



First United

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1917 Fifth Avenue, Troy, NY 12180
Unitedprestroy.org † (518)272-2771

MARCH 1, 2026

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & INTENTIONS

*GATHERING WORDS

On this Second Lenten Sunday, we begin to journey again toward the cross.
We feel the weight of all that lies ahead. We wrestle with coming sorrow.
We gather with our hearts guarded against the hardship of this journey.

Instead, God of Grace, you pour out blessings.

Instead, you anoint us with oil.

Instead, you fill our cups to overflowing.

We find beauty in dry places, abundance in want, and compassion in despair.

**You call us to living water, and with our longings fulfilled,
we respond with praise!**

*OPENING HYMN

#288- *Spirit of the Living God*

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lavish God, you reveal your truth to us, even as we hide our curiosity under the cover of night. You renew our understanding, even as we stumble to respond. We confess that we have forgotten your call to justice, compassion, and right relationship. We stay back even when the waters of baptism call us forward. We separate ourselves, even though the bread and cup beckon us into community. We hide our wounds, even though the oil of anointing waits at the ready when we share our vulnerabilities. Forgive us, Holy one. Anoint us with grace brimming over that we may be restored to community. Amen.

Silence is kept for Prayer and Reflection.

KYRIE

#577- Kyrie Eleison

**Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.
Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE TO GRACE

#582- *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, as now and ever shall be. Amen.***

***World without end, without end, Amen.
World without end, without end, Amen.
World without end, without end, Amen.
As it was in the beginning, as now and ever shall be. Amen.***

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you!
And also with you!

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 121
John 3:1-17

SERMON

“Waters of Rebirth”

*SERMON RESPONSE

“Who on Earth Can Find God’s Kingdom?”
(Tune: *Nettleton*)

***Who on earth can find God's kingdom? Who can know God's wondrous reign?
How can we receive the freedom of a people born again?
Can we hear the winds a-blowing – where they come from and return?
Can we see God's kingdom growing? These are things we long to learn.***

***Nicodemus said to Jesus, "God must be at work in you!
Rabbi, you're a God-sent teacher; we can see the signs you do!"
Jesus saw his faith and questions, so he spoke these words of love:
"Surely, none can see God's kingdom, till they're born from God above."***

***Nicodemus kept on wondering, "How can one be born anew?"
Jesus said, "This is the birthing that God's Spirit brings to you.
If you want to see God's kingdom, do not be at all surprised.
You can't see God's Spirit moving, yet it's working, changing lives."***

***God, we see your world around us, and we wonder what will be.
Is your loving reign among us; is it something yet to see?
May we trust your Spirit's moving, giving life and hope and birth.
May we trust what you are doing, joy of heaven, hope of earth.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANOINTING

COMMUNION

INVITATION

PREFACE

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.

THANKSGIVING FOR GOD

SANCTUS

#552- *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*
(Tune: Land of Rest)

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!***

THANKSGIVING FOR CHRIST AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

#553- *Christ Has Died; Christ is Risen*

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

INVOCATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name,
thy kindom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and
the glory, forever. Amen.**

AMEN

#554- Amen

Amen, amen, amen.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Diane & Alan Chandler

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

*An offering plate will be passed during the service,
or you may give online through Tithe.ly: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1309305>
Please note where you would like your gift to be directed (general fund, deacons, etc.)*

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

#697- *Take My Life* (vs. 6)

***Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for thee— ever, only, all for thee!***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of Grace, every good thing comes from you. We pray that you would bless what we have offered to overflow our community with an abundance of healing and of hope. Mold us to be vessels of your grace and generosity that we may pour our gifts out to tend a world in need. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

#490- *Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters*

***Wash, O God, your sons and daughters, newborn creatures of your womb.
Number them among your people, raised like Christ from death and tomb.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your spirit; holy dove and heart's delight.***

***Every day we need your nurture; by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us; guide our footsteps, free from sin and all its snares,
One with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.***

***O how deep your Holy Wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!***

*BLESSING & SENDING

SENDING MUSIC



Pastor: Rev. Marranda Major (marranda@unitedprestroy.org)

Guest Pianist: Andrew Abolafia

Onscreen Visuals: Charlotte Albertin, Martha Juenger,
and Jim Parmelee

Audiovisual Production: Martha Juenger and Dan Rogers

Session

Class of 2026
Dan Rogers
Peggy Smith Savchik

Class of 2027
Jim Parmelee
Sue Steele
Marilynn O'Dell

Class of 2028
Alan Chandler
Kodzo Dzikunu
Bruce Reed

Diaconate

Class of 2026
Peg Drew
Martha Juenger
Pat Rudebush

Class of 2027
Debbie Brown
Miriam Parmelee
Brenda Westbrook

Class of 2028
Diane Chandler
Olga Green
Noel Hains