First United
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

NOVEMBER 15, 2026

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

GATHERING MUSIC

Two Variations on "We Praise You, O God" (*Kremser*)
Matthew H. Corl (b. 1965)
Emma Lou Diemer (1927-2024)

WELCOME & FRAMING

*GATHERING WORDS

We come from all walks of life: the rich, the poor; the struggling and the secure.
And God calls us all.
We bring our whole hearts, our joys and sorrows, our good news and our concerns.
And God knows us.
We offer what we have: our talents and our imperfections, our hopes and our doubts.
And God loves us, just the way we are!
Let us worship God!

*HYMN #612- We Praise You, O God

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praised!

INVITATION TO ACCOUNTABILITY

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Generous God, giver of every good gift, you have offered us abundance, and yet we do not know how to use it. Sometimes we keep it to calm our fear, treating our savings as a security blanket and insurance against

future scarcity. Sometimes we hoard, wanting to have the most and the best. Sometimes we insist we don't have anything to offer, closing our eyes to the talents you bestow. But most times, we are inertia-bound. You have given us the tools to do your work, but we lack the courage, the spark, and the faith to join in creating something new. Forgive us, O God. Open our eyes, our hands, and our hearts. Help us to trust that your abundance is enough for all, and to act on that knowledge. We pray in the name of Christ, who taught us what it means to give everything for love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

*RESPONSE TO GRACE #39- Great Is Thy Faithfulness (vs. 3 + refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

SERMON "The Cost of Resistance"

*SONG "The Church of Christ Cannot Be Sold" (tune: *Star of County Down*)

The Church of Christ cannot be sold for profit, power, or fame,
with views controlled by highest bid disguised in Jesus' name.
When wealth is used to gain control, the prophet's call is clear:
if money muzzles true dissent, the victor will be fear.

When Christ came to the Temple Mount and sought a sacred space,
instead of shelter fit for prayer he found a marketplace.
He flipped the tables of their greed, reversed the well-worn plot:
Christ's reign cannot be monetized, his love cannot be bought.

Forgive us, Jesus of the poor, for courage quickly lost,
when we choose might instead of right and shirk redemption's cost.
And as you cleansed the temple floor, come cleanse our motives too,
our conscience neither bought nor sold but only formed by you.

O Spirit, come and strengthen us to follow Christ's own way;
to speak and act the truth in love now freed from money's sway.
Then we will praise the Source of all whom none but love control,
no longer bound to lose our voice, but freed to gain our soul.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Creator, who are in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your 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.**

MOMENT FOR MISSION — Francesca Casaregola, Executive Director of Community Hospice

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

Pastorale

Friedrich Smetana (1824-1884)

*DOXOLOGY — #667- When Morning Gilds (vs. 3)

***Let earth's wide circle round in joyful notes resound:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air and sea and sky from depth to height reply:
May Jesus Christ be praised!***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of the Harvest, we give you thanks for meeting our every need. As you have richly gifted us, make us generous stewards of your grace, your hope, and your love. We share from our strength that we might serve our neighbor and glorify you. Bless these gifts to support our ministry of justice, peace, and healing. Amen.

*SONG — "O God, We Yearn for Safety" (tune: *Aurelia*)

***O God, we yearn for safety; we long to be secure.
Yet faithful, loving service is what you value more.
You give us what is needed; you love, forgive and save.
Then, sending us to serve you, you call us to be brave.***

***You give to some ten talents — to others, two or three;
To some you give one blessing to manage faithfully.
For you, O Lord, are loving and don't demand success;
You daily call your people to lives of faithfulness.***

***You give your church the gospel — good news for us to share.
You give us great compassion for neighbors everywhere.
You give us skills to serve you and loving work to do.
We're blest to be a blessing, and called to risk for you.***

***O God, it seems much safer to live from day to day,
Protecting what you lend us and hiding it away.***

Yet all these gifts can't flourish when hidden in the ground;
When we are brave to share them your blessings will abound.

*BLESSING

SENDING MUSIC

III. Trumpet Tune (from the Variations on *Aurelia*)

Janet Linker (b. 1938)

Our closing song, "O God, We Yearn for Safety," is by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, Copyright © 2011. All rights reserved.

Preacher: Rev. Marranda Major
Guest Organist: David A. Vredenburg – Eastern NY Chapter, American Guild of Organists (AGO)
Onscreen Visuals: Charlotte Albertin, Martha Juenger, and Jim Parmelee
Audiovisual Production: Jim Parmelee and Dan Rogers

Session

Class of 2027	*Class of 2028*	*Class of 2029*
Jim Parmelee	Alan Chandler	Nora McDowell
Sue Steele	Kodzo Dzikunu	Fred Miller
Marilynn O'Dell	Bruce Reed	Peggy Smith Savchik

Diaconate

Class of 2027	*Class of 2028*	*Class of 2029*
Debbie Brown	Diane Chandler	Peg Drew
Miriam Parmelee	Olga Green	Laura Rogers
Brenda Westbrook	Noel Hains	Pat Rudebush