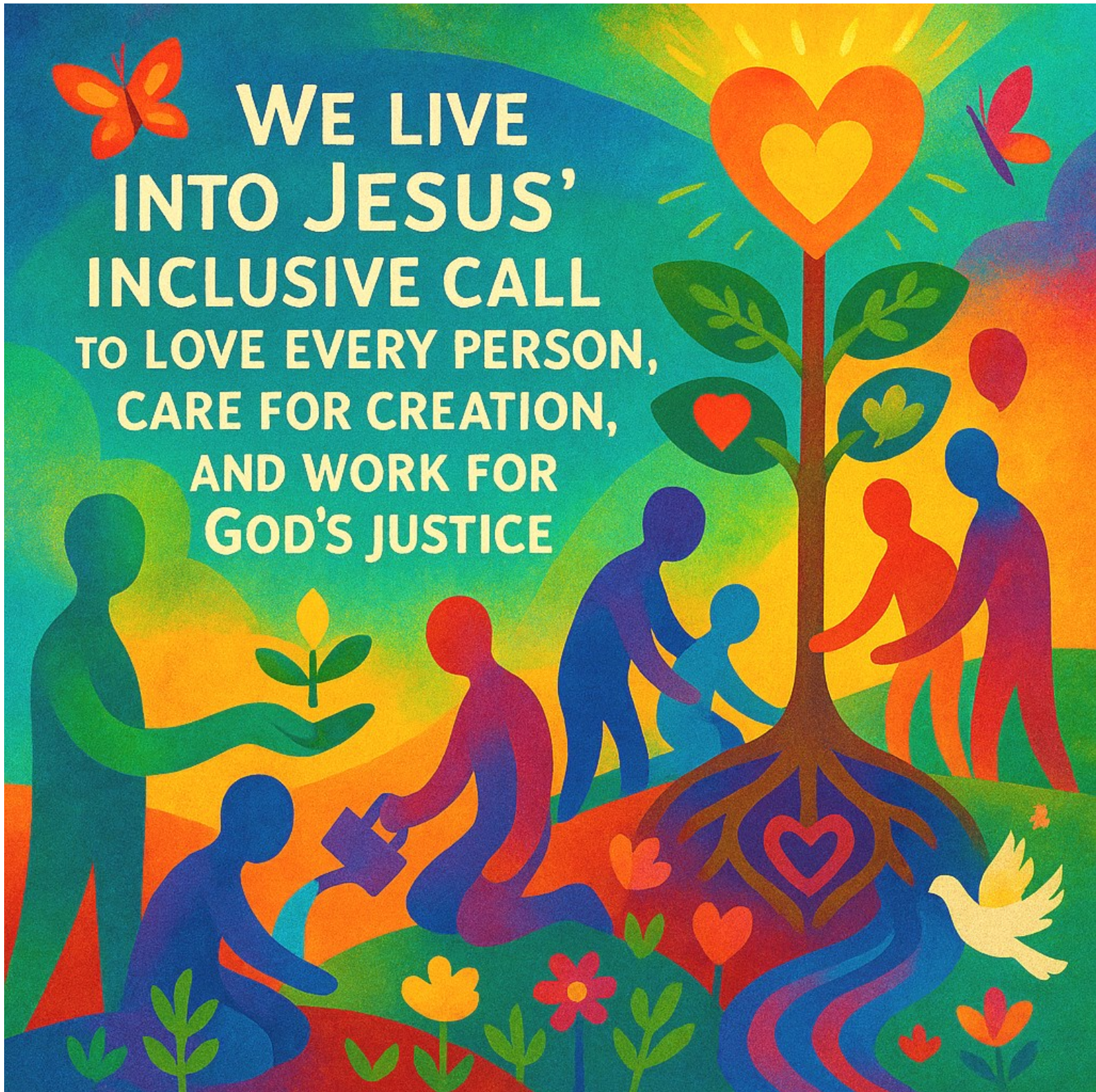




DOWNTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**WE LIVE
INTO JESUS'
INCLUSIVE CALL
TO LOVE EVERY PERSON,
CARE FOR CREATION,
AND WORK FOR
GOD'S JUSTICE**



Celebration of Worship

May 18, 2025, 11:00 AM

Fifth Sunday of Eastertide

[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 Meditation on "What Is the World Like?"

Words of Welcome The Rev. Celie Katovich

Announcements John DeHority

Chime

Introit Love Is Little Shaker Hymn

*"Love is little, love is low, love will make our spirits grow.
Grow in peace, grow in light, love will do the thing that's right.*

*Love is gentle, love is small, love will find the best of all,
Find the peace, find the light, love will do the thing that's right. "*

*Call to Worship

One: Open the eyes of our hearts, God.

All: We long to see you.

One: Open the ears of our hearts.

All: We yearn to hear a living word for our lives.

One: Open our lips, O Holy One,

All: That we may breathe your Spirit, and become vessels for your truth.

*Hymn God Is Calling through the Whisper W ZLOBIE LEZY

(Music may be found on page 6.)

Centering Prayer

God of all hopefulness, give us peaceful hearts today.
Grant us stillness within, that we may hear your voice.
Let us be rooted in your presence, and may our roots
drink deeply of your great compassion. We ask this
through Christ our light. Amen.

Reading

"Good People"

Tony Hoagland

Time with Children and Youth

Music for Reflection

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

Richard Gillard

*"Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.*

*We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travelers on the road
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through."*

Words: Richard Gillard

Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:31-32

Sermon

Is Kindness Enough?

Thérèse of Lisieux in the Age of the Polycrisis

*Hymn

What Is the World Like?

NEW WORLD

(1, 3, 4 and 5, Music may be found on page 7.)

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for Healing and Justice

Prayer of Jesus (unison)

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 Meditation on "The Little Way"

A communal improvisation on "The Little Way" of St. Thérèse of Lisieux
(See page nine for participation ideas.)

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

Loving God known to us by many names, everywhere we look we see glimpses of your generosity. You have blessed us with a living planet; living water; breathable air; a bounty of both sustenance and beauty. As we feast on this life you have given us, may our own hearts run over with the abundance that we have been given. May we give generously, that others may live.

*Hymn

O for a World

AZMON

(Verses 1, 2, 3 and 5, Music may be found on page 8.)

*Benediction

Postlude

Improvisation on Azmon

*Passing of the Peace

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

Thank you to... Guest Worship Leader: The Rev. Celie Katovich

Liturgist: John DeHORITY

Musicians: Alan Jones and Lee Wright

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

All music and musical texts in this bulletin are reprinted with permission under One License, License # A-707805 and CCLI License # 21572398

This Week at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, May 18

9:15AM Sunday Forum-Implicit
Bias (Part 2) - David Scott
10:00AM Musician Warm Up
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM Worship
Rev. Celie Katovich
11:15AM Sunday School
12:00PM Refreshments in Sanctuary
7:00PM Sophia Circle via Zoom

Tuesday, May 20

10:30AM Bible Study via Zoom
7:00PM Session Meeting

Wednesday, May 21

4:30PM Sunday Forum Mtg via Zoom

Friday, May 23

3:00PM Space Use Mtg. via Zoom

Sunday, May 25

10:00AM Musician Warm Up
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM Worship
Rev. Katie Jo Suddaby
12:00PM Refreshments in Sanctuary

Monday, May 26 - Memorial Day

Building Closed



410 God Is Calling through the Whisper

1 God is call-ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs,
 2 God is call-ing through the voic-es of our neigh-bors' ur-gent prayers,
 3 God is call-ing through the mu-sic of sub-lime and hu-man arts,

through the thrill of sud-den beau-ties that can catch us by sur-prise.
 through their long-ing for re-demp-tion and for res-cue from de-spair.
 through the hymns of earth and an-gels, and the car-ols of our hearts.

Flash of light-ning, crash of thun-der; hush of still-ness, rush of won-der:
 Place of hurt or face of need-ing; stri-dent cry or si-lent plead-ing:
 Lift of joy and gift of sing-ing; days and nights our prais-es bring-ing:

God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear?
 God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear?
 God is call-ing—and we hear! God is call-ing—and we hear!

This wide-ranging text reminds us of the many surprising and urgent ways God calls to us, both to draw us near and to send us forth. In the third line of music it is especially effective at harnessing the momentum of the phrases that are each a note higher than the one before.

TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle, 2003

MUSIC: Polish carol; harm. Wilbur Lee, 1958

Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music Harm. © 1958 Broadman Press (admin. Music Services)

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

8.7.8.7.8.8.7.7

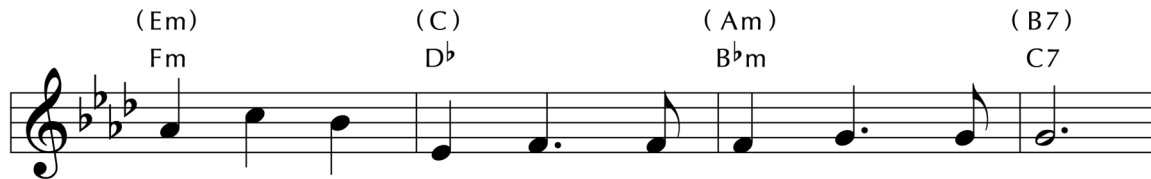
(this tune in a higher key, 128)

What Is the World Like

771



1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,



Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive;
 Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
 No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
 Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,
 filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.



roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.
 tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text and tune were written to conclude a hymn festival at the 2009 Annual Conference of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. Four parables framed both the festival and the hymn: the Mustard Seed, the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, and the Ten Bridesmaids.

O for a World

372

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re-spects each oth - er's ways,
 2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re-lieved,
 3 We wel-come one world fam - i - ly and strug-gle with each choice
 4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.
 5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo-rious reign of peace,

where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
 where truth is spo - ken, chil-dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
 that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
 Tell all who mourn: out-casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
 where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Everything longed for in this text is a reminder of how far our present world is from what God wants. Yet this is not just wishful thinking; it is a call to action, a summons to participate in the fulfillment of God's desire for all earth's people to live in radical *shalom*.

TEXT: Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

Text © 1990 Medical Mission Sisters

AZMON

CM

Meditation on “The Little Way”

A Communal Improvisation on the Path of St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Join us in a gently unfolding musical offering during the Offertory.
All are invited to participate.

- ♦ **Centering Tone: F** — Our shared “mustard seed.” Begin by listening, humming, or playing this note. Notice the variety of texture and color in the sounds.
- ♦ **Bring Your Sound** — Percussion, handbells, voice, string, wind, your breath, all sounds are welcome.



- ♦ **Build Gently** — Add sound with care and space. Let your voice or instrument ripple out with continuous awareness of the the center seed (F).
- ♦ **A Growing Garden** — The lead musician will slowly introduce all 12 chromatic pitches, like petals unfolding. (You may echo these or find your own harmony.)
- ♦ **Practice the Little Way** — Focus not on performance, but on presence. Even a single note or sound is a gift. The music is something we ALL share—no spectators or performers, only community.

Let this shared moment remind us: small acts of beauty, given freely, can grow into something healing and transformative.



Sunday Forums in May 2025

“We Live Into Jesus’ Inclusive Call”

May 4 - Building Minds in South Sudan (BMISS) Update!

Sebastian Maroundit

Come hear about the ongoing work, the challenges, the progress, and the joy and fulfillment experienced because of the work BMISS continues to do. Sebastian will provide an update on the schools, the new well, and the people whose lives are being positively affected.



May 11 - Implicit Bias (Part 1)

David Scott, Chief Diversity Officer, Monroe County Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Join us a half hour earlier at *9:15AM and take part in this special 90-minute Forum led by skilled facilitator David Scott. What is Implicit Bias and how do we recognize and work to overcome it? His professional and nonjudgmental approach has been commended by staff and congregation members who have recently worked with him.

May 18 - Implicit Bias (Part 2)

David Scott, Chief Diversity Officer, Monroe County Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Come again at *9:15AM for this special 90-minute Forum that will build on the information and work done the previous Sunday. You will want to come for both Sundays, but you need not attend the first one to attend Part Two.



May 25 - No Sunday Forum—Memorial Day Weekend

Sundays, *9:45 AM ~ The Shaw Room

(*Unless otherwise indicated)

We live into Jesus' inclusive call to love all people,
care for creation, and work for God's Justice.

Welcome Visitors!

Nursery Care for children up to 2nd Grade is available. Drop off children in the library before services start. The nursery is in C-23.

Children in Sunday School will attend worship and are invited to "Time with Our Children and Youth" for a brief time with the pastor, and then will be taken up to their classroom by their teacher. Parents are welcome to come up as well.

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
Eileen Dietsch, Director of Operations
Alan Jones, Associate Musician
Kristie Jones, Office Administrator
David Mear, Business Manager
Moses Nhial, Maintenance
Penelope Paredes,
Nursery Coordinator

Andrea Piccone, Bookkeeper
& Receptionist Coordinator
Tyrone Reeves, Maintenance
Robin Sheikh, Sunday School Teacher
Michael Stagles, Maintenance Lead
Joseph Taylor, Maintenance Supervisor
Ed Verna, Maintenance
Lee S. 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. Val Fowler,
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
email: office@DowntownPresbyterian.org
www.DowntownPresbyterian.org

