveloping 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>