



First United

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

AUGUST 31, 2025

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

GATHERING MUSIC

*GATHERING WORDS

Angels and saints, where are you? God's people need some help!

We are climbing Jacob's ladder, for the time is drawing nigh!

For every one step forward, it feels like we take two steps back.

Every round goes higher, higher, for the time is drawing nigh!

Another school shooting. Another unnatural disaster. How long, O Lord?

Children, don't grow weary, for the time is drawing nigh!

Our hope is not limited by what we can accomplish with our hands,
but rooted in the promises of God.

It's our faith that makes us happy, for the time is drawing nigh!

Let us worship the one who gives us courage to keep going!

*OPENING HYMN

#350- *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*

***Keep your lamps trimmed and burning;
keep your lamps trimmed and burning;
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
for the time is drawing nigh.***

Refrain:

***Sisters, don't grow weary; brothers, don't grow weary;
Children, don't grow weary, for the time is drawing nigh.***

***It's our faith makes us happy; it's our faith makes us happy;
It's our faith makes us happy, for the time is drawing nigh.***

***We are climbing Jacob's ladder; we are climbing Jacob's ladder;
We are climbing Jacob's ladder, for the time is drawing nigh.***

***Every round goes higher, higher; Every round goes higher, higher;
Every round goes higher, higher, for the time is drawing nigh.***

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ever-present God, there is no place where you are not with us. You have seen humanity at our worst, and still, you hold a vision for who we could be at our best. There is much we would hide from you—the ways we harm your creation, the ways we mistreat others, the ways we numb ourselves and turn away when we ought to tend to our neighbor's suffering with compassion. Forgive us for losing hope when your progress does not fit our timeline. Remind us of your promises and give us courage to trust that you are still working to restore and redeem our world. Guide our thoughts, our words, our actions, that you may delight in us as we delight in you. In Jesus's name we pray, Amen.

Silence is kept for Prayer and Reflection.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA

"When the Gifts of God Surprise Us"
(Tune: *Beach Spring*)

***When the love of God defines us
and relationships are healed,
When injustice is defeated
and the reign of Christ revealed:
Sing with breath the Spirit gives us.
Sing for justice that will be.
Sing down praise through endless ages.
Sing for grace that sets us free.***

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SUNG PRAYER FOR
ILLUMINATION

#410- "Be Still and Know"

***Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.***

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 105:1-11
Gen 28:10-17

SERMON

"Songs for Encouragement"

*SERMON RESPONSE

“We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder”

***We are climbing Jacob’s ladder, we are climbing Jacob’s ladder,
We are climbing Jacob’s ladder, Soldiers of the cross.***

***Ev’ry round goes higher, higher, ev’ry round goes higher, higher,
Ev’ry round goes higher, higher, Soldiers of the cross.***

***Sinner, do you love my Jesus? Sinner, do you love my Jesus?
Sinner, do you love my Jesus? Soldiers of the cross.***

***If you love Him, why not serve Him? If you love Him, why not serve Him?
If you love Him, why not serve Him? Soldiers of the cross.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

#692- “Spirit, Open My Heart” (refrain)

***Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living,
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.
Spirit open my heart!***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of unending gifts, we lift our voices to praise you for your abundant goodness. As you are generous, we want to be generous too. May the gifts we bring extend your generosity into the world, so that all people may be made whole by your goodness and grace. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

#750- Goodness is Stronger than Evil

***Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.
Vict’ry is ours, vict’ry is ours, through Christ who loves us.
Vict’ry is ours, vict’ry is ours, through Christ who loves us.***

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: Jim Parmelee

Session

Class of 2026

Dan Rogers
Peggy Smith Savchik
Sue Wright

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