



DOWNTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**We Live Into Jesus' Inclusive Call
to Love Every Person,
Care for Creation,
And Work for God's Justice.**

August 24th, 2025, 10:00 AM

Music-Led Sunday—All Community Choir

*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.*

Lynn Bauman and Linnea Good

Each verse will be sung twice. You are invited to improvise by adding your own notes within the rhythmic alteration to create a rich harmonic spectrum.

Vs. 3) Pure love, pure trust, all embracing, God.

Stephen Lloyd

All Handbells Ringing with Joy

Reena Esmail

See my light."

*Call to Worship (based on Jeremiah 1:4-10)

One: God says, "Before I formed you, I knew you."

Many: Before we took our first breath, God claimed us.

One: Do not say, "I am only..." for God's Spirit gives us voice.

Many: We are called to speak God's justice, to live God's mercy.

One: God touches our lips with truth, our hearts with courage, our hands with strength.

Many: We are seen. We are called. We are sent.

One: Come, beloved, into worship—where every voice is needed, every life is holy.

All: Let us worship God in Spirit and in truth, with song!

*Invocation

Holy One, source of pure love and pure light, you have called us from birth and planted within us a spark of your own Spirit. You know our innermost being, and still you entrust us with your work of justice and reconciliation.

Gather us in this hour—into song that heals, into play that restores, into prayer that deepens our connection. Pour out grace upon grace, until our lives overflow with the audacious love of Jesus. Amen.

*Hymn

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven
(*Music may be found on page 8.*)

LAUDA ANIMA

Centering Prayer (Antiphonal conversation with Psalm 71:1-6)

Lectern side: In you, O Lord, we take refuge. Let us never be put to shame.

Pulpit side: Free us from the shame that dims our light and steals our joy.

L: Rescue us and make us whole.

P: Incline your ear to us, and steady our trembling hearts.

L: Be to us a rock of refuge, a fortress of welcome.

P: Not with walls of exclusion, but the shelter of belonging.

L: From within and without, deliver us from fear and division.

P: Guide us from the apathy and complacency we carry.

L: You have been our hope from the beginning, our trust since youth.

P: Melt our mistrust, and plant again your love deep within us.

L: Our praise is continually of you.

All: In your infinite grace, forgive us, renew us, and let us shine your love into the world. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 58:9b-14

Music for Reflection

Draw Us Near

Joel Thompson

*"This song we sing is our hearts' vow to you, O God of peace.
Please send your Dove, your Spirit of Love, to help our torments cease.
The world is tired of war and blood and fear,
The tears we've cried, the pain inside: O Spirit, draw us near.
So keep us true to our hearts' vow to show the world your love.
May bias wane and joy remain as we sing to You above.
We pray, O God, You take away our fear,
The tears we've cried, the pain inside: O Spirit, draw us near."*

Gospel Reading

Luke 13:10-17

Reflection

Deconstructing Division and the Sacred Cheese

Lee Wright

*Hymn

Sing for Justice

AR HYD Y NOS

(Music may be found on page 9.)

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for Healing and Justice

Voice 1: God of justice, you loose the bonds of injustice.

Pulpit side: Free those bound by systems of poverty and oppression.

Lectern side: Free us from our fear and complicity.

Voice 2: Christ of compassion, you healed on the Sabbath.

P: Heal those suffering in body, mind, or spirit.

L: Heal our mistrust of your light in others.

Voice 3: Spirit of unity, you draw us near.

P: Gather us into your fortress of inclusion.

L: Melt away division, to make us one body in your love.

All: Hear our prayers, O God, spoken and unspoken. Hold us in your steadfast love, and unite us in the prayer that Jesus taught...

† 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

Make You Feel My Love

Bob Dylan

"When the rain is blowing in your face

Arr. Anna Lapwood

And the whole world is on your case

I could offer you a warm embrace to make you feel my love.

When the evening shadows and the stars appear

And there is no one there to dry your tears

I could hold you for a million years to make you feel my love.

I know you haven't made your mind up yet

But I will never do you wrong

I've known it from the moment that we met

No doubt in my mind where you belong

I'd go hungry, I'd go black and blue

I'd go crawling down the avenue

No, there's nothing that I wouldn't do To make you feel my love

The storms are raging on the rolling sea

And on the highway of regret

The winds of change are blowing wild and free

You ain't seen nothing like me yet

I could make you happy, make your dreams come true

Nothing that I wouldn't do

Go to the ends of the earth for you To make you feel my love"

*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

Gracious God, you have given us everything: life, breath, song, hope. You have shown us that when we cling, we wither, but when we release, we flourish. Receive now our gifts and our very selves. Melt them into the great communion of your love, that the hungry may be fed, the lonely comforted, the stranger welcomed, and the Beloved Community strengthened. May there be enough for all, through Christ who is enough. Amen.

*Hymn

We Walk in Love
(Music may be found on page 10.)

Deanna Witkowski

*Benediction

Leader: God calls us to be repairers of the breach.

People: We will loose the bonds of injustice and walk in God's light.

Leader: Christ has set us free from all that bends us down.

People: We will stand tall in joy and rise in love.

Leader: The Spirit goes with us, guiding our steps.

All: We go as one body—different but not divided, courageous in justice, audacious in love. Amen.

Postlude

We Walk in Love (reprise)

Please sing verses one and three, pausing between for a brief interlude.

*Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us extend the Peace of Christ to one another.

Thank you to...

Worship Leader: Lee Wright, Director of Music Ministry

Liturgist: Stephen Lloyd

Community Choir: Emily Evans, Lindsey Puc, Joan Sussman, Amy Steinberg, Cecelia Allchin, Deborah Conquest, Michelle Newkirk, Elizabeth Kinney, Debbie McCullough, Julia Tellerman, Leah Rosenman, Jenny Stanberry, Jonathan Ivers, Glenn McClure, Becci Miller, Vincent Bissonette, Michael Brown, Mark Darling, Tim Lambert, Alan Giambattista, Alan Jones, Michael Philipson, Jason Cloen, organ and piano

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

We continue to welcome a wide variety of worship leaders. The Worship Team and the Session encourage you to consider what speaks to you in each worship experience and share your feedback with them.

You may write to: session@downtownpresbyterian.org

OR worship@downtownpresbyterian.org

This feedback is vital as decisions are made about our pastoral leadership.

Next Sunday we welcome Nancy Brown.

Coming up at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, August 24

9:00AM All Community Choir

Warm-up

9:45AM Nursery

10:00AM Worship -

Dr. Lee Wright

11:00AM Refreshments, Sanctuary

Friday, August 29

3:00PM Space Use Mtg, Zoom

Sunday, August 31

9:00AM Musicians Warm-up

9:45AM Nursery

10:00AM Worship - Nancy Brown

11:00AM Refreshments, Sanctuary

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven 619

(Psalm 103)



1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; glad of heart your
 2 Praise God for the grace and fa - vor shown our fore - bears
 3 Like a lov - ing par - ent car - ing, God knows well our
 4 An - gels, teach us ad - o - ra - tion; you be - hold God

car - ols raise; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
 in dis - tress; God is still the same for - ev - er,
 fee - ble frame, glad - ly all our bur - dens bear - ing,
 face to face. Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion,

who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!
 slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
 still to count - less years the same. Al - le - lu - ia!
 dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all your days!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing our Mak - er's faith - ful - ness!
 Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me, praise God's name!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

This adaptation of an older paraphrase of Psalm 103 (see no. 620) is informed by an awareness that much of the received language of religious traditions enshrines social values that obscure the goodness of God, which far transcends all our labels and categories and hierarchies.

27b. Sing for Justice

3-part version*

Words by Brennan Blue
Minneapolis, MN | 2017

Music: *Ar Hyd Y Nos*, trad. Welsh
Arrangement: Abbie Betinis

Flowing (♩ = 52)

Melody

Harmony

1. All who want peace, sing for jus - tice, join in the call!
2. If you want peace, sing for jus - tice, gath - er in song!
3. We who want peace, work for jus - tice, so shall we grow.

5

Jus - tice is love's pub - lic sto - ry o - pen to all.
Here we join with friends and strang - ers, all may be - long.
We will work to see the day when all may be whole.

9

Har - mo - ny is born of diff - 'rence, notes and chords of lived ex - per - ience.
You who bring hope, fear, or sor - row, help us sing a new to - mor - row.
Nam - ing truths while bur - dens bear - ing, sing - ing, shar - ing, learn - ing, car - ing.

13

All who want peace, sing for jus - tice, join in the call!
If you want peace, sing for jus - tice, gath - er in song!
We who want peace, work for jus - tice, so shall we grow.

Performance Suggestions:

- For young voices, or to add a soprano descant, sing the lowest harmony an octave higher.
- For SATB: Bases on melody, or sing from 2-part version (27a).
- Share the lyric sheet (27c) with audience, for all to join.

This beautiful Welsh tune "Ar Hyd Y Nos" ("All Through the Night"), first published in 1784, has sparked the imaginations of lyricists for generations. Brennan writes: "These lyrics were inspired by all of those who build peaceful, loving and sustainable community by keeping justice and equity at the heart of their work."

* Editor's note: May be sung together with 27a (2-part version).

Always include songwriters' names when posting recordings. Link to PDF: <https://songs.justicechoir.org/SingForJustice>

creative commons



Lyrics © 2017 Brennan Blue. Arr. © 2022 Abbie Betinis.
Licensed for free, non-commercial distribution.
Other inquiries or permissions: brennanblue2@gmail.com

JUSTICE CHOIR.ORG

38. We Walk in Love

Words by Deanna Witkowski and Lemuel Colon

Music by Deanna Witkowski

New York, NY | 2017

Gospel 3 feel (♩ = 104)

C7sus F Gm/F F Gm7

1. We walk in love u - nit - ed in pur - pose. We
2. We cry for peace and rights for all peo - ple. We
3. We dream a world of jus - tice and kind - ness. We

A7 Dm7 G7sus G7 C7sus

join our hands and lift up one voice. We
wel - come friends from far - and near. We
build a bridge cre - at - ing new paths. We

Bm7(b5) Bbm6 F/C F

speak the truth with strength and com - pas - sion re -
fight for those whose voic - es are si - lenced, re -
march with joy as all walk to - geth - er. Em -

Gm F/A Gm/Bb F/C C7sus C7 F

sound - ing with hope, with cour - age and joy.
sist - ing in faith, un - til all are free.
brac - ing each one, we bold - ly stand.

Performance Suggestion:

- Step on beat 1, Clap beats 2 & 3.

Deanna writes: "After writing the tune, I looked at 'Lift Every Voice and Sing' as a starting point in creating a list of positive key words to include in the lyrics."

Editor's note: Optional piano part available at deannawitkowski.com.

Always include songwriter's name when posting recordings. Link to PDF: <https://songs.justicechoir.org/WeWalk>

creative commons



Copyright © 2017, Lyrics: Witkowski and Colon/Music: Deanna Witkowski (BMI)
Licensed for free, non-commercial distribution.
Other inquiries or permissions: deannawitkowski.com

JUSTICE CHOIR.ORG

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 for children up to 2nd grade either in the library or C-23 upstairs. Check with the receptionist.

Sunday School is on summer recess through August.

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 requests will be collected during the hymn following the sermon and provided to the Deacons.

The Downtown Church Staff

Cheryl Bittle, Weekend Receptionist	Robin Sheikh, Office Administrator & Sunday School Teacher
Jason Cloen, Associate Musician	
Eileen Dietsch, Director of Operations	Ebony Smalls, Evening Receptionist
Alan Jones, Associate Musician	Michael Stagles, Maintenance Lead
David Mear, Business Manager	Joseph Taylor, Maintenance Supervisor
Moses Nhial, Maintenance	Ed Verna, Maintenance
Penelope Paredes, Nursery Coordinator	Lee S. Wright, D.M.A., Director of Music Ministry
Andrea Piccone, Bookkeeper & Receptionist Coordinator	

Parish Leaders

Mary Rees and Pat Tweet - Clerks of Session
Cindy Hamilton, Jacque Hancock - co-Moderators of Deacons

Session

The Rev. Val Fowler, Moderator	Lea Kone	Jim Vesper
Nancy Brown	Bob Richane	Pat Tweet
John DeHority	Sally Allison	Mary Rees
	Sam King	

Deacons

Bob Carlisle	Jacque Hancock	Becky Parks
Andrea Folan	Elizabeth Katz	Susan Richane
Helen Ganotis	Stephen Lloyd	Kelley Sheils
Cindy Hamilton	Grania Marcus	Marilyn Terpening
	Sandy Morales	

121 N. Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, NY 14614

Telephone: (585) 325-4000

email: office@DowntownPresbyterian.org

www.DowntownPresbyterian.org

