



# First United

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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MARCH 8, 2026

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & INTENTIONS

\*GATHERING WORDS

On this third Lenten Sunday, we 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

#161- *Woman in the Night*

***Woman in the night, spent from giving birth,  
guard our precious light; peace is on the earth.  
Woman in the crowd, creeping up behind,  
touching is allowed: seek and you will find!***

Refrain:

***Come and join the song, women, children, men.  
Jesus makes us free to live again!***

***Woman at the well, question the Messiah;  
find your friends and tell: drink your heart's desire!  
Woman at the feast, let the righteous stare;  
come and go in peace; love him with your hair!***

***Woman in the house, nurtured to be meek,  
leave your second place, listen, think, and speak!  
Women on the road, from your sickness freed,  
witness and provide, joining word and deed.***

***Women on the hill, stand when men have fled;  
Christ needs loving still, though your hope is dead.  
Women in the dawn, care and spices bring,  
earliest to mourn, earliest to sing!***

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Searching God, you do not shy away from us, even when we hide ourselves from you. 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 are able to share our vulnerabilities. Forgive us, Holy one. Draw near to us and turn us towards you once again. Anoint us with your presence and the oil of blessing this day, that we may take our place at your side. Amen.**

KYRIE

#577- *Kyrie Eleison*

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

*Silence is kept for Prayer and Reflection.*

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

Exodus 17:1-7

DRAMATIC DIALOGUE

John 4:5-42

adapted by Rev. Carol  
Holbrook Pickett

SERMON

“Yearning for Living Water”

\*SERMON RESPONSE

“The Water God Gives Us”  
(Tune: *Foundation*)

***The water God gives us in wondrous supply  
Is water that's living and never runs dry.  
For everyone drinks and is thirsty again,  
But God's living water gives life without end.***

***O God, we confess that we seek empty things;  
We strive after wealth and the comfort it brings.  
We buy things in hopes that our spirits will soar  
Yet still we are thirsty and left wanting more.***

***Then just like that woman who went to the well,  
We hear you, O Christ, and the truth that you tell.  
You know who we are and you know what we've been;  
You know us and love us in spite of our sin.***

***The gift that you give is the greatest of wealth;  
You give living water! You give us yourself!  
May we, like that woman, go back where we live  
And tell those we know of the life that you give.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANOINTING

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.***

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

#474- *Come Thou Fount*

***Come, thou fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!***

***Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I've come;  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.***

***O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander; Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.***

\*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:** Jim Parmelee

**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

*Grace Poured Out: Gathering Words, Prayer of Confession, and Prayer of Dedication* ©  
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