



# First United

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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APRIL 12, 2026

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

GATHERING MUSIC

Alleluias ("The Strife Is O'er," *Victory*, #236)

Robert C. Lau (b. 1938)

"That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright" (*Puer nobis nascitur*)

Roberta Rowland-Raybold (b. 1938)

WELCOME

\*GATHERING WORDS

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

We have not seen the Risen Christ,

**But we witness him when lives are transformed by grace.**

We have not seen Jesus face-to-face,

**But we have witnessed him in the faces of our neighbors.**

We have not touched the wounds from the cross,

**But we have been called to bring healing to the scarred of the world.**

Let us worship our Living Lord!

\*HYMN

#254- *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright*

***That Easter day with joy was bright; the sun shone out with fairer light  
When, to their longing eyes restored, the apostles saw their risen Lord.***

***He bade them see his hands, his side, where yet the glorious wounds abide,  
The tokens true which made it plain their Lord indeed was risen again.***

***From every weapon death can wield, your own redeemed forever shield;  
O Lord of all, with us abide in this our joyful Eastertide.***

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Risen Lord, you dispel the clouds of our doubts and fears, breathing peace and forgiveness upon us. We confess that we have clung to false certainties and held each other and ourselves to unrealistic standards. Too often, we have closed off our hearts to the world's suffering. Wherever we encounter wounds still tender from trauma or despair, shape us into a healing presence as a community of compassion and solidarity. Come to us once again and offer us your grace, that we might see, and touch, and embrace your promise. Help us to claim your forgiveness and extend it to others. Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE

\*GLORIA

#240- *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, Alleluia! Give praise to his name.  
Come let us praise the living God,  
joyfully sing to our Savior.  
Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, Alleluia! Give praise to his name.*

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 1:3-9  
John 20:19-31

SERMON

“Gifts of Scars & Skepticism”

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Excerpts from “A Creed for Doubters”, by  
Bruce Prewer

When we expend great efforts on a good cause and see little result for our labor,  
**My Savior and my God, help me believe!**  
When we profoundly and faithfully seek the healing of a friend, but to no avail,  
**My Savior and my God, help me believe!**  
When we witness by word and deed to the Gospel yet see no obvious fruits,  
**My Savior and my God, help me believe!**  
When disasters happen to the faithful, while the wicked continue to prosper,  
**My Savior and my God, help me believe!**  
When we pray with anguish during struggle but see no change for the better,  
**My Savior and my God, help me believe!**  
When we get so frustrated with our own failures that we criticize others,  
**My Savior and my God, help me believe!**  
When we are weary in body and soul,  
**My Savior and my God, help me believe!**  
**For yours is the kingdom of unlimited opportunities,  
the innovative and resilient power of saving love,  
and the surging glory of the love which never ends. Amen!**

\*SONG

“Through the Walls”

***Through the walls of fear and doubt, come, Jesus, come.  
Though we try to keep you out, come, Jesus, come.  
Death had claimed you for its own, till God rolled away the stone.  
Holy One, we need you now—break through these walls.***

***Through the walls of deepest night, come, Jesus, come.  
Break our shadows by your light; come, Jesus, come.  
Breathe upon us with your peace; bid our fears and sorrows cease.  
Holy One, we need you now—break through these walls.***

***Through the walls that separate, come, Jesus, come;  
walls we’ve built of greed and hate, come, Jesus, come.  
Bring your life into our death; grant us peace with every breath.  
Holy One, we need you now—break through these walls.***

***Through the walls we yet must face, come, Jesus, come.  
Hold us in your strong embrace; come, Jesus, come.  
Nothing can keep us apart: you have bound us heart to heart.  
Holy One, we need you now—break through these walls.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

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

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

THANKSGIVING FOR CHRIST

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

***Christ did die, Christ did rise, Christ will come again.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest,  
hosanna in the highest!***

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

*Amen, Amen, Amen  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest,  
hosanna in the highest!*

\*SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

INVITATION TO OFFERING

*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

#232- *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* (vs. 4)

*Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!  
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Parent, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Living Christ, we hear stories of you, on the other side of the grave,  
visiting your friends; letting one of them, who could not believe your  
return, touch your wounds. Thank you for showing us the holiness of  
friendship, as well as the sacredness inherent in our bodies. Bless now  
these offerings to support healing in our community, and help us trust  
in the new life you promise. Amen.**

\*SENDING HYMN

#257- *The Risen Christ*

*The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet  
from garden tomb through darkened city street,  
unlocks the door of grief, despair, and fear,  
and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.*

*The risen Christ, who stands with wounded side,  
breathes out his Spirit on them to a bide  
whose faith still wavers, who dare not believe;  
new grace, new strength, new purpose they receive.*

*The risen Christ, who breaks with wounded hand  
the bread for those who fail to understand,  
reveals himself, despite their lingering tears,  
enflames their hearts, then quickly disappears.*

***May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and stand  
with the oppressed in this and every land,  
till all are blessed and can a blessing be,  
restored in Christ to true humanity.***

\*BENEDICTION

SENDING MUSIC

"The Risen Christ" (*Woodlands*)

Lynn L. Petersen (b. 1962)



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

**Guest Organist:** David A. Vredenburg – Eastern NY Chapter,  
American Guild of Organists (AGO)

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

**Audiovisual Production:** Martha Juenger

*Class of 2026*  
Dan Rogers  
Peggy Smith Savchik

**Session**  
*Class of 2027*  
Jim Parmelee  
Sue Steele  
Marilynn O'Dell

*Class of 2028*  
Alan Chandler  
Kodzo Dzikunu  
Bruce Reed

*Class of 2026*  
Peg Drew  
Martha Juenger  
Pat Rudebush

**Diaconate**  
*Class of 2027*  
Debbie Brown  
Miriam Parmelee  
Brenda Westbrook

*Class of 2028*  
Diane Chandler  
Olga Green  
Noel Hains