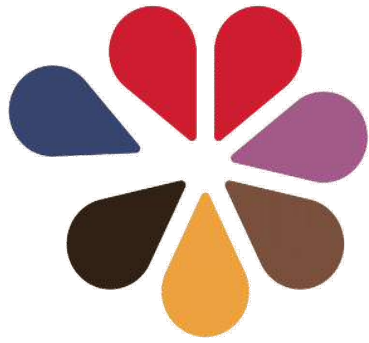
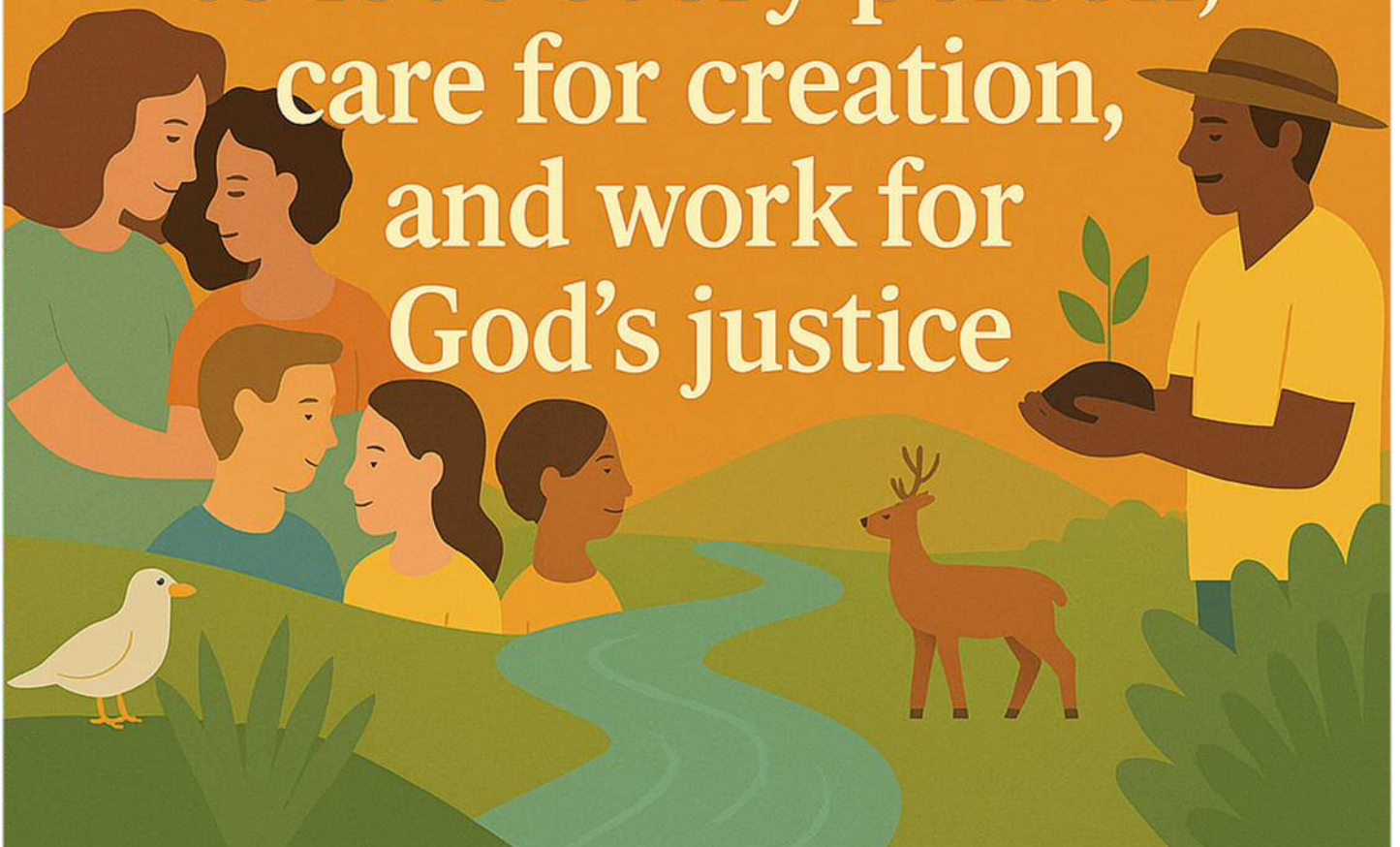




DOWNTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We live into
Jesus' inclusive call
to love every person,
care for creation,
and work for
God's justice



Celebration of Worship

March 30, 2025, 11:00 AM

Fourth Sunday in Lent

[Click Here to Watch](#)

*If you have a joy or concern you would like to have lifted in prayer today, please complete a **Prayer Request Card**, including the name of the person (and pronunciation) or event, and additional information you'd like to share. Prayer Requests will be collected in baskets during the **hymn following the sermon** to share with the pastor and/or Deacons.*

Prelude Bach

Ach bleib bei uns, Herr Jesu Christ

J.S.

"O Stay with Us, Lord Jesus Christ"

Words of Welcome

Rev. Phil Davis

Announcements

Chime

Introit

Day By Day

Martin How

"Day by day, dear God of thee three things I pray.

To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day."

Text: Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester

Time with Our Children and Youth

*Call to Worship

John DeHority

Leader: Have you come far to be here today?

People: You enlarge our gathering: Welcome!

Leader: Have you come from around the corner?

People: You anchor our gathering: **Welcome!**

Leader: Do you seek sanctuary? Do you seek inspiration?

People: May this worship meet you.

Leader: Do you come with purpose? Do you come with questions?

People: We welcome you as you are!

All: Let us worship God together!

***Invocation (Unison)**

All: Holy One, we come into your presence and the presence of this fellowship. We are seeking a little light, some hope, healing. Open us to know you, to receive you and find here your transforming love.

Amen.

***Hymn**

The God of Abraham Praise
(Music may be found on page 6.)

LEONI

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

All: Dear God, your gifts are generous and yet we often fail to appreciate what we have been given. We demand more, but squander what we have received. Forgive us for taking for granted what we receive from you. When we fail to accept what you offer, or fail to steward those gifts, bring us back to awareness of you. **Amen.**

Words of Grace

Leader: However far we wander, God is always ready to receive us, to enfold us in love and grace. In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

Scripture

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Music for Reflection O, Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem Herbert Howells

"O pray for the peace of Jerusalem. They shall prosper that love thee.

Peace be within thy walls and plenteousness within thy palaces.

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem. They shall prosper that love thee."

Scripture 1 John 4:16

Sermon "God Is Love"

*Hymn Open My Eyes That I May See OPEN MY EYES

(Music may be found on page 8.)

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

+Prayer of Jesus

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Spirit come, Thy 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 thine is the Spirit, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Music Hold On! Negro Spiritual

""Ref: Keep your hand on the plow, hold on, hold on. Arr. Jester Hairston

Nora, Nora, let me come in, de doors' all fast'ned an' de winders pinned.

Nora said you done lost yo' track, you can't plow straight an' keep a-lookin' back. (Ref.)

If you wanna get to heaven let me tell you how, jes' keep yo' hand on de gospel plow.

If dat plow stays in yo' hand, land you straight in de promised land. (Ref.)

Mary had a golden chain, ev'ry link spelled my Jesus' name.

Keep on climbin' and don't you tire. Ev'ry rung goes high'r and high'r. (Ref.)"

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Let songs rise up from earth below;
Let stars and galaxies enthrone;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One! Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn

Guide My Feet
(Music may be found on page 7.)

GUIDE MY FEET

*Litany of Farewell and Release *(See bulletin insert.)*

Postlude

A Spiritual Medley
I Want Jesus to Walk with Me – Guide My Feet – Walk Together, Children

*Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Thank you to. . .

Liturgist: John DeHority

Chancel Choir Members

Soprano: Nicole Knickerbocker, Lindsey Puc, Carolina Sullivan,
Joan Sussman

Alto: Cecelia Allchin, Isabella Apodaca, Leah Rosenman

Tenor: Olivia Anderson, Jason Cloen, Mark Darling, Evan McMahon

Bass: Rob Brown, John DeHority, Elijah Gebers,
Alan Jones, Stephen Lloyd, Sumner Tessier

Live Stream Team: Don Fairman, David McDowell, Jim Parks, Sally Allison

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49 The God of Abraham Praise

1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a-bove,
 2 Your spir-it still flows free, high surg-ing where it will.
 3 Your good-ly land we seek, with peace and plen-ty blest,
 4 You have e-ter-nal life im-plant-ed in the soul;

the An-cient of E-ter-nal Days, the God of love!
 In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
 a land of sa-cred lib-er-ty and Sab-bath rest.
 your love shall be our strength and stay, while a-ges roll.

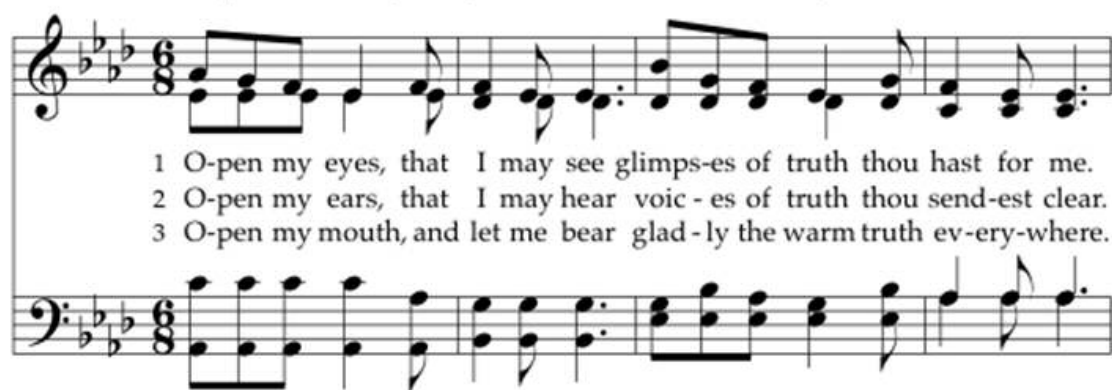
The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,
 Es-tab-lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,
 There milk and hon-ey flow, and oil and wine a-bound,
 We praise you, liv-ing God! We praise your ho-ly name:

we bow be-fore your ho-ly name, for-ev-er blest.
 deep writ up-on the hu-man heart by your strong hand.
 and trees of life for-ev-er grow with mer-cy crowned.
 the first, the last, be-yond all thought, and still the same!

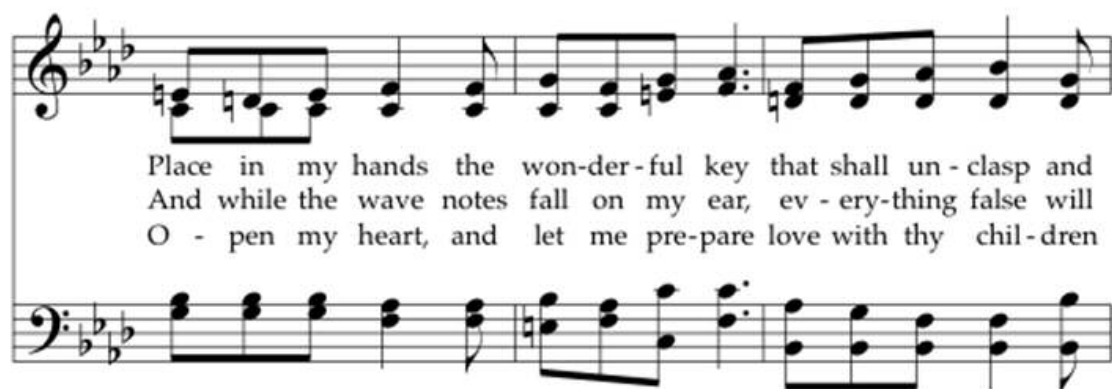
Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, this selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the *Yigdal*, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.

TEXT: Moses Maimonides, 12th cent.; vers. Daniel ben Judah Dayan, 1404; stanzas 1, 3, trans. Thomas Olivers, c.1770, alt.; LEONI
 stanzas 2, 4, trans. Max Landsberg, Newton M. Mann, and William C. Gannett, 1884, 1910, alt. 6.6.8.4.D
 MUSIC: Jewish melody, 17th cent.; adapt. Meyer Lyon and Thomas Olivers, 1770

Open My Eyes, That I May See 451



1 O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me.
2 O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic-es of truth thou send-est clear.
3 O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad-ly the warm truth ev-ery-where.



Place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un-clasp and
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev-ery-thing false will
O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare love with thy chil-dren



set me free. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
dis - ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
thus to share. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy



will to see. O-pen my eyes; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!
will to see. O-pen my ears; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!
will to see. O-pen my heart; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!

The first woman to publish a collection of her own anthems, this author/composer has created in this hymn a sung prayer for illumination. It not only asks God to help us understand Scripture but also prays for the strength and courage to make God's love known to others.

Guide My Feet

741

1 Guide my feet while I run this race;
(yes, my Lord!)

guide my feet while I run this race;
(yes, my Lord!)

guide my feet while I run this race, for I

don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

- 2 Hold my hand ...
- 3 Stand by me ...
- 4 I'm your child ...

- 5 Search my heart ...
- 6 Guide my feet ...

This African American spiritual is based on the imagery of "the race that is set before us" in Hebrews 12:1-2. Its call-and-response structure allows for the improvisation and addition of stanzas related to an athletic metaphor that is as vivid today as it was centuries ago.

TEXT: African American spiritual
MUSIC: African American spiritual; harm. Wendell P. Whalum, c. 1984
Music Harm. © Estate of Wendell P. Whalum

GUIDE MY FEET
8.8.8.10

This Week at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 30

9:45AM Sunday Forum-The Telesca
Center for Justice
10:00AM Choir Warm-up
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM Worship - Pastor Phil
11:15AM Sunday School
12:00PM Reception for Pastor Phil

Tuesday, April 1

10:30AM Bible Study via Zoom
5:30PM Justice Team Mtg. via Zoom

Wednesday, April 2

7:00PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 3

3:00PM Worship Team Mtg. via Zoom

Sunday, April 6

9:45AM Sunday Forum-Leap of
Faith Team
10:00AM Choir Warm-up
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM Worship - Rev. John Odom
11:15AM Sunday School
12:00PM Refreshments in the Sanctuary





On Easter Sunday, April 20, the Worship bulletin will again include an insert which will list loved ones, remembered or honored, when you make a donation in any amount to the **One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering**. Payment can be made by check (payable to Downtown Church **with OGHS in the Memo line**) or payment made via credit/debit card through the church website (Please check "Other Gift" and include a note in the memo field). Please submit your gift and information **by Monday, April 14, 2025**. You can also just make a donation to OGHS on Easter Sunday using the special envelopes that will be in the bulletin that day.

Two bouquets of Spring Flowers will grace the chancel, and a third arrangement of flowers will adorn the Communion table. This arrangement will be delivered to the Presbyterian Home after the Easter Worship service.

To remember a loved one or honor a special person with your gift, complete and return the form below.

Please print or type:

In memory or in honor of: _____

From: _____

**Please return the completed form with your donation
by Monday, April 14, 2025**

or send an email to the church office at
office@downtownpresbyterian.org.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Welcome Visitors!

Nursery Care for children up to 2nd Grade is available in the Library

Children not in nursery care will be invited forward during the “Time with OurChildren and Youth” for a brief time with the pastor, and then will be taken up to their Sunday School room by their teacher. Parents are welcome to come up with their kids if they would like.

You may place your offering in the offering plates as they are passed. If you would like to donate online you can use the QR code to the right to make your contribution to the church.



+We seek to use diverse images and liberating language about divine presence in our services of worship. Please feel free to adapt the words in hymns and prayers as needed so that they express your faith.

This is a Hearing Loop equipped sanctuary – please switch your hearing aid to the “T” (telephone) position.

*** An asterisk indicates** “please rise in body or spirit.”

We hope you will join us after worship for conversations and refreshments! Cookies and drinks are available in the front of the sanctuary.

Joys and Concerns– If you have a joy or concern that you would like to lift in prayer today, please complete a Prayer Request card (available by the worship bulletins) naming the person(s), situation or event, and any other information that you would like to be shared. The prayer requests will be collected during the hymn following the sermon and provided to the pastor.

The Downtown Church Staff

Cheryl Bittle, Weekend Receptionist

Jason Cloen, Associate Musician

The Rev. Philip B. Davis, Sr.,

Stated Supply Pastor

Eileen Dietsch, Director of Operations

Alan Jones, Associate Musician

Kristie Jones, Office Administrator

David Mear, Business Manager

Moses Nhial, Maintenance

Andrea Piccone, Bookkeeper

& Receptionist Coordinator

Tyrone Reeve, Maintenance

Robin Sheikh, Sunday School Teacher

Michael Stagles, Maintenance Lead

Joseph Taylor, Maintenance Supervisor

Ed Verna, Maintenance

Lee Wright, D.M.A., Director of Music Ministry

Parish Leaders

Mary Rees and Pat Tweet - Clerks of Session

Cindy Hamilton, Jacque Hancock - co-Moderators of Deacons

Session

The Rev. Philip B.

Davis, Moderator

Nancy Brown

John DeHority

Lea Kone

Bob Richane

Sally Allison

Sam King

Jim Vesper

Pat Tweet

Mary Rees

Deacons

Bob Carlisle

Andrea Folan

Helen Ganotis

Cindy Hamilton

Jacque Hancock

Elizabeth Katz

Stephen Lloyd

Grania Marcus

Sandy Morales

Becky Parks

Susan Richane

Kelley Sheils

Marilyn Terpening

121 N. Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, NY 14614

Telephone: (585) 325-4000

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www.DowntownPresbyterian.org



Litany of Farewell and Release

*From the Book of Common Worship (PCUSA)
and the Book of Occasional Services (UCC)*

COM representative: Every congregation is constantly changing. Children grow up. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life.

Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of ending and beginnings. Today we offer thanks for the ministry of the Rev. Philip B. Davis, Sr., who has served as Stated Supply Pastor of this congregation since April of 2024.

Pastor: I thank Downtown United Presbyterian Church for the love, kindness and support shown me this last year. I ask your understanding and forgiveness for mistakes I have made and for expectations unmet. With joy I recall the many things we have been able to accomplish together. As I leave, I carry with me memories of many experiences we have shared.

Congregation: We express our gratitude for your love and ministry. We offer forgiveness for any failures, and our thanks for all accomplishments. We accept that you now leave us to answer God's call in new ways. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and our community will continue to be felt as our ministries continue to unfold.

Pastor: I receive your thankfulness and offer you my forgiveness, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to the God we know in Jesus Christ.

COM representative: Do you, the members and friends of Downtown United Presbyterian Church, release the Rev. Phil Davis from service as your pastor?

Congregation: We do, with thanks to God.

COM representative: Do you, Phil Davis, recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with this congregation?

Pastor: I do, with thanks to God.

COM Representative: Let us pray: Loving God, Alpha and Omega, you are both beginning and end. Our endings and our beginnings are rooted in your love. Whether near or far, we are held close by your love, and kept safe from any lasting loss. Let our time together end with your blessing. Touch all memories with your grace and peace. Help us to live with courage and gladness in the future you present us. In every time and place, may we offer you our highest and our best. through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Congregation: Amen.

COM Representative: Representing the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, I witness these words of thanksgiving, forgiveness, and release. The Presbytery rejoices with you in the ministry you have shared, and we pledge to you continued support and prayer. With thanks to God for the ministry of this congregation and the ministry of the Rev. Phil Davis, and with hope for God's abiding grace in the years to come, this pastoral relationship is now dissolved. With God's help and love may your lives be blessed and your labors be fruitful, as you offer yourselves gladly in the service of our common Lord.

Pastor: *The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord be kind and gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.*

Congregation: Amen, and amen.

Pastor: *Go in peace.*

Congregation: Go in peace.

