



First United

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

GATHERING MUSIC

Adagio for Strings (2nd movement of the *String Quartet*)
Samuel Barber (1910-1981), arr. Jamin Hoffman (b. 1961)
Chorale Prelude on "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (*Royal Oak*)
In Homage to Domenico Zipoli (1688-1726), Marilyn Biery (b.1959)

STILLING VIDEO

WELCOME & FRAMING

*GATHERING WORDS

adapted from Wendell Berry's
"I Go Among the Trees"

I go among trees and sit still.

All my stirring becomes quiet around me like circles on water.

My tasks lie in their places where I left them, asleep like cattle.

Then what is afraid of me comes and lives a while in my sight.

What it fears in me leaves me, and the fear of me leaves it.

It sings, and I hear its song.

Then what I am afraid of comes. I live for a while in its sight.

What I fear in it leaves it, and the fear of it leaves me.

It sings, and I hear its song.

After days of labor, mute in my consternations, I hear my song at last, and I sing it.

As we sing, the day turns, the trees move.

With the oaks, brambles, and all the forest dwellers, let us sing our praise!

*HYMN

#20- All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain:

***All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.***

***Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors; God made their tiny wings.***

***The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
The sunsets, and the morning that brightens up the sky:***

***The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.***

***God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.***

INVITATION TO ACCOUNTABILITY

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Hemlock and Hawthorn, all creation comes from and is a reflection of you. You created lush trees to provide food, shelter, and protection. They stretch their branches out to you in worship and adoration. All life began with your holy breath—each for a particular purpose and yet all interdependent. Remind us that before we became different races, ethnicities, and genders, we were cocooned in your holy creative intent, each fearfully and wonderfully made for your glory.

We confess that we have harmed our human and nonhuman kin. We have transgressed the boundaries you set in place to keep our environment in balance. Forgive our overconsumption and our desecration of our earthly home. By your power, transform our hearts and change our ways. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

adapted from Wendell Berry's "We Have Walked"

*RESPONSE TO GRACE

#611 – Joyful, Joyful (vs. 2)

***All thy works with joy surround thee;
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
Stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.***

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 2:4-9, 15-17
Revelation 22:1-5; 17

SERMON

"Tree Medicine"

*SERMON RESPONSE

"O God, You Made the Trees" (tune: *Terra Beata*)

***O God, you made the trees! The oak and Douglas fir,
the maple, beech, and sweetgum reach their branches heavenward.
The willow, growing wide — the redwood, tall and strong —
and cedar trees! Yes, all of these sing out creation's song.***

***You made each living thing to give and to receive.
As roots grow down into the ground, they twist and interweave.
A canopy of green restores and cools the air.***

Great branches shade the earth you made, and dance —as if in prayer.

How often we forget the forests and their worth!

We lay cement on places meant to be the lungs of earth.

For profit and for gain, we build and build some more;

We cut down woods in neighborhoods of people who are poor.

O God, you made the trees — the apple and the pine.

You made them all and still you call: “Take care of what is mine!”

May we receive your gift and give ourselves anew

to do our best, as we’ve been blessed, to care for trees for you.

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

IV. Adagio (from the Variations on *Italian Hymn/Moscow*)

Gregory Hamilton (b.1959)

*DOXOLOGY

#714- God of the Fertile Fields (vs. 2)

***We would be stewards true,
holding in trust from you all that you give;
Help us in love to share, teach us like you to care
For people everywhere, that all may live.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Lord of life and giver of hope, we dedicate these gifts to care for your
people and your world: to protect the integrity of creation and to heal,
sustain, and renew the life of the earth. May your wisdom guide us and
your will be done. Let all creation may flourish and sing your praise.
Amen!**

*HYMN

#79- Light Dawns on a Weary World

***Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see all people’s dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes.***

Refrain:

***The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,***

As all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

***Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes.***

***Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes.***

*BLESSING

SENDING MUSIC

Postludium in D minor

Flor Peeters (1903-1986)



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

Session

Class of 2027

Jim Parmelee
Sue Steele
Marilynn O'Dell

Class of 2028

Alan Chandler
Kodzo Dzikunu
Bruce Reed

Class of 2029

Nora McDowell
Fred Miller
Peggy Smith Savchik

Diaconate

Class of 2027

Debbie Brown
Miriam Parmelee
Brenda Westbrook

Class of 2028

Diane Chandler
Olga Green
Noel Hains

Class of 2029

Peg Drew
Laura Rogers
Pat Rudebush