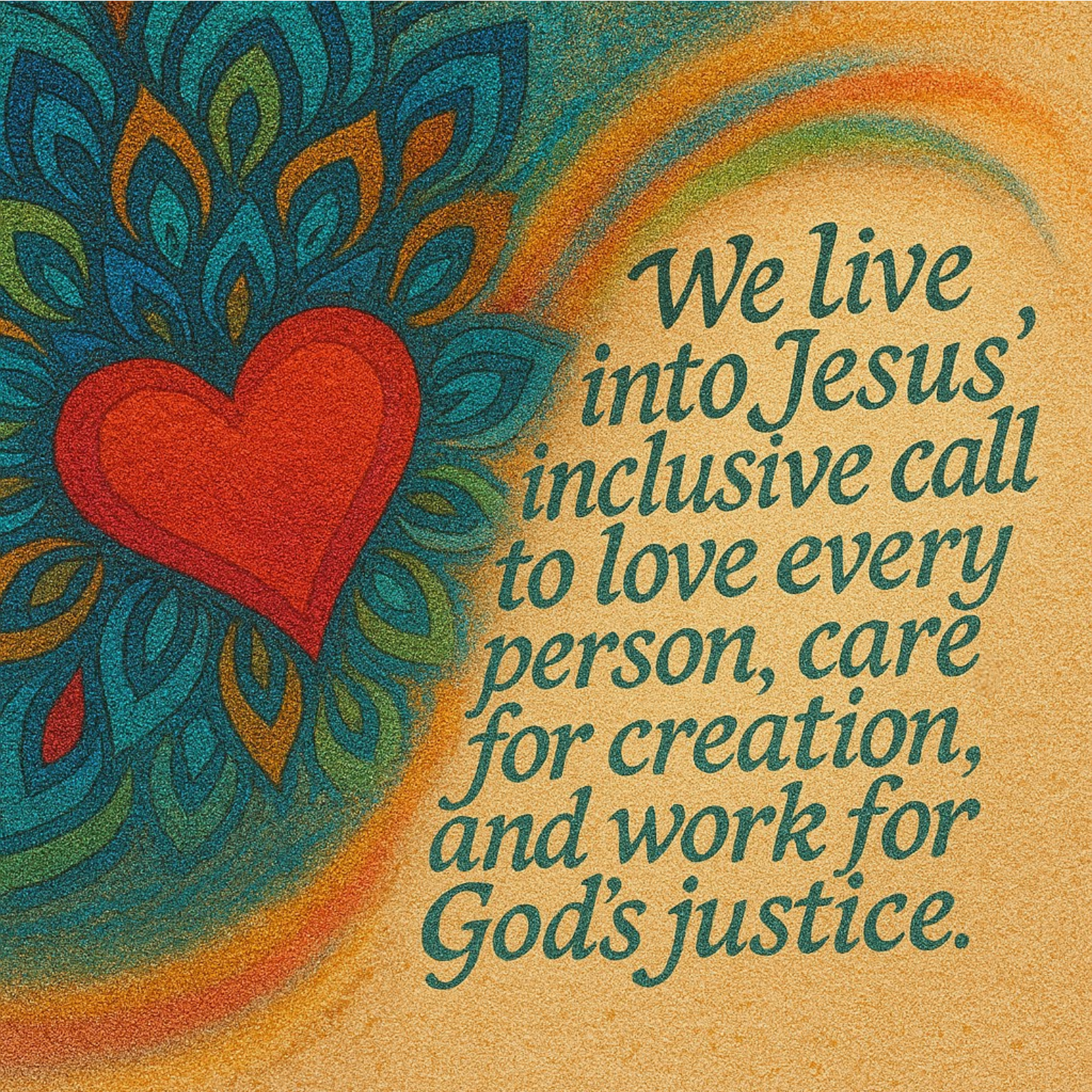




DOWNTOWN

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 25, 2025, 11:00 AM

Sixth 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 Thaxted

Words of Welcome

The Rev. Katie Jo Suddaby

Announcements

Sam King

Chime

Introit

Let Justice Roll Down Like a River Daniel Charles Damon
**"Let justice roll down like a river,
and righteousness like an ever flowing stream."**

*Call to Worship

One: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

All: For theirs is the realm of heaven. (Matthew 5:10)

One: The Spirit of the Creator is upon us,

**All: God has anointed us to bring good news to the poor,
to set the oppressed free.** (Luke 4:18-19)

One: True faith is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress,

All: And to keep ourselves from being polluted by the world. (James 1:27)

One: Do not be overcome by evil,

All: But overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:21)

One: Let us not grow weary in doing what is right,

All: For in due season there will be a harvest, if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9)

One: Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness,

All: But instead, expose them. (Ephesians 5:11)

One: Come, people of God, let us worship the One who calls us to justice, mercy, and truth.

All: We come, ready to be stirred, strengthened, and sent!

*Hymn

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens
(Verses 1, 3 and 4, Music may be found on page 6.)

HOLY MANNA

Centering Prayer (unison)

Holy and Creative God, You have called us to shape beauty from brokenness, to speak love in places of fear, and to live lives that tell the truth with courage and compassion. In a world that cries out for justice, You place in our hands the colors of Your vision — grains of possibility, notes of kindness, words that heal, brushstrokes of resistance. Even when the winds of injustice scatter what we've made, we trust that nothing offered in love is lost. Each gesture, each faithful act becomes part of Your great design of hope.

As we breathe in Your Spirit today, make us bold enough to create, brave enough to speak, gentle enough to listen, and humble enough to be transformed. Shape us like patterns drawn in sacred sand — temporary, but meaningful; fragile, but brimming with Your love and light. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Proverbs 31:8–9

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." (NIV)

Isaiah 1:17

"Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." (NIV)

Micah 6:8

"The Spirit has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does The Creator require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (NIV, alt.)

Music for Reflection

I Am the Dream

Rick Gunn

*"I am the dream and you the dreamer, I am the song and you are the rhyme.
You are the tune sung in every silence. You are the now in the endless stream of time.*

*I am the bell and you the silence. You are the yearning I cannot curtail.
I am the blest and you the blessing. You are the wilds in which I lose my trail.*

*You are the word and I the echo. You are the leader and I am the led.
You are the joy and I the laughter. You are the Rock on which I lay my head."*

Words: S. Curtis Tufts, 2005, after Rilke

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:16

"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves." (NIV)

Sermon

Art As Protest

Rev. Katie Jo Suddaby

*Hymn

Singing for Our Lives

Holly Near

1. We are a gentle, angry people, and we are singing, singing for our lives.
We are a gentle, angry people, and we are singing, singing for our lives.

2. We are a justice-seeking people...

3. We are trans and we are rising...

4. We are queer and we are loving. . .

5. We are artists and we're dreaming. . .

6. We are a gentle, loving people...

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 Creator God You Gave Us Life Judith Snowdon

*"Creator God you gave us life, your image formed within our souls,
yet through the mist of time and space, we search for that which makes us whole.*

*In every flower and every tree, we see your great diversity,
yet greater still we see your love, expressed in our humanity.*

*When with our hearts, our hands, our minds, we share our gifts with all the world,
our spirits soar beyond the veil, to touch the very face of God.*

*Refrain: Through hands that paint majestic skies, and voices chanting melody,
with words that reach beyond the page, we comprehend your mystery."*

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

Let Streams of Living Justice
(Verses 1-3, Music may be found on page 8.)

THAXTED

*Benediction

Postlude

A Resistance Medley
Singing for Our Lives—We Shall Not Be Moved—We Shall Overcome

*Passing of the Peace

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

24

God, Who Stretched the
Spangled Heavens

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm) Dm (Em) Gm (Bm) Dm (F#m) Am



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi -
 2 Proud - ly rise our mod - ern cit - ies, state - ly
 3 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the
 4 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it

(Em7) Gm7 (G) Bb (Bm) Dm (A) C (Bm) Dm (A) C



nite in time and place, flung the suns in burn - ing
 build - ings row on row. Yet their win - dows, blank, un -
 child - hood of our race; known the ec - sta - sy of
 chal - lenge us a - new, chil - dren of cre - a - tive

(G) Bb (F#m) Am (G) Bb (A) C (D) F



ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space,
 feel - ing, stare on can - yoned streets be - low,
 wing - ing through un - trav - eled realms of space;
 pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - oring you.

(D) F (Bm7) Dm7 (G) Bb (Em7) Gm7 (G) Bb (F#m7) Am7



we, your chil - dren in your like - ness, share in - ven - tive
 where the lone - ly drift un - no - ticed in the cit - y's
 probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield - ing un - i -
 May our dreams prove rich with prom - ise, each en - deav - or

The crux of this text comes in the second stanza: if we dare to claim God-given abilities, we need also to show God-like compassion for the human needs that confront us daily. The earthy shape note tune provides a further reminder that we must not lose our heads in the clouds.

TEXT: Catherine Cameron, 1967, alt.

MUSIC: Attr. William Moore, 1825; harm. Charles Anders, 1969

Text © 1967 Hope Publishing Company

Music Harm. © 1969 Contemporary Music I: Hymns (admin. Augsburg Fortress)

HOLY MANNA

8.7.8.7.D

(alternate harmonization, 396)

(G) (Em7) (A) (D) (Bm) (A)
 B $\flat$ Gm7 C F Dm C



powers with you. Great Cre - a - tor, still cre -
 ebb and flow, lost to pur - pose and to
 mag - ined power, fac - ing us with life's de -
 well be - gun. Great Cre - a - tor, give us

(Em7) (F $\sharp$ m) (G) (A) (D)
 Gm7 Am B $\flat$ C F



at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
 mean - ing, scarce - ly car - ing where they go.
 struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
 guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Thank you to...

Guest Worship Leader: The Rev. Katie Jo Suddaby

Liturgist: Sam King

Musicians: Alan Jones and Lee Wright

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

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12 Let Streams of Living Justice

1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the
 2 The dread - ed dis - ap - pear - ance of fam - i - ly and
 3 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not
 4 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you

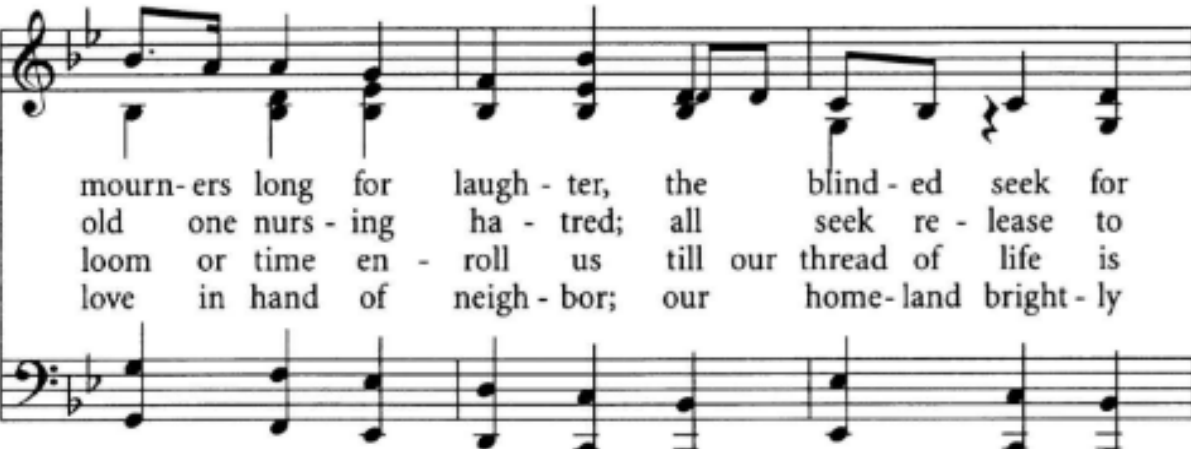
earth; give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let
 friend; the tor - ture and the si - lence: the
 end, for love that makes us lov - ers, God
 seek; your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we

all the poor have worth. The hun - gry's hands are
 fear that knows no end; the moth - er with her
 grant us grace to mend. Weave our var - ied gifts to -
 are the words you speak. Our faith we find in

plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights, the
 can - dle, the child who holds a gun, the
 geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun; on your
 ser - vice, our hope in oth - er's dreams, our

Text: William Whitla, 1989. © 1998, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., Kingston, N.Y. 12401.
 Music: Gustav Holst, 1921.

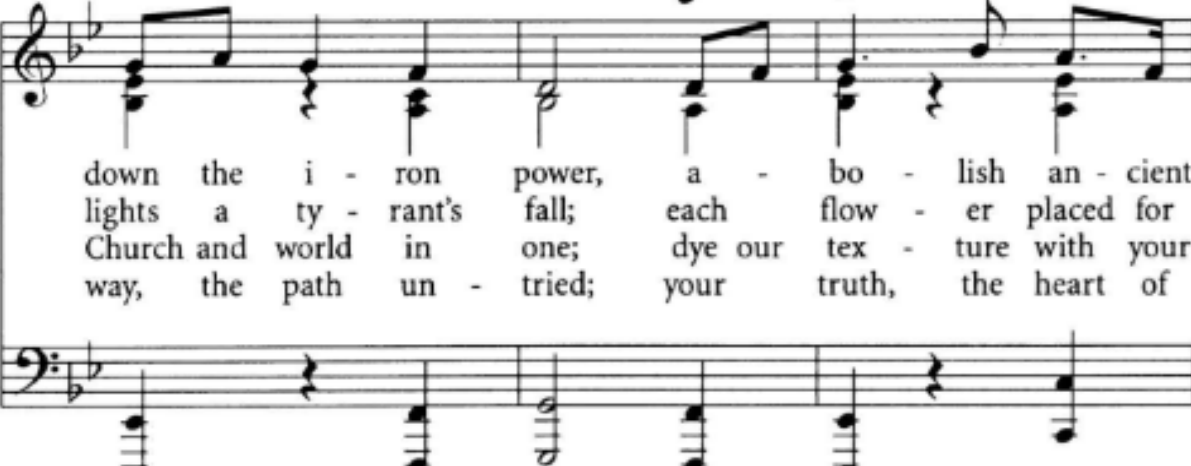
THAXTED
 76 76 76D



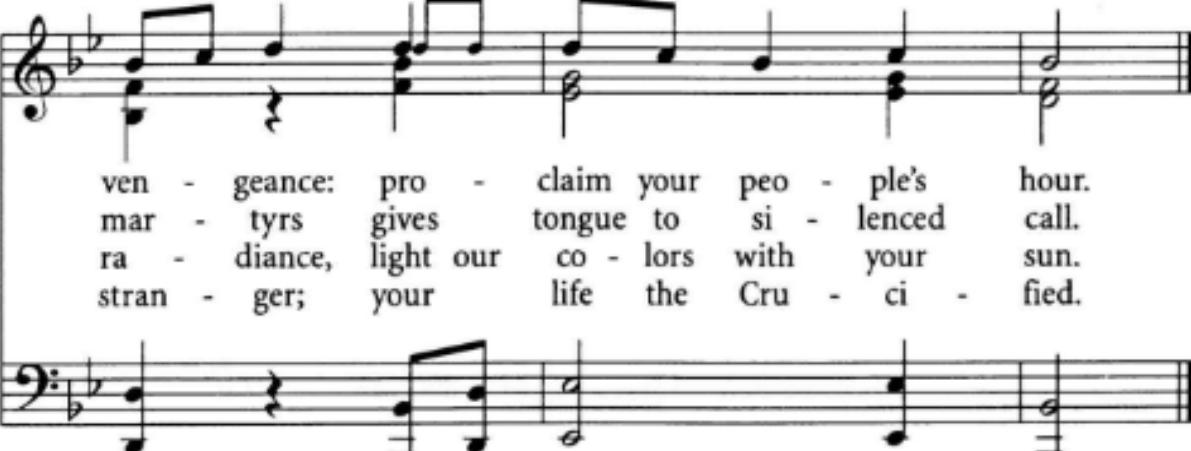
mourn-ers long for laugh-ter, the blind-ed seek for
 old one nurs-ing ha-tred; all seek re-lease to
 loom or time en-roll us till our thread of life is
 love in hand of neigh-bor; our home-land bright-ly



sight. Make li-ber-ty a bea-con, strike
 come. Each can-dle burns for free-dom; each
 run. O great Wea-ver of our fab-ric, bind
 gleams. In-scribe our hearts with jus-tice; your



down the i-ron power, a-bo-lish an-cient
 lights a ty-rant's fall; each flow-er placed for
 Church and world in one; dye our tex-ture with your
 way, the path un-tried; your truth, the heart of



ven-geance: pro-claim your peo-ple's hour.
 mar-tyrs gives tongue to si-lenced call.
 ra-diance, light our co-lors with your sun.
 stran-ger; your life the Cru-ci-fied.



Sunday Forum - June 2025

Spiritual Journey

June 1 - *Roots, Yet Becoming*

Robin Sheikh

For the final offering of the season, come hear Robin, share her spiritual journey. From a small-town church in Beavertown, PA, to interfaith conversations on a college campus, her story brings together missions, politics, academic study, and ultimately, love that crossed religious boundaries. With roots in the Church of the Brethren and a heart shaped by both conservative and progressive Christian spaces, she will explore how a faith journey evolves when it is lived out in complexity, not in spite of it.

Sunday 9:45 AM ~ The Shaw Room

This Week at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

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

Tuesday, May 27

10:30AM Bible Study via Zoom

Friday, May 30

3:00PM Space Use Team, Zoom

Sunday, June 1

10:00AM Musician Warm Up

10:45AM Nursery

11:00AM Worship:

Rev. Bruce Boak

12:00PM Refreshments in Sanctuary

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

Welcome Visitors!

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

Sunday School is on summer recess.

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 Deacons.

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

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