



First United

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & INTENTIONS

*GATHERING WORDS

If the human body, a body of muscle and blood, is to live, it needs salt.

If the body of Christ, a body of peace and justice, is to live, it needs us!

If creation, bustling and blooming, is to flourish, it needs sunlight.

If the new creation in Christ is to flourish, it needs the Spirit's light!

Jesus says we are salt of the earth, light of the world.

Our faith, our hope, and our love are as essential as salt and light.

But if salt isn't salty?

It isn't what it's meant to be.

And if a light doesn't shine?

It isn't what it's meant to be.

Jesus says we are salt of the earth, light of the world.

Briny and bright, we are God's faithful people.

As a welcoming oasis, a compassionate community, and a justice-making people,

let us give glory to God!

*HYMN

#401- *Here in This Place*

***Here in this place the new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away;
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.***

***We are the young, our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;***

*gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.*

*Here we will take the wine and the water;
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away:
Here in this place the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, You call us to be salt of the earth and light of the world, yet our witness is often bland and gloomy. We confess that that it is so easy for us to miss the point of your law. We know how to perform righteousness: we go to church, we donate, we volunteer, we vote, but we care more about how we are perceived than our faithfulness to you. We signal our virtue instead of actually sharing our food, our homes, our resources with those in the most need. Have mercy on us for the ways we serve ourselves. Help us to flavor the earth with justice. 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 58:1-12
Matthew 5:13-20

SERMON

“A City Cannot be
Hidden”

*SONG

“A Little Bit of Salt” (Tune: *Leoni*)

***A little bit of salt will quickly show its worth;
A little bit of faithfulness will change the earth.
God, make us worth our salt — a church that's glad to be
The change that you desire in each community.***

***A lamp that's in a house gives safety, warmth and light;
It's set upon a table where it shines so bright.
God, make your church a light that bravely takes a stand
To bring your love and justice into all the land.***

***A garden is a place where so much beauty grows,
Where flowers bloom and food is raised and water flows.
When worship leads us out to care for the oppressed,
O God, you say we're like a garden at its best.***

***When worship leads us out to love and serve the poor,
To welcome in the immigrant at our own door,
O God, then we'll be called "repairers of the breach,"
And we your church will be "restorers of the streets."***

***It's tempting to remain well-hidden, quiet, bland —
Yet, God, you make us salt and light to change this land.
You send us out to love, to build and to repair,
Till peace and justice flourish here and everywhere.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

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

God of Glory, we offer what we have and who we are, with joy and trust, for the sake of your kindom. May these gifts be used to lift up those who are oppressed, to bring deliverance to those who are in need, to support those who are poor, and to shine the light of your love into every lonely corner. Bless these gifts to strengthen the ministry of our church as we seek to follow you. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

#314- *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness*

***Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your hoy people, light for the world to see.***

Refrain:

***Christ, be our light! Shine in our heats. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.***

***Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many
despair.***

Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.

***Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.***

***Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that year to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.***

*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: 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