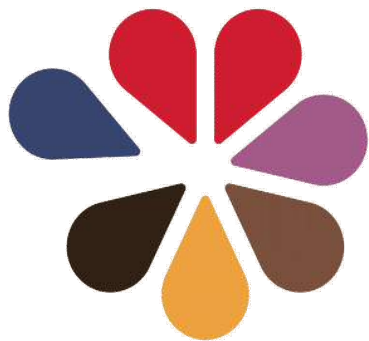




DOWNTOWN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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

Celebration of Worship

January 4th, 2026 11:00 AM

Second Sunday of Christmas

[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	I Wonder as I Wander	John Jacob Niles
---------	----------------------	------------------

Words of Welcome	Rev. Val Fowler
------------------	-----------------

Announcements	David Lee
---------------	-----------

Chime

Introit	Joy is Now in Every Place	German Carol
---------	---------------------------	--------------

*Call to Worship (John 1:1-5)

One: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the word was God.

**Many: He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being
through him, and without him not one thing came into being.**

One: What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the
light of all people.

Many: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

*Prayer of Invocation

Lord, let each new day for us be a new beginning of faithfulness.

May we never take your love for granted. May we be always ready
to show the Good News of your love, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Hymn

Love Has Come
(*Music may be found on page 7.*)

BRING A TORCH

Service of Ordination and Installation of Officers

Time with Young Disciples

Robin Sheikh

Confession and Assurance

[The petitions—**Rule Us With Your Peace** and **Christ our Mother** are from Brian Wren, *Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany*, and are used with permission.]

Who We are *Called* to Be

One: We will read, together, from Colossians, Chapter 3, verses 12-15.

All: As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Confessing *Who We Are* — "Rule Us With Your Peace"

Silent prayer – allowing what we read to sink into our being

All: Christ, alive among us, as we draw near to you, and embrace, bump, and bruise one another: rule us with your peace, so that, clothed in love, we may bear with one another, forgive as we have been forgiven, and be thankful in your name. Amen.

Silent prayer

Confessing *Whose We Are* – "Christ our Mother"

One: Let us pray, together:

All: Christ our mother, who bore the pain of death to give us second birth, shape and stitch for us the clothes of compassion, kindness, meekness, and love and make them such a perfect fit that we will become what we wear, in your name. Amen.

*Response of Praise ("Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," verse 3)

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die,

Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

First Reading

Psalm 148

Second Reading

Luke 2:41-52

Sermon

Going Up and Going Down

*Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

(Verses 1,3, and 4. Music may be found on pg 8.)

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for Healing and Justice

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Music

Blessed Steps for January's Path

MARIAN MUSIC

*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*)

Loving Jesus, your goodness to us is beyond the reaches of our imagination—a fullness of love that embraces all of life. From you we have received grace upon grace. Accept our offering for the sake of the world. All that we have is yours and all we return to you is a reflection of Your love for us. It is in your name that we pray. Amen.

*Hymn

Joy To the World!

ANTIOCH

(Verses 1-2, Music may be found on pg 9.)

Service of Communion

The Invitation

The Story

The Prayer

† 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.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Music at Communion

Bakerwoman God

Poem by Alla Renee Bozworth

Music by Alan Jones

Prayer after Communion

All: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you
have united us with Christ, making us one with all people. Now send us
forth in the power of the Spirit that we may proclaim—and live—your
redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus
Christ. Amen.

*Hymn

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

(Verses 3-4, Music may be found on pg 9.)

Benediction

Benediction Response

A Christmas Blessing

Lloyd Larson

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...

Guest Worship Leader: Rev. Val Fowler
Liturgist: David Lee

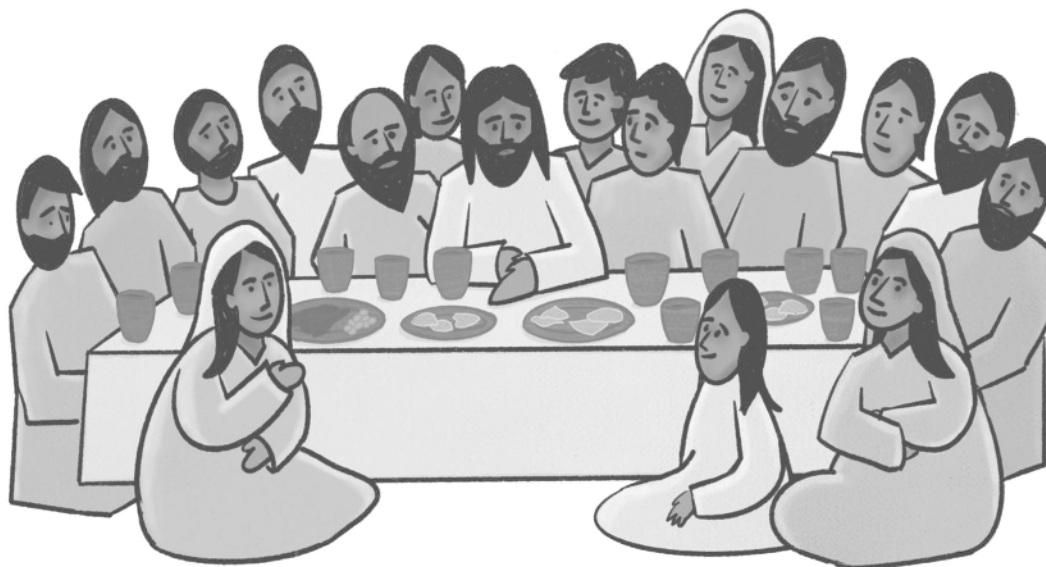
Musicians: Jason Cloen and Alan Jones

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

Next Sunday, we will welcome Rev. Katie Jo Suddaby.



Love Has Come

110

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm7) Dm7 (Em7) Gm7 (A) C

1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)
 F Dm7 Gm C7 F

Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)
 C F Dm F C B^b F

heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)
 Gm7 A7 B^b C Dm C7

joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)
 F C B^b C F C C7 Fsus F

Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

Once in Royal David's City 140

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
 us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and
 deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 on to the place where he is gone.

Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.

134

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

ANTIOCH

CM with repeat

(alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)

Coming up at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, January 4

9:45AM Sunday Forum, Hybrid
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM Worship - Rev. Val
Fowler
11:15AM Sunday School
12:00PM Congregational Mtg—
Annual Report Received
12:00PM Refreshments, Sanctuary

Tuesday, January 6

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

Thursday, January 8

5:00PM Finance Team Mtg, Zoom
7:30PM Property Team Mtg, Zoom

Friday, January 9

11:00AM Worship Team Mtg, Zoom

Sunday, January 11

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

Happy

2026

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
Jason Cloen, Associate Musician
Eileen Dietsch, Director of Operations
Alan Jones, Associate Musician
David Mear, Business Manager
Baker Mohammed, Bookkeeper
Moses Nhial, Maintenance
Penelope Paredes,
Nursery Coordinator

Robin Sheikh, Office Administrator &
Sunday School Teacher
Ebony Smalls, Evening Receptionist
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
Jacque Hancock and Carol Samuel - co-Moderators of Deacons

Session

The Rev. Val Fowler,
Moderator
Nancy Brown

Jason Cloen
John DeHority
Sally Allison

Jim Vesper
Pat Tweet
Mary Rees

Deacons

Andrea Folan
Helen Ganotis
Jacque Hancock
Elizabeth Katz

Stephen Lloyd
Grania Marcus
Sandy Morales
Gie Oey

Becky Parks
Carol Samuel
Kelley Sheils
Marilyn Terpening

121 N. Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, NY 14614

Telephone: (585) 325-4000

email: office@DowntownPresbyterian.org

www.DowntownPresbyterian.org



Service of Ordination and Installation of Officers

Clerk: I invite the people that have been elected to serve as Elders and Deacons to come forward as your names are read. Elected to serve as deacon: Jacque Hancock.

Moderator:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 Cor. 13:13

the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit

be with you all. And also with you.

As many of you as were baptized into Christ Gal, 3:27;

have clothed yourselves with Christ. Eph. 4:4

There is one body and one Spirit,

just as we were called to the one hope of our calling.

Please answer these constitutional questions from the PC(USA):

a. Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit? **I do.**

b. Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you? **I do.**

c. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God? **I do, and I will.**

Questions continued on back 

d. Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? **I will.**

e. Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit? **I will.**

f. Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world? **I will.**

g. Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church? **I do.**

h. Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? **I will.**

(For ruling elder) Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

(For deacon) Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

Clerk:

Questions for the congregation:

a. Do we, the members of the church, accept Jason, Carol and Gie, as ruling elders and deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

b. Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

Service of Ordination and Installation of Officers

Clerk: I invite the people that have been elected to serve as Elders and Deacons to come forward as your names are read. Elected to serve as deacon: Jacque Hancock.

Moderator:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 Cor. 13:13

the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit

be with you all. And also with you.

As many of you as were baptized into Christ Gal, 3:27;

have clothed yourselves with Christ. Eph. 4:4

There is one body and one Spirit,

just as we were called to the one hope of our calling.

Please answer these constitutional questions from the PC(USA):

a. Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit? **I do.**

b. Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you? **I do.**

c. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God? **I do, and I will.**

Questions continued on back 

d. Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? **I will.**

e. Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit? **I will.**

f. Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world? **I will.**

g. Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church? **I do.**

h. Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? **I will.**

(For ruling elder) Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

(For deacon) Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

Clerk:

Questions for the congregation:

a. Do we, the members of the church, accept Jason, Carol and Gie, as ruling elders and deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

b. Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

Sunday Forums - December 2025

Caring for Creation

Christmas with Less Consumerism

Dec. 14 “One World Goods: Supporting Artisans from Around the World”



Presenters: Pat Massa and others, One World Goods

When you buy gifts for your loved ones this year, shop at One World Goods rather than shopping online. Save the planet from packaging waste and energy consumption by taking a short trip to Pittsford Plaza, and purchasing hand-crafted items made by artisans who use natural and repurposed materials to support their families and communities. If possible you can then hand-deliver them. Our presenter will bring many beautiful items and tell us how they were made, and how their sale benefits the creators and their communities.

Dec. 21 “Five Years of Advent Celebration on Zoom: DUPC's Psalms+ Study Group”

Presenters: Panel of Group Members, In Person & Online

The Psalms+ Study Group, sometimes affectionately referred to as “Psalm Psisters+,” is a weekly Zoom meeting that was born during the Pandemic. Five years later the group is closing in on Psalm 150, having taken time out during Lent and Advent each year to explore the art, music, poetry, and scripture for those seasons. The group will present a PowerPoint describing the themes chosen for each year's Advent, and favorite images and music pieces shared by members. Panelists will reflect on how this unique companionship anchored them through the COVID years as well as holiday drama.

Sundays, 9:45 AM ~ The Shaw Room



**DOWNTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Arts Link

at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

Coming in 2026!

All Community Choir Sunday

January 18, 11AM

Music-led worship with community choir and congregational participation.



First Inversion

First Inversion Concert

"Holding on Through Song VII"

Friday, January 23, 7:30PM
& Sunday, January 25, 4:00PM

Exploring the American Negro Spiritual



Celebration of Adolphus Hailstork Concert

Saturday, February 7, 3:30PM

With college, community,
and high school choruses

