



First United

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

JULY 12, 2026

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & FRAMING

Sue Steele

*GATHERING WORDS

Sue Steele

God calls us to our full selves.

We belong to God.

God remains our God, and we remain God's people.

We are blessed to be a blessing.

We are called to journey with God, and God always accompanies us.

Come, let us journey as God's children today!

*OPENING SONG

The God of Sarah Praise (tune: *Leoni*)

*The God of Sarah Praise, the God of dreams long dead,
who brings forth unexpected life, disarming dread.
Though grief lasts through the night, joy rises with the sun;
God leaves us laughing in surprise at death undone.*

*The God of Abram praise, the God of all who roam,
who guides us into foreign lands and makes our home.
When darkness shrouds our path, the stars, as pledges, shine;
God's covenant will be fulfilled by love's design.*

*The God of Hagar praise, the God of the oppressed,
who sees the lost and overlooked and calls them blessed.
Though wandering alone through deserts of despair,
God leads us to a well of hope and meets us there.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Bruce Reed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we confess that we forget that you are the God who brings the counsel of nations to nothing and frustrates the plans of people. You do not care about powers and principalities. You care about relationships, love, and faith. You are the God of grace, calling us to find our home in you. Remind us that we are your children, and that we are still growing in faith. Teach us that is never too late to start over that we may become the best versions of ourselves. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Bruce Reed

Hear the Good News: we belong to God, like Abram and Sarai, and we are already full of the grace and forgiveness of the Holy Spirit. So, in confidence, let us proclaim the truth to one another:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*GLORIA

#59- *The Steadfast Love of the Lord* (refrain)

***The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
God's mercies never come to an end.
They are new every morning, new every morning;
Great is your faithfulness, O Lord, great is your faithfulness.***

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Bruce Reed

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

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nora McDowell

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Nora McDowell

SCRIPTURE

Romans 4:13-15
Genesis 12:1-9

Nora McDowell

SERMON

written by The Rev. Dr. Katy Stenta, read today by David Graham

*HYMN

#51- *To Abraham and Sarah*

***To Abraham and Sarah the call of God was clear:
"Go forth and I will show you a country rich and fair.
You need not fear the journey, for I have pledged my word
That you shall be my people and I will be your God."***

***From Abraham and Sarah arose a pilgrim race,
Dependent for their journey on God's abundant grace;
And in their heart was written by God this saving word,
"That you shall be my people and I will be your God."***

***We of this generation on whom God's hand is laid
Can journey to the future secure and unafraid,
Rejoicing in God's goodness and trusting in this word,
"That you shall be my people and I will be your God."***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Joyce Thompson

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Rev. Joyce Thompson

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.**

*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

#328- Praise God, All You Nations

***Praise God, all you nations. People of God, sing praise!
Praise God, all you nations. People of God, sing praise!
God's love is great and endures forever.
Praise God, all you nations. People of God, sing praise!***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Immigrant God, we could not do it on our own: stepping out in faith,
embarking on journeys to unknown places, trusting in you above
everything else. Bless these gifts as we continue to follow you, seeking
the lonely, helping the broken, and bringing hope to our world. In
Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

*SONG

"One More Step Along the World I Go"

***One more step along the world I go, one more step along the world I go,
from the old things to the new, keep me traveling a long with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new; keep me traveling along with you.
Round the corner of the world I turn, more and more about the world I learn;
all the new things that I see, you'll be looking at along with me:
And it's from the old I travel to the new; keep me traveling along with you.
As I travel through the bad and good, keep me traveling the way I should;
Where I see no way to go you'll be telling me the way I know:
And it's from the old I travel to the new; keep me traveling along with you.
Give me courage when the world is rough, keep me loving though the world is tough,
leap and sing in all I do, keep me traveling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new; keep me traveling along with you.
You are older than the world can be, you are younger than the life in me,
ever old and ever new, keep me traveling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new; keep me traveling along with you.***

*SENDING

Sue Steele

**Like Sarai and Mary, Abram and Aaron,
we take those steps of faith offered by our God.
Trusting that God does not send us forth alone,
we dare go into those unknown places where hope is absent, where
grace is empty.
With friends journeying alongside us out into the world,
we will follow the Spirit on adventures into justice and compassion.
Go with peace, go with grace, go with love!**

SENDING MUSIC



Preacher: Rev. Marranda Major
Guest Organist: Andy Abolafia
Onscreen Visuals: Charlotte Albertin, Martha Juenger,
and Jim Parmelee
Audiovisual Production: Jim Parmelee and Dan Rogers

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