



# First United

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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MAY 17, 2026

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

### GATHERING MUSIC

Overture from "Music for the Royal Fireworks" (*HWV 51*)

Georg Friedrich Händel (1685-1759)

Three Short Variations on "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!" (*Llanfair*)

Frank S. Lynn (b. 1944)

Easter Processional on *Llanfair*

Elizabeth Krouse (b. 1943)

### WELCOME

#### \*GATHERING WORDS

Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed!**

Today we rejoice that Christ not only has risen from the tomb,  
but that Christ has ascended to the right hand of God!

**We look up in wonder as Jesus is lifted to heaven!**

But this is not the time to gaze upward or inward—

**Jesus has entrusted us with us with a ministry of love, liberation,  
healing, and justice.**

Let us ready our hearts with prayer and praise, for we have work to do!

#### \*HYMN

#245- *Christ the Lord is Risen Today!*

***"Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia!***

***All creation, join to say: Alleluia!***

***Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!***

***Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!***

***Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!***

***Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!***

***Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!***

***Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!***

***Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!***

***Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!***

***Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!***

***Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!***

***Hail the Lord of earth and heave! Alleluia!  
Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!  
Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!  
Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!***

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, we confess that we would rather glue our eyes to the clouds than bear witness to the great suffering and injustices that surround us. Complacent, we wait for you to come to us, forgetting that you taught us to seek you wherever our neighbors are hungry, thirsty, cold, or imprisoned.**

**Forgive us for our short sightedness. Draw us away from the temptations to seek worldly power and root us in the down-to-earth message of your love: to care for the needs of those around us, especially the oppressed and marginalized. Open our eyes to see all those who are left out by society and are in need. Keep our hearts tender that we may serve with Christ-like compassion, for it is in Christ's name we pray. 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

John 17:1-11

Acts 1:1-14

SERMON

“A Reverence for the World”

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH†

We believe that *because* Jesus ascended, a new world has broken into ours—  
**a world in which justice does come for the poor,  
freedom comes for the prisoners, and healing for the sick.**

We believe that *because* Jesus ascended, a new community has been formed—  
**a community that loves and cares for all members,  
a family that welcomes all who are abandoned and rejected,  
a place where all find a place of belonging.**

We believe that *because* Jesus ascended, a new creation has begun—  
**all that was distorted is being restored, all that is corrupted is being renewed,  
all that was broken is being made whole.**

*Because* Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, God's new world has begun. Amen!

\*HYMN

#258- *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*

***A hymn of glory let us sing! New songs throughout the world shall ring:  
Christ, by a road before untrod, ascend unto the throne of God.***

***The holy apostolic band upon the Mount of Olives stand,  
and with his followers they see their Lord ascend in majesty.***

***To all, the shining angels cry, "Why stand and gaze upon the sky?  
This is the Savior!" thus they say; "This is his glorious triumph-day."***

***"You see him now, ascending high up to the portals of the sky.  
Hereafter you shall Jesus see returning in great majesty."***

***O risen Christ, ascended Lord, all praise to you let earth accord.  
You are, while endless ages run, with Father and with Spirit one.***

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

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 kingdom 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!*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

\*SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Gymnopédie I

Erik Satie (1866-1925)

\*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

Reflection on *Easter Hymn (Lyra Davidica)*

Rebecca Groom te Velde (b. 1956)

\*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

**O God who journeys alongside us, orient us towards new life. Pry the  
love of power and control from our hands and give us instead the tools  
of compassion, solidarity, and imagination. Bless these offerings that  
our ministry of love and justice may grow. Amen.**

\*HYMN

#536- *Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen*

***Rise, O church, like Christ arisen, from this meal of love and grace;  
may we through such love envision whose we are, and whose, our praise.  
Alleluia, alleluia: God, the wonder of our days.***

***Rise, transformed, and choose to follow after Christ, though wounded whole;  
broken, shared, our lives are hallowed to release and to consol.  
Alleluia, alleluia: Christ, our present, past, and goal.***

***Rise, remember well the future God has called us to receive;  
present by God's loving nurture, Spirit-led then let us live.***

***Alleluia, alleluia: Spirit, grace by whom we live.***

***Service be our sure vocation; courage be our daily breath;  
mercy be our destination from this day and unto death.***

***Alleluia, alleluia: Rise, O church, a living faith.***

\*BENEDICTION

SENDING MUSIC

Postlude on *Surge Ecclesia*

Ronald A. Nelson (1927-2014)



**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

**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