



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 11th, 2026 11:00 AM
First Sunday after the Epiphany

[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 "Christ, Be Our Light"

You may wish to reference the opening hymn while you listen,
it is new for this congregation.

Words of Welcome

Rev. Katie Jo Suddaby

Announcements

Gail Mott

Chime

Introit

Only When It's Dark

Jake Alexander

"I know, somehow, that only when it's dark enough can you see the stars."

An excerpt from The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s final speech, "I've been to the mountaintop."

*Call to Worship

Leader: Come, all who wait and long for renewal.

**People: We come to the God of hope, who meets us
where we are. (Romans 15:13)**

Leader: When our strength is weary and our hearts are worn,

People: We lift our eyes to the Lord, who renews our strength. (Isaiah 40:31)

Leader: When the future feels uncertain and the path unclear,

**People: We place our trust in the One who has plans for our
good. (Jeremiah 29:11)**

Leader: When sorrow lingers and night feels long,

People: We remember that joy comes in the morning. (Psalm 30:5)

Leader: When fear whispers that hope is lost,

People: We cling to the hope that does not disappoint. (*Romans 5:5*)

Leader: Come, people of God, and worship the One who is faithful.

People: With hope in our hearts and praise on our lips, we worship the Lord. Amen.

*Hymn Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT
(*Verses 1, 2, 4 and 5—Music may be found on page X.*)

Time with Young Disciples

Robin Sheikh

Prayer for Transformation (*Unison*)

God of hope and promise,

We come before You trusting in Your unfailing love. In a world that often feels uncertain and heavy, You are our refuge and our future.

Gather us now in Your presence. Quiet our anxious thoughts, steady our restless hearts, and open us to the work of Your Spirit among us.

Where there is weariness, breathe renewal; where there is fear, speak peace; where there is doubt, kindle hope. Remind us that You are faithful to Your promises, that Your mercy is new every morning, and that nothing can separate us from Your love. Root us in the hope we have in Christ - a hope that sustains us, shapes us, and sends us forth. Receive our worship today, O Lord. May our prayers, our songs, and our listening be an offering that honors You. We place our hope in You alone, now and always. Amen.

First Reading

Romans 8:18-25

Music of Reflection

All Things New

Elaine Hagenberg

*"Light after darkness, gain after loss,
Strength after weakness, crown after cross;
Sweet after bitter, hope after fears,
Home after wandering, praise after tears.*

*Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end,
He is making all things new.*

*Springs of living water shall wash away each tear,
He is making all things new.*

*Sight after mystery, sun after rain,
Joy after sorrow, peace after pain;
Near after distant, gleam after gloom,
Love after loneliness, life after tomb."*

Text: Frances Havergal

Second Reading

Isaiah 42:1-4

Sermon

Substantive Hope

*Hymn

Lord of All Hopefulness

COUTNEY

(Verses 1-3, Music may be found on pg 7.)

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for Healing and Justice

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Music

The Storm Is Passing Over

Charles Albert Tindley

Please join in singing the refrains:

"The storm is passing over (3X) Hallelu!"

Final Refrain: **"Hallelu-jah, hal-leh-lu-ia, hal-leh-lu-ia. The storm. . ."**

*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

*Hymn

Live Into Hope

TRURO

(Music may be found on pg 8.)

Benediction

Postlude

In Thee is Gladness

J.S. Bach

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. Katie Jo Suddaby

Liturgist: Gail Mott

Chancel Choir Members

Soprano: Cecelia Allchin, Isa Apodaca, Nicole Knickerbocker,
Lindsey Puc, Joan Sussman

Alto: Alyssa Koh, Leah Rosenman

Tenor: Olivia Anderson, Jason Cloen, 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 give special thanks for the flowers . . .

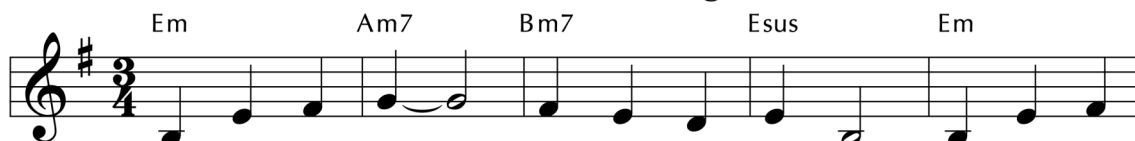
Given by Carol Samuel in memory of her marriage to Gene Samuel.

Carol and Gene were married on January 12, 1974, one
day before the three churches merged and became DUPC.

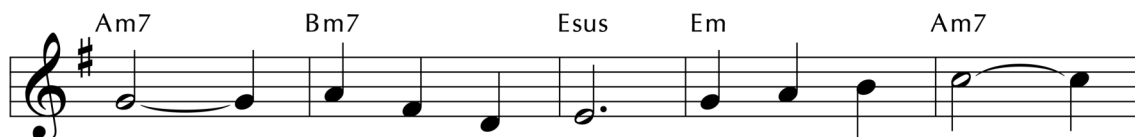


Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness 314

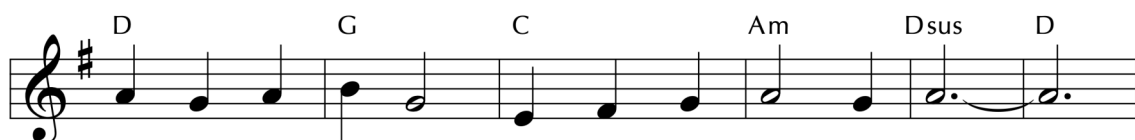
Christ, Be Our Light



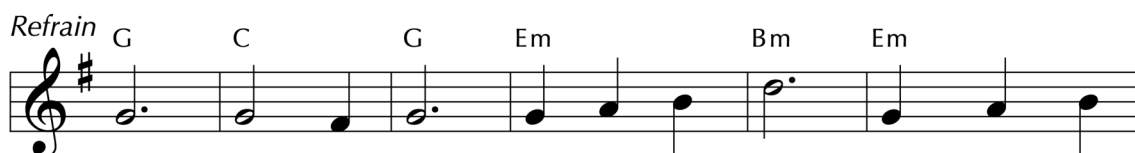
1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



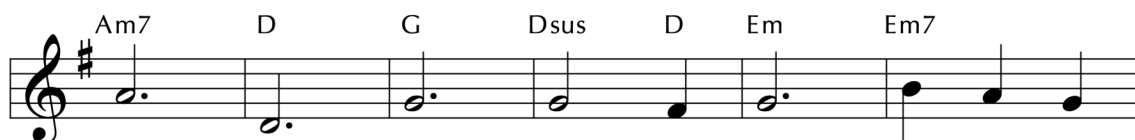
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



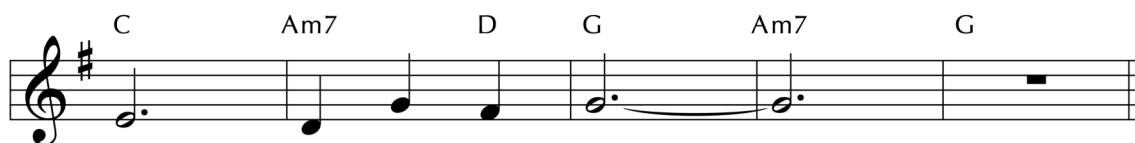
your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

By blending biblical images and current vignettes in the present tense, this hymn connects Christ's promise that he is the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5) and his charge to his followers to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). This is part of the church's servant calling.

683 Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope-ful-ness, Lord of all joy, whose
 2 Lord of all ea-ger-ness, Lord of all faith, whose
 3 Lord of all kind-li-ness, Lord of all grace, your
 4 Lord of all gen-tle-ness, Lord of all calm, whose



trust, ev-er child-like, no cares could de-stroy: be
 strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe: be
 hands swift to wel-come, your arms to em-brace: be
 voice is con-tent-ment, whose pres-ence is balm: be



there at our wak-ing and give us, we pray, your
 there at our la-bors and give us, we pray, your
 there at our hom-ing and give us, we pray, your
 there at our sleep-ing and give us, we pray, your



bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

When first published in 1931, this "All-Day Hymn" (as it was titled) seemed very daring for not using traditional archaic pronouns to address Christ. Current pronouns no longer disturb, but the comforting Jesus portrayed here needs to be balanced by his call to discipleship.

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.

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.

Coming up at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

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

Tuesday, January 13

10:30AM Psalms+ Bible Study
 6:30PM Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, January 14

7:00PM Choir Practice

Thursday, January 15

10:00AM Personnel Mtg, Hybrid

Friday, January 16

12:00PM 3rd Fri. Book Group, Zoom

Sunday, January 18

9:45AM Sunday Forum, Hybrid
 10:00AM Choir Warm-up
 10:45AM Nursery
 11:00AM Worship - Music Sunday
 11:15AM Sunday School
 12:00PM Refreshments, Sanctuary
 7:00PM Sophia Circle, Zoom

Monday, January 19

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Building Closed

Arts Link

at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

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





Sunday Forum ~ January 2026

***Progressive Presbyterians:
Working for God's Justice***

*Sundays,
9:45 AM
Shaw Rm.*

Conveying Progressivism Through Music:

Jan. 11

DUPC's Resonant Ministry

Jan. 11

Presenter: Lee Wright, Director of Music Ministry

Are our values expressed when we change hymns to have inclusive language? Can sacred music be political? Should it be? Resistance to slavery in early America and the liberation theology of Latin American Catholics in the 1960s both expressed their desire for progress in music, and we still sing hymns written by Martin Luther as he worked to transform the church. Lee will share his work to create inspiring and progressive worship experiences.

The Social Gospel and More Light:

Jan. 18

130 Years of Progressivism

Jan. 18

Presenters: Ralph Carter and Ry Foye

Rochester's Third Presbyterian Church was forever changed in the late 1800s by Rev. Paul Moore Strayer, who launched one of the first church social service programs in Western New York. Between 1978 and 2011, as the PC(USA) struggled over ordaining LGBTQ elders and pastors, Third became a More Light church. Our guests, Ralph and Ry, will relate their congregation's journey of discernment across generations and issues.

**From Integrating Water Fountains to Marching on
Washington: One Man's Progressive Spirituality**

Jan. 25

Presenter: Windsor Wade

Jan. 25

In 1952 Windsor's parents, Louis and Katie, fled the Jim Crow South. Ten years later, on a trip South to visit family, Windsor drank from a "Whites Only" fountain. 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 progressive justice, including service with two Rochester organizations, Metro Justice and the Gandhi Institute. He is also a long-time member of Veterans for Peace, and a member of its national board.



Arts Link

at DUPC

Celebration of Adolphus Hailstork Concert

Saturday, February 7, 3:30PM

With college, community,
and high school choruses



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
Baker Mohammed, Bookkeeper	Ed Verna, Maintenance
Moses Nhial, Maintenance	Lee S. Wright, D.M.A., Director of Music Ministry
Penelope Paredes, Nursery Coordinator	

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	Jason Cloen	Jim Vesper
Nancy Brown	John DeHORITY	Pat Tweet
	Sally Allison	Mary Rees

Deacons

Andrea Folan	Stephen Lloyd	Becky Parks
Helen Ganotis	Grania Marcus	Carol Samuel
Jacque Hancock	Sandy Morales	Kelley Sheils
Elizabeth Katz	Gie Oey	Marilyn Terpening

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