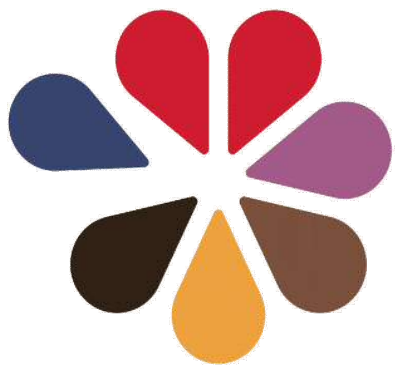




DOWNTOWN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



Celebration of Worship
November 23rd, 2025, 11:00 AM
34th 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	Invocation in Bb	Alexandre Guilmant
Words of Welcome		Susan Richane
Announcements		Nancy Brown

Chime

*Introit	Every Day Is a Day of Thanksgiving "Every day is a day of thanksgiving. God, you've been so good to me. Every day you're blessing me. Every day is a day of thanksgiving. We will glorify your name today!"	Leonard Burks
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Call to Worship (Psalm 100, Nan Merrill)

One: Sing a joyful noise to the Beloved all peoples of the earth!

Many: Serve Love with a glad heart! Join hands in the great Dance of Life!

One: Know that the Beloved of your heart is the Divine Presence!

Many: Love created us, and we belong to the Most High; We are born to be loving, expressions of the Creator's Divine Plan.

One: Open the gates of your heart with gratitude and enter Love's court with praise!

Many: Give thanks to the Beloved, bless Love's holy Name!
For Love is of God, and lives in your heart forever, with faith,
truth, and joy, now and in all that is to come. Alleluia! Amen!

*Hymn

For the Fruit of All Creation
(*Music may be found on page 7.*)

AR HYD Y NOS

Time With Young Disciples

Susan Richane

Prayer of Gratitude and Transformation (Unison)

Gracious and Loving God we come before you with hearts full
of gratitude; with beauty before our eyes and light shining on us
and in us. We join with all nature in witness to your love, and in
gratitude for the peace that settles our restless hearts. We are yours,
and we know this in our inmost being. We thank you for all the blessings
in this life. Grant us strength for today, wisdom from yesterday's lessons,
and a hope that carries us into tomorrow. Amen

Words of Grace

One: God's love welcomes us, pardons us, embraces us. Through the
Holy Spirit, God's Love meets us at every beginning, remaking us into
new creatures, calling us Beloved.

Many: We are a part of the miracle of God's faithfulness and God's
transforming Love.

All: Thanks be to God who dwells in all creation.

First Reading

In The Blink of an Eye

Richard Wagamese
Ojibway Meditation

Music for Reflection

This Place Is a Shelter

Ólafur Arnalds

Second Reading

Matthew 14:13-21

Sermon

Living Grace

*Hymn

Open My Eyes
(Music may be found on page 8.)

OPEN MY EYES

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

I Thank You God

Gwyneth Walker

*i thank You God for most this amazing
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes
(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)
how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any—lifted from the no
of all nothing—human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?
(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)
E. E. Cummings*

*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 (in unison)

Maker of mountains and keeper of stars, you neither slumber or sleep.
Through the sharing of these gifts, and the living of our lives, may we
become channels of light and living grace. May we radiate peace to
the world to which we are called as your expression of your Love. Amen.

*Hymn

O God of Earth and Space
(Music may be found on page 9.)

LEONI

*Benediction (Sung Responsively)

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

One: Because the world is poor and starving,

Many: Go with bread.

One: Because the world is filled with fears,

Many: Go with courage.

One: Because the world is in despair,

Many: Go with hope.

One: Because the world is living lies,

Many: Go with truth.

One: Because the world is sick with sorrow,

Many: Go with joy.

One: Because the world is weary of wars,

Many: Go with peace.

One: Because the world is seldom fair,

Many: Go with justice.

One: Because the world is under judgement,

Many: Go with mercy.

One: Because the world will die without it,

Many: Go with Love.

Postlude

Final, from Symphonie I (Abridged)

Louis Vierne

Called Congregational Meeting (members of the church please remain in your seats)

*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: Susan Richane

Liturgist: Nancy Brown

Chancel Choir Members

Soprano: Cecelia Allchin, Morgan Cox, Isa 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, Sumner Tessier

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

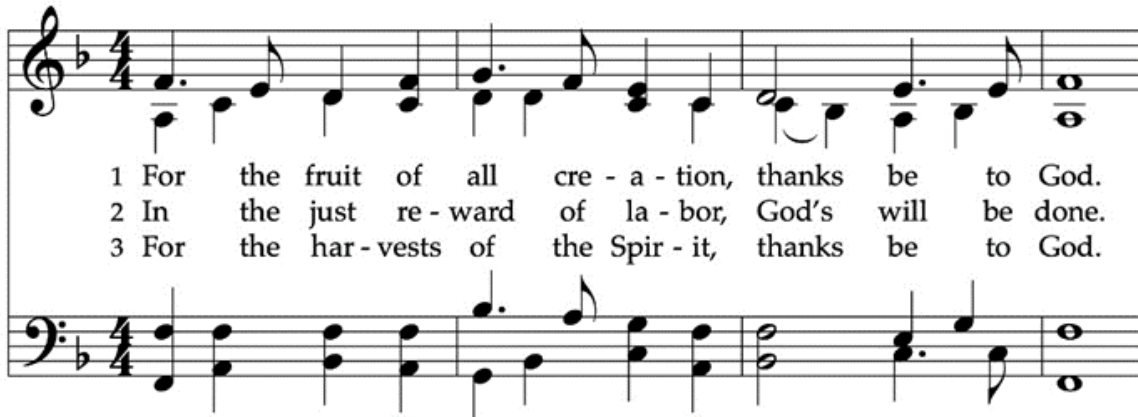
OR worship@downtownpresbyterian.org. This feedback is vital as decisions are made about our pastoral leadership.

Next Sunday we welcome Rev. Katie Jo Suddaby.



For the Fruit of All Creation

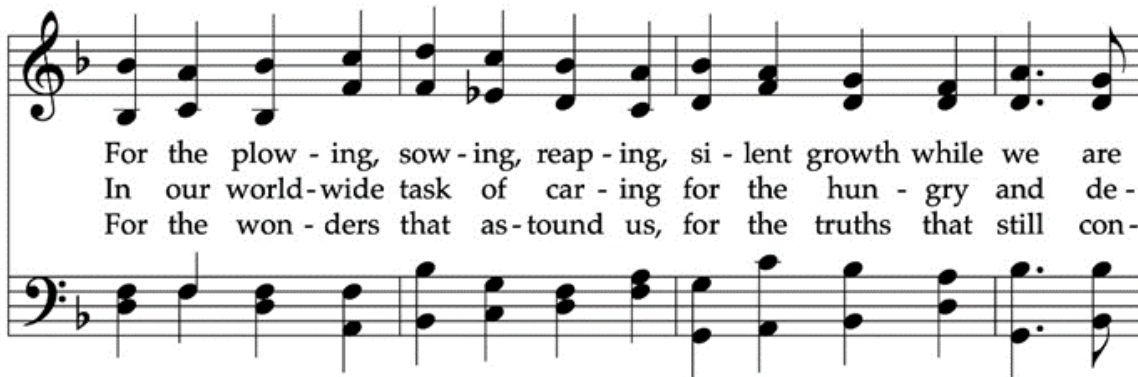
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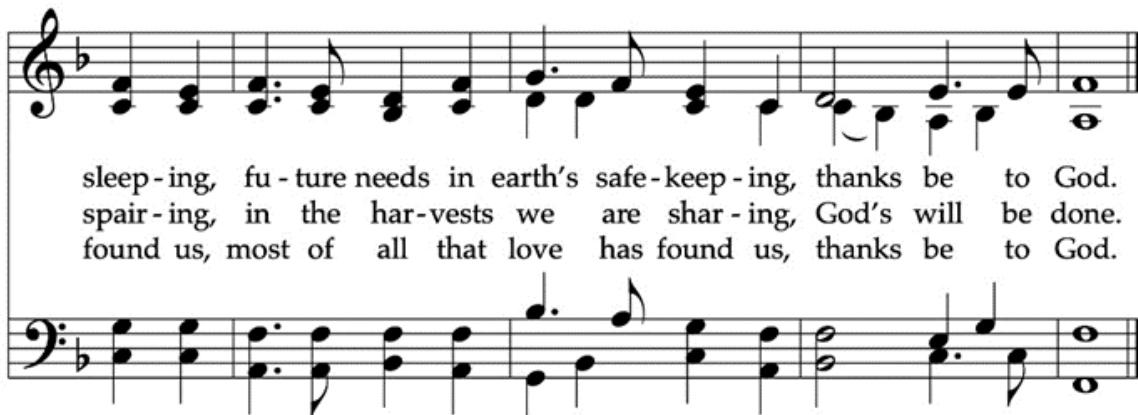
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -



sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.
 found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."

Open My Eyes, That I May See 451



- 1 O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me.
- 2 O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send-est clear.
- 3 O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev-ery-where.



Place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un - clasp and
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev - ery-thing false will
O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare love with thy chil-dren



set me free. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
dis - ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
thus to share. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy



will to see. O-pen my eyes; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!
will to see. O-pen my ears; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!
will to see. O-pen my heart; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!



The first woman to publish a collection of her own anthems, this author/composer has created in this hymn a sung prayer for illumination. It not only asks God to help us understand Scripture but also prays for the strength and courage to make God's love known to others.

O God of Earth and Space

LEONI 6.6.8.4 D

Hebrew melody

Jane Parker Huber, 1980

Adapt. Thomas Olivers and Meyer Lyon, 1770

1. O God of earth and space, Of sea and fire and air,
 2. Where faith-ful-ness is shown, Where love and truth a-bound,
 3. Wher-ev-er free-dom reigns, Where sin is o-ver-thrown,
 4. Your word com-mands re-sponse And sum-mons us to life.

Your prov-i-dence sur-rounds us here And ev-ery-where.
 Where beau-ty grac-es hu-man life, There You are found.
 Where jus-tice fused with mer-cy rules, There You are known.
 We fol-low, strength-ened by Your grace, In calm or strife.

In fruit and grain and tree, In shel-ter from the cold,
 In-spir-er of all thought! Cre-a-tive force of art!
 Give us the cour-age clear To make the earth a home
 Our ev-er-pres-ent help, Our chal-lenge and our prod,

In cool-ing breez-es, flow-ing wells, Now as of old.
 The mel-o-dy on ev-ery tongue, In ev-ery heart!
 For all to live in har-mo-ny In Christ's sha-lom.
 We praise You now and to life's end, E-ter-nal God.

Text: © 1980 Jane Parker Huber; from *A Singing Faith*. Used by permission.

Coming up at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 23

9:45AM Sunday Forum, Hybrid
10:00AM Choir Warm-up
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM Worship - Susan
Richane
11:15AM Sunday School
12:00PM Congregational Mtg.,
Sanctuary

Tuesday, November 25

10:30AM Psalms+ Bible Study

Wednesday, November 26

7:00PM Choir Practice

Thursday, November 27

Thanksgiving Day - *Building Closed*

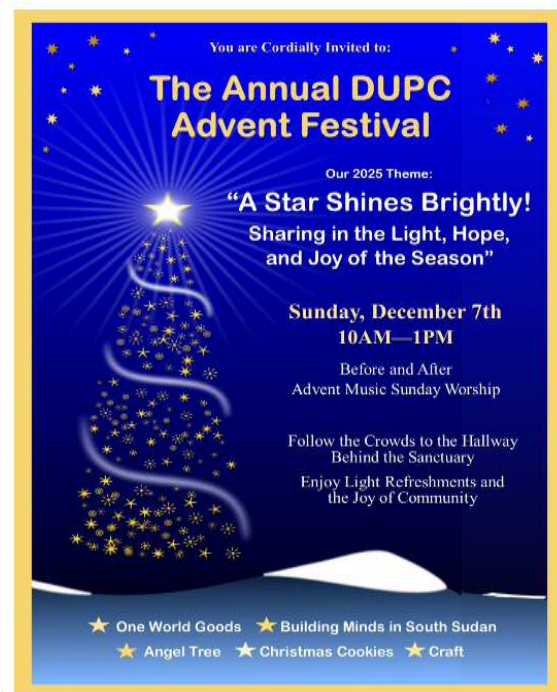
Friday, November 28

Holiday Break - *Building Closed*

3:00PM Space Use Meeting, Zoom

Sunday, November 30

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



Angel Tree 2025

Today you will see a Christmas tree on the lectern side of the sanctuary and it will be filled with paper angels. Each will have on it an item that can be purchased or a monetary donation needed for the children served by Jordan Health Center.

Pick out an angel or two
and bring your donations on
Advent Sunday, December 7th.

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.

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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Telephone: (585) 325-4000

email: office@DowntownPresbyterian.org

www.DowntownPresbyterian.org



The Quakers are sharing information with us about this important fund drive they have initiated to support the work being done in Gaza to ease the suffering.



Rochester Friends Meeting (Quaker) Fundraiser to Address Humanitarian Needs and Peace-building Efforts in Palestine/Israel

Contributions received by **November 30th** will be matched by funds in the Rima Segal legacy gift, up to a total of \$4,000. Donations by check may be made out to **Rochester Friends Meeting, with "Fundraising Match" in memo line**

Note: Gifts may be designated to any or all of the five organizations chosen by PSAC. Please note how you want your contribution to be applied (to keep it easier for bookkeeping, please make amounts in \$5 increments.) **Undesignated contributions will be equally divided among the five organizations;** for example a \$100 check will mean \$20 to each of the five groups.

The five organizations discerned by PSAC are:

1. **American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)** - a Quaker organization committed to social justice, peace, and humanitarian service. In Gaza many staff are Palestinians.
2. **American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam – Oasis of Peace** - A village in Israel built jointly by Jews and Palestinian Arabs of Israeli citizenship and engaged in educational work for peace, equality and understanding between the 2 peoples.
3. **United Palestinian Appeal** - staffed by the clerk of Ramallah Friends Meeting, they support families experiencing trauma born of living under economic blockade in a conflict zone.
4. **Doctors Without Borders** - delivers critical, impartial medical and humanitarian aid across the Gaza Strip despite severe supply shortages, attacks on health facilities, and a collapsed health system.
5. **World Central Kitchen** - World Central Kitchen - establishing field-kitchens and mobile bakeries in the Gaza Strip to deliver hot meals, bread and potable water.

Sunday Forum - November 2025

Working for God's Justice Locally and Globally

Nov. 2 "Making Policy in Community: Presbyterians Proclaiming Anti-Racism"



Presenters: Beth Laidlaw, Elder, Third Presbyterian Church and Pat Tweet
The Genesee Valley Presbytery has directed each church in the region to create their own Anti-Racism Policy with strategies and practices specific to that congregation. Elder Beth Laidlaw, from Third Pres. will share the process her church experienced, and Pat Tweet will summarize additional suggestions and guidance that the DEIB will use in crafting a policy for our congregation's approval on November 9th.



Nov. 9 "Federal Lawmaking with Local and Global Consequences: The View from the House Chamber."

Presenter: Representative Joe Morelle

Congressperson Morelle will speak about the role he has played in solving domestic problems and impacting global troubles and tragedies. Joe has been apprised of our church's progressive tradition, and welcomes questions about the daily challenges of bipartisanship.

Nov. 16 "From Sudan to Rochester to South Sudan: Always Seeking to Make a Difference."



Presenter: Mathon Noi

Mathon is the Vice President and Co-founder of Building Minds in South Sudan. He fled Sudan as a "Walking Boy" at the age of 9 and came to Rochester in 2001. Since then, he achieved his bachelor's degree in accounting and now lives in Buffalo with his family. He will share his story and its impact on the way he lives his life today, as well as the challenges of fulfilling the mission of Building Minds in South Sudan in a contentious political climate.

Nov. 23 "Answering the Call: Fighting the Powers That Be."

Presenter: Windsor Wade



Windsor's parents, Louis and Katie, fled the Jim Crow South in 1952. Ten years later, on a trip South to visit family, Windsor drank from a "Whites Only" fountain. Today, he is a long-time member of Veterans for Peace, and also a member of its national board. Heeding the Dalai Lama's admonition, "It's not enough to be compassionate, you must act," Windsor became a teacher and has continually worked for justice, including service with two local organizations, Metro Justice and the Gandhi Institute.

Sundays, 9:45 AM ~ The Shaw Room

