



# First United

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

---

JUNE 21, 2026

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

GATHERING MUSIC

CENTERING VIDEO

WELCOME & FRAMING

\*GATHERING WORDS

Come, all you who are weary and feeling powerless—  
**put your trust in God who unfurls the fabric of the heavens!**  
No one is like our God—nothing in creation compares!  
**Who else could create the stars, name them, and choreograph their  
celestial mechanics?**  
God gives strength to the weary and empowers the powerless!  
**Let us worship the One who lifts us to soar on vulture wings!**

\*HYMN

#35- *Praise Ye, the Lord, the Almighty*

***Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;  
join me in glad adoration!***

***Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth;  
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been  
granted in what he ordaineth?***

***Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again;  
gladly for aye we adore him.***

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Star-Naming God, the worries and anxieties that consume our days are naught but grasshoppers to you. Empires rise and fall like dandelions blooming and dissipating before eternity. The timeline of your justice does not align with our election cycle nor with the progress we long to see across our lifetimes. While we call ourselves Easter People, we confess that our lives are more defined by death than resurrection. Our**

**fear of death repels us from all that reminds us of our mortality—ICU waiting rooms, vultures, and sometimes even the cross. Forgive us for clinging to the parts of our faith that soothe us while neglecting the parts that call for wrestling with discomfort. Grant us your bird’s eye view of the long journey towards liberation and redemption of our world. Infuse us with your Spirit and renew us to continue your work. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

\*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

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

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRDSONG PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40:21-31  
Revelation 19:9-21

SERMON

“Consider the Vulture”

\*SONG

“The Lone Wild Bird in Lofty Flight”

***The lone, wild bird in lofty flight is still with you, nor leaves your sight.  
And I am yours! I rest in you, Great Spirit, Come, rest in me, too.***

***The ends of earth are in your hand, the sea’s dark deep and far off land.  
And I am yours! I rest in you, Great Spirit, Come, rest in me, too.***

***Each secret thought is known to you, the path I walk my whole life through;  
my days, my deeds, my hopes, my fears, my deepest joys, my silent tears.***

***In secret depths you knit my frame, before my birth, you spoke my name;  
within my soul, as close as breath, so near to me, in life, in death.***

***O search me, God, my heart reveal, renew my life, my spirit heal;  
And I am yours! I rest in you, Great Spirit, Come, rest in me, too.***

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

#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

**God of Abundance, as we sow and reap and gather into barns, as we work and earn and calculate our net worth, let us consider the birds of the air. We give thanks for the food that feeds us and the food that feeds the birds; for the clothes that cover and warm us and the colors and textures that clothe the flowers and fields. Bless now these gifts and help us to dwell in gratitude—a gratitude born of deep trust, deep faith, and even deeper grace. Ease us away from worry and guide us toward your Kindom. Amen.**

\*HYMN

#43- *On Vulture's\* Wings*

***You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in his shadow for life,  
say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"***

*Refrain*

***And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of  
dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.***

***The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no  
fear:***

***under his wings, your refuge, his faithfulness your shield.***

***You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day;  
though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come.***

***For to his angels he's given a command to guard you in all of your ways;  
upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.***

\*BLESSING

SENDING MUSIC



**Preacher:** Rev. Marranda Major  
**Guest Organist:** Andy Abolafia  
**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