



First United

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

JANUARY 11, 2026

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & FRAMING

*GATHERING WORDS

Come, you who are weary, you who have been bruised by life,
you whose flame has been diminished by resisting the winds of the world.

We gather by the water, longing for renewal.

The Holy One who stretched out the heavens beckons us to stretch, too!

**We stretch our hearts toward courage,
our hands toward compassion,
and our lives toward justice.**

Just as a voice from heaven once called Jesus "My Beloved,"
that same Spirit descends us.

We are God's Beloved, called to the waters of justice.

Come to the water and let us remember who we are.

Let us worship God with joy!

*OPENING HYMN

#479- *Ho, All Who Thirst*

Refrain:

***Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
and all whose souls are parched and weary, come and drink!***

***Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
and from your heart will flow a never-failing spring!***

***Why forsake the Lord, the fount of living water,
choosing broken cups that cannot be filled?***

***For the Lamb will be our shepherd and will guide us
to the well-springs of the water of life.***

***All who come may take this gift of living water.
They will thirst no more, for they shall be filled.***

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Living Water, you claim us and call us, you support us and uphold us, you save us and free us from our sin. When we slip into old habits, choosing what is convenient or comfortable even when it harms the earth and our neighbors,

Turn, turn, turn us, God.

Dizzying God, In Christ, you modeled humility for us and showed us how to love our neighbors by kneeling to wash their feet. When self-righteousness feeds something ugly within us, **Turn, turn, turn us, God.**

Liberating God, you call us by name to join in your revolution: a world where the first are last and the last are first, where the hungry are fed and the rich are sent away empty, where the poor and oppressed are blessed, and where little children lead us into faith. When we get stuck in our ways and resist this new thing you are doing, **Turn, turn, turn us, God. Amen!**

Silence is kept for Prayer and Reflection.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE TO GRACE

#442- *Just as I Am* (vs. 4)

***Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!***

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

And also with you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR
ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 42:1-9
Matthew 3:13-17

SERMON

“A Baptism for Justice”

*HYMN

#164- *Down Galilee's Slow Roadways*

***Down Galilee's slow roadways a stranger traveled on
From Nazareth to Jordan to be baptized by John.
He went down to the waters like a soldier, scribe, and slave,
But there within the river the sign was birth and grave.***

***Arising from the river he saw the heavens torn;
It seemed the sky so open revealed the Spirit's form.
The holy dove descended amid a glorious voice:
“You are my own beloved, my child, my heart, my choice.”***

***We too have found a roadway; it led us to this place.
We all have had to travel in search of hope and grace.
But now beside this water again a voice is heard.***

“You are my own, my chosen, beloved of your Lord.”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

INVITATION TO RENEWAL

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, eternal, almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated on the right hand of the Creator, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

HYMN

#480- *Take Me to the Water*

Take me to the water. Take me to the water.

Take me to the water to be baptized.

I love Jesus. I love Jesus. I love Jesus, yes, I do.

He's my Savior. He's my Savior. He's my Savior, yes, he is.

Glory hallelujah! Glory hallelujah! Glory hallelujah: to be baptized.

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

#468- *In My Life* (vs. 1)

In my life, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.

In my life, Lord, be glorified today.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy One, you have washed us in grace, and reminded us that we are your Beloved. As water flows from its source, so let our giving flow outward to nourish hope, to heal our community, and to join the slow and sacred work of renewing the world. Bless these gifts, and bless the lives from which they come. We offer what we have and who we are,

**with joy and trust, for the sake of your kindom of justice and peace.
Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN

#482- *Baptized in Water*

***Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
Heirs of salvation, trusting the promise,
faithfully now God's praises we sing.***

***Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our King;
One with his rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praises we sing.***

***Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our King;
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praises we sing.***

*BLESSING & SENDING

SENDING MUSIC



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

Guest Pianist: Andy Abolafia

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

Audiovisual Production: Martha Juenger

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