



First United

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

AUGUST 9, 2026

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & FRAMING

*GATHERING WORDS

Jesus asks, "Will you help me find a quiet place to pray?"

And we wonder, "Will you help me navigate the troubled waters?"

Jesus asks, "Will you walk with me into the storm?"

And we wonder, "Will you meet me in my fear?"

Jesus asks, "Will you climb out of the boat and into the unknown?"

And we wonder, "Will you catch me when I falter?"

Jesus invites: "Come, find the calm that will carry you through every storm and uncertainty."

**Here, we answer Christ's call, seeking guidance, encouragement,
and a community that catches us with open arms!**

Let us worship the One whose love is constant in stillness and in chaos!

*SONG

"Come and Find the Quiet Center" (Tune:
Beach Spring)

***Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.***

***Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.***

***In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!***

CALL TO REFLECTION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of silence and tempestuous seas, if we are truthful, we admit that
we are better at making waves than calming storms. We find it easier to**

push people out of the boat, rather than make room for those who are different from us. Again and again, we allow the chaos of the whirlwind to uproot our lives, for we cannot sit long enough in silence to perceive your presence or hear the resonance of your shalom.

Have mercy on us, God of patience. Catch us and save us from drowning in our oceans of distractions. Remind us that we are never alone for your climb into the boat with us. Fill our hearts with the love and peace of Jesus Christ, amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

*RESPONSE TO GRACE

#382- Heaven is Singing for Joy (vs. 1)

***Heaven is singing for joy, alleluia!
For in your life and in mine is shining the glory of God!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!***

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 19:3-12
Matthew 14:22-33

SERMON

**“Cultivating Calm before the
Storm”**

*HYMN

#184- *Calm to the Boat*

***Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind.
Jesus whispers, “Peace, be still.”
Balm to our hearts. Fears at an end.
In stillness, hear his voice.***

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

#607- Praise God, from Whom all Blessings

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people, here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen!***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Wave Walking Savior, draw near to us as we step out of our safe boats to face stormy seas. Wash over our doubts with a tidal wave of love and courage. As we bring together our resources, we pray for you to bless our shared labor. May all that we do reflect the radical and abundant faith to which you have called us. Amen.

*HYMN

#821- How Can I Keep from Singing

***My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.***

Refrain:

***No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?***

***Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds and echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?***

***What though my joys and comforts Dies? I know my Savior liveths.
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.***

***The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?***

*BLESSING

SENDING MUSIC



Preacher: Rev. Marranda Major

Guest Organist: Andy Abolafia

Onscreen Visuals: Charlotte Albertin, Martha Juenger,
and Jim Parmelee

Audiovisual Production: Martha Juenger

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