



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

August 31st, 2025, 10:00 AM
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

[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 during the **hymn following the sermon** to share with the pastor and/or Deacons.*

Prelude

Meditation on "For Everyone Born"

Words of Welcome

Nancy Brown

Announcements

Nancy Simpson

Chime

Introit

Draw the Circle Wide

Gordon Light

Please join in singing the refrain.

"Draw the circle wide,. draw it wider still.

**Let this be our song: no one sits alone. Sitting side by side,
draw the circle wide."**

Invocation

We say, "We live into Jesus' inclusive call to love every person, care for creation and work for God's justice." In this calling we need God's help. So let us invite God to join us – in this place, at this table, among us. With humility and love, let us create in today's worship a glimpse of the abundance of God's table."

***Call to Worship**

One: As light-seekers we come, O God, and we rejoice in Your light;

Many: May our faithfulness open a window, that Your light may flood through.

One: O, God, as hope-seekers we come, finding our place at the table, yet sharing Your space.

Many: We celebrate Your gift of hope. Capture us as we worship, and bind us together in hope.

One: O God, as followers of Jesus we come, open to his compassionate welcome;

Many: Change us as we encounter You, that we may shine Your light and carry Your hope into the world.

***Hymn**

For Everyone Born

FOR EVERYONE BORN

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

***Prayer for Transformation**

Many: Creator God, do your work in us –

Help us to be the body of Christ engaged in mission,

Help us surrender the church back to you. It is Yours, not ours.

Help us to become the repairers of the breach.

Give us a vision of transformed lives, neighborhoods, and communities, partnering with You to see what can happen when as people of faith, we are focused on making a difference. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

We affirm that God's grace gives us strength, wisdom, and dignity. Help us use these gifts to nurture our communities, fight for justice, and lift up those still marginalized.

We pray this not in a spirit of performance, or in the hope of perfection, but in radical gratitude, for the grace that allows us to be fully and beautifully human. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 58:9-12

Music for Reflection

Wade in the Water

American Negro Spiritual
Arr. Harry Thacker Burleigh

Second Reading

Luke 14:1-14

Sermon

A Place at the Table

*Hymn

For Everyone Born

FOR EVERYONE BORN

(Verses 4, 5 and 6—Music may be found on page 8.)

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for Healing and Justice

† 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

Simple Song

Leonard Bernstein

"Sing God a simple song, lauda laude

Make it up as you go along, lauda laude

Sing like you like to sing, God loves all simple things.

For God is the simplest of all, For God is the simplest of all.

I will sing to God a new song, to praise Them, to bless Them, to bless God.

I will sing God's praises while I live, all of my days.

Blessed is the one who loves God, Blessed is the one who praises Them.

Lauda, lauda, laude, and walks in Their ways.

I will lift up my eyes, to the hills from which comes my help.

I will lift up my voice to God, singing lauda, laude.

*For God is my shade, is the shade upon my right hand.
And the sun shall not smite me by day, or the moon by night.
Blessed is the one who loves God, lauda, lauda, laude, and walks in Their ways.
Lauda, lauda, laude, lauda, lauda di da di day, All of my days”*
Words: Stephen Schwartz and Leonard Bernstein, alt.

***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**

**God of generosity, you have given us more than we could ask or
imagine. We have what we need to live, and abundantly more. We
give back to you, what has always belonged to you. Transform our
gifts and use our lives to bless others and to shape the world as
you dreamed it. Amen.**

***Hymn**

Live Into Hope

TRURO

(Verses 4, 5 and 6 - Music may be found on page 7.)

***Benediction**

Leader: God calls us to be repairers of the breach

Many: We will shed the bonds of injustice and walk in God’s light.

**Leader: Christ has set us free to share in the amazing abundance
before us.**

Many: We will sit together in joy and rise in love.

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

**All: We go as one body—led by the holy ones among us and
before us. Amen.**

Postlude

**Allegro Maestoso
from Sonata III for Organ**

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

***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: Nancy Brown

Liturgist: Nancy Simpson

Musicians: Emily Evans and Lee Wright

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

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Nancy Brown is “multidenominational,” having been raised in the wide Methodist-UCC-Presbyterian family. Mother of two, grandmother of five, oldest daughter; therefore, big sister, cousin, and friend.

She graduated from Mary Washington College in the early 70’s, taught in Appalachia, then returned to the Rochester area. A 1994 graduate of Colgate Rochester Divinity School, she is focused on social justice. She is a current Session member, Leaper of Faith, Lifter of Every Voice, and Justice Team member.

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 Rev. Val Fowler.

Live into Hope

1 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, of sight re -
 2 Live in - to hope! The blind shall see with in - sight
 3 Live in - to hope of lib - er - ty, the right to
 4 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed from chains of

gained, the end of greed. The op-pressed shall be the
 and with clar - i - ty, re - mov - ing shades of
 speak, the right to be, the right to have one's
 fear or want or greed. God now pro - claims our

first to see the year of God's own ju - bi - lee!
 pride and fear, a vi - sion of our God brought near.
 dai - ly bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.
 full re - lease to faith and hope and joy and peace.

This text on Luke 4:16–20, the author's first, was written for the United Presbyterian Women's National Meeting in July 1976 because the team planning worship could not find a suitable hymn on that passage. She wrote the words with this vigorous 18th-century tune in mind.

For everyone born



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For all who share life, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For those we ne - glect, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For all who have breath, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 a cov - e - nant shared, a wel - com - ing space,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 a rain - bow of race and gen - der and col - our,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head, and
 for all who share life, a sys - tem that's fair, and
 for those we ne - glect, the right to be - long, and
 for all who have breath, the chal - ice of grace, and



God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and



joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,



God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,



jus - tice and joy!

joy!

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1998, alt.
 Music: Brian Mann, 2006

FOR EVERYONE BORN
 11 10 11 10 with refrain

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 Music © 2006 Brian Mann, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik. All rights reserved.

- 5 For you and for me, a place at the ta-ble,
though wound-ed and sore, with need to for-give,
in an-ger, in hurt, a mind-set of mer-cy,
for you and for me, a new way to live, *Refrain*

- 6 For ev-ery-one born, a place at the ta-ble,
to live with-out fear, and sim-ply to be,
to work, to speak out, to wit-ness and wor-ship,
for ev-ery-one born, the right to be free, *Refrain*

Coming up at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, August 31

9:00AM Musicians Warm-up
 9:45AM Nursery
 10:00AM Worship - Nancy Brown
 11:00AM Refreshments, Sanctuary

Tuesday, September 2

10:30AM Psalms+ Bible Study
 5:00PM Justice Team Mtg., Zoom

Wednesday, September 3

7:00PM Choir Practice

Thursday, September 4

11:00AM Worship Team Mtg.,
 Zoom

Sunday, September 7

9:45AM Sunday Forum, Hybrid
 10:00AM Choir Warm-up
 10:45AM Nursery
 11:00AM Worship, Rev. Val Fowler
 11:15AM Sunday School
 12:00PM Refreshments, Sanctuary

Arts Link

At Downtown Presbyterian Church

presents



First Inversion
Presents

This Land:
Celebrating Our Nation's Rich Cultural Landscape

the choir of **First Inversion**, with **Lee Wright**, conductor

SUNDAYS, SEPT. 14TH AND 21ST, 4:00PM
DOWNTOWN UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
121 N. FITZHUGH STREET, ROCHESTER, 14614

2025 - 2026 Season
We Are...
Connecting Community with Creativity and Care

First Inversion is proud to announce that we are Artists In Residence with Arts Link at Downtown Presbyterian Church, partnering in ministry to build Beloved Community.
firstinversion.org. \$25/adult, \$5/student suggested admission donation, cash/check/credit accepted at the door

Monthly All Community Choir Sundays:

September 21, October 19, and November 16

Music-led worship with community choir and congregational participation.

Benefit Concert for WXXI:

Saturday, October 11, 2PM

hosted by Jessica Ann Best

in collaboration with Arts Link at Downtown Church

Featuring a variety of local musicians and ensembles.

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	

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