



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
September 28th, 2025, 11:00 AM
26th 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

Legende

Louis Vierne

Words of Welcome

The Rev. Peggy Meeker

Announcements

Pat Tweet

Chime

Introit

There Is More Love Somewhere

African-American

1. There is more love somewhere. There is more love somewhere.

I'm gonna keep on 'til I find it. There is more love somewhere.

2. There is more hope. . . 3. There is more peace. . . 4. There is more joy. . .

*Call to Worship (Responsively; based on Psalm 146)

Leader: Alleluia! Praise Yahweh, my soul!

Congregation: I will praise Yahweh all my life, I will make music to my God as long as I live.

Leader: Do not put your trust in princes, in any child of Adam, who has no power to save.

Congregation: How blessed are they who have Jacob's God to help them, their hope is in Yahweh their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them.

Leader: Yahweh keeps faith for ever, gives justice to the oppressed,

gives food to the hungry; Yahweh sets prisoners free.

Congregation: **Yahweh gives sight to the blind, lifts up those who are bowed down.**

Leader: Yahweh protects the stranger, sustains the orphan and the widow.

Congregation: **Yahweh loves the upright, but frustrates the wicked. Yahweh reigns for ever, your God, Zion, from age to age.**

*Hymn

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR
(Verses 1, 2, & 4. Music may be found on page 7.)

Time With Young Disciples

Robin Sheikh

Centering Prayer (Unison; based on a poem by Walter Brueggemann)

When the world spins crazy, spins toward rage and hate and violence,
spins beyond our wisdom and nearly beyond our faith, we are glad for
sobering roots that provide ballast in the storm. We thank you, God,
for our rootage in communities of faith, for our many fathers and mothers
who have believed and trusted as firm witnesses to us. And we thank you
for the rootage of the text, for the daring testimony, for its deep commands,
because we know we will find you hiding there, we will find you showing
yourself there. From you the world again has a chance for life and sense
and wholeness. We pray midst the spinning, waiting and watching
and listening, for you are the truth that contains all our spin. Amen.

First Reading

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Music for Reflection Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks

Herbert Howells

*"Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks,
so longeth my soul after thee, O God.*

*My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God.
When shall I come to appear before the presence of God?*

*My tears have been my meat day and night,
while they daily say unto me, 'Where is now thy God? '"*

Text: Psalm 42:1-3

Second Reading

Luke 16:19-31

Sermon

Life After Doom

*Hymn

Great is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

(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

Light of a Clear Blue Morning

Dolly Parton

"It's been a long dark night,

Arr. Craig Hella Johnson

And I've been waiting for the morning.

It's been a long hard fight, but I see a brand new day a-dawning.

I've been looking for the sunshine 'cause I ain't seen it in so long.

Everything's gonna work out fine. Everything's gonna be alright, it's gonna be ok.

I can see the light of a clear blue morning. I can see the light of a brand new day.

I can see the light of a clear blue morning. Everything's gonna be alright, it's gonna be ok."

Isabella Apodaca, soloist

*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 (Unison; from Robin Wall Kimmerer):

We are showered every day with gifts, but they are not
meant for us to keep. Their life is in their movement,
the inhale and the exhale of our shared breath. Our work
and our joy is to pass along the gift and to trust that what
we put out into the universe will always come back.

*Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
(Verses 1, 3 and 4—Music may be found on page 10.)

HYFRYDOL

*Benediction

Postlude

Improvisation on Hyfrydol

*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.

Peggy Meeker started life as a Presbyterian and came to the ministry as a Unitarian Universalist at midlife. She did her ministerial internship at the UU Church of Canandaigua in 2007-2008, served the Brockport UU Fellowship for five years, spent several years as a Chaplain at Strong Memorial Hospital, and served as Interim Minister at First Universalist in Rochester in 2017-2018. She is now happily retired.

Thank you to...

Worship Leader: The Rev. Peggy Meeker

Liturgist: Nancy Brown

Chancel Choir Members

Soprano: Cecelia Allchin, Isabella Apodaca, Nicole Knickerbocker,
Lindsey Puc, Joan Sussman Alto: Alyssa Koh, Leah Rosenman

Tenor: Olivia Anderson, Jason Cloen, Shawn Cox, Mark Darling

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

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

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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 the Rev. Sam Kinsman.



367 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit in thank-ful praise to yield,
 3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the har - vest home;
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.

All is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from each field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
 Gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,

God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give the an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy pres - ence to a - bide:

Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in God's gar - ner ev - er - more.
 come, with all thine an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Despite its familiar Thanksgiving associations, the real concern of this text is to recall the harvest imagery Jesus used to describe the fulfillment of God's sovereignty. The tune name commemorates the royal chapel where the composer was organist for forty-seven years.

39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

**Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."*

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22–23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
 오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.
 날 마 다 자 비 를 베 푸 시 며

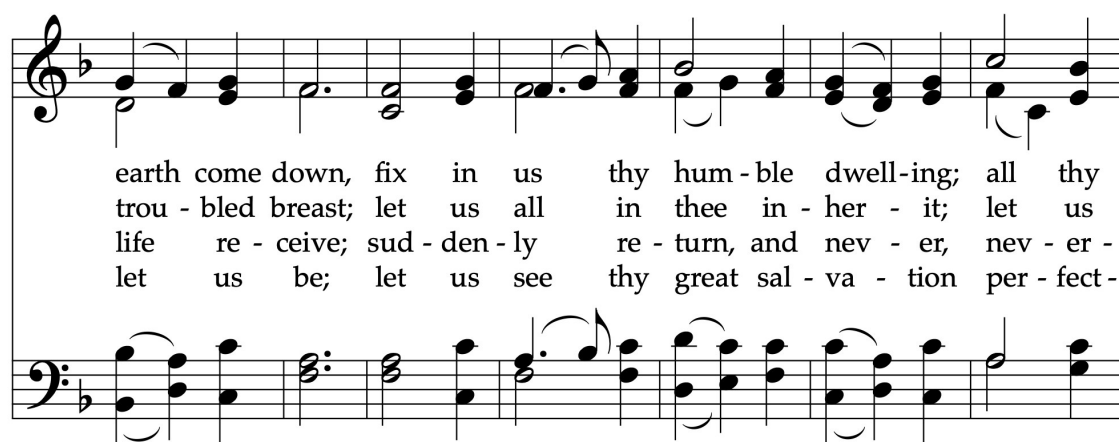
All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
 일 용 할 모 든 것 내 려 주 시 니

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!
 오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

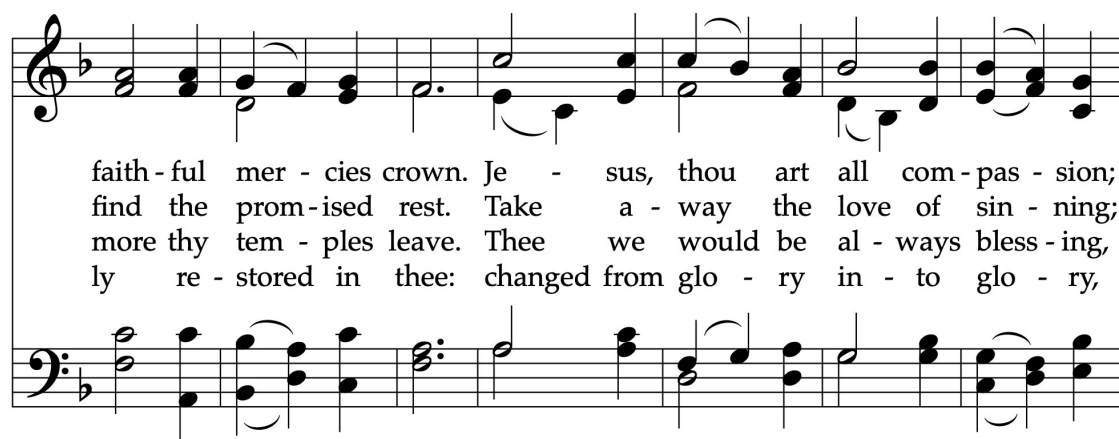
366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
3 Come, Al - mighty - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;
find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

This text and this tune occur in almost all English-language hymnals (though not always together). The transforming power of love motivates the unending praise of the life to come, and this fine Welsh tune (whose name means "delightful") gives us a foretaste of endless song.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1747, alt.
MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831, alt.

HYFRYDOL
8.7.8.7.D

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.



Coming up at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 28

9:45AM Sunday Forum, Hybrid

10:00AM Choir Warm-up

10:45AM Nursery

11:00AM Worship, Rev. Peg
Meeker

11:15AM Sunday School

12:00PM Refreshments-Sanctuary

Tuesday, September 30

10:30AM Psalms+ Bible Study

Wednesday, October 1

7:00PM Choir Practice

Thursday, October 2

11:00AM Worship Team Mtg,
Zoom

Sunday, October 5

9:45AM Sunday Forum, Hybrid

10:00AM Choir Warm-up

10:45AM Nursery

11:00AM Worship - Rev, Sam
Kinsman

11:15AM Sunday School

12:00PM Refreshments-
Sanctuary



Irondequoit Presbyterian Church is having a Service of Dissolution and celebration of their long ministry on September 28 at 4 PM. Rev. Val Fowler will attend. Downtown United Presbyterian Church members are encouraged to attend this service and to pray for this congregation.

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 young children beginning in the library and moving to C-23 on the second floor. Parents are welcome to come up with their kids if they would like.

Sunday School Children not in nursery care will be invited forward during the "Time with Our Youth" and then will follow their teacher to the Sunday School room.

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.

Sunday Forum - October 2025

Caring for Creation: Environmentalism

Oct. 5 “Ice Cores, Methane and Global Climate Change: From Rochester to the Poles”

Presenters: Dr. Vas Petrenko, Marky Mayanja , and Alex Ihle

The Ice Core and Atmospheric Chemistry Lab at The University of Rochester studies the changing composition of the atmosphere, how human activity impacts it, and how these influence Earth’s climate. This presentation will include an overview of the current scientific understanding of climate change, its causes, and also highlight the research being done at the U of R. Our presenters will share photos and videos from their polar expeditions along with actual samples of ancient Greenland and Antarctic ice. Bring your questions!

Oct. 12 No Sunday Forum - Congregational Meeting after Worship

Oct. 19 “From Neighborhoods to Nature: Planning Our Climate Future.”

Presenter: Steve Howe, reporter for the Democrat and Chronicle

Steve Howe reports on weather, climate, and the Great Lakes for the Democrat and Chronicle, and will discuss the growing emphasis on local climate and environmental action, the role zoning plays in sustainability. Zoning codes and new large-scale projects such as the data center at the Science and Technology Advanced Manufacturing Park (STAMP) Steve will also share about groups and actions that are currently taking place. .

Oct. 26 “Plastics in Our Water”

Presenter: Kaeti Stoss, RIT Environmental Education Specialist

Kaeti is an educator at RIT’s College of Science where she has delivered high quality environmental education for our region with a focus on water quality, the Genesee River, and other water bodies. She has led community engagement and education efforts for numerous projects related to water quality and plastic pollution. Kaeti translates science for the community in a way that is accessible and actionable.

Sundays, 9:45 AM ~ The Shaw Room



Arts Link

At Downtown Presbyterian Church

presents

≈**Coming in October**≈

Monthly All Community Choir Sunday

October 19, 11AM

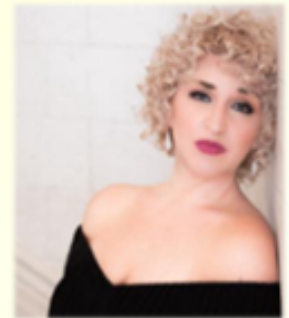
Music-led worship with
community choir and
congregational participation.



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.

Pegasus Early Music Concert

Sunday, October 19th, 4PM

Darpana: Mirroring Traditions of Raga & Harmony

An innovative cross-cultural collaboration
exploring connections and contrasts
between European medieval to baroque
music, and classical Indian music.



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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