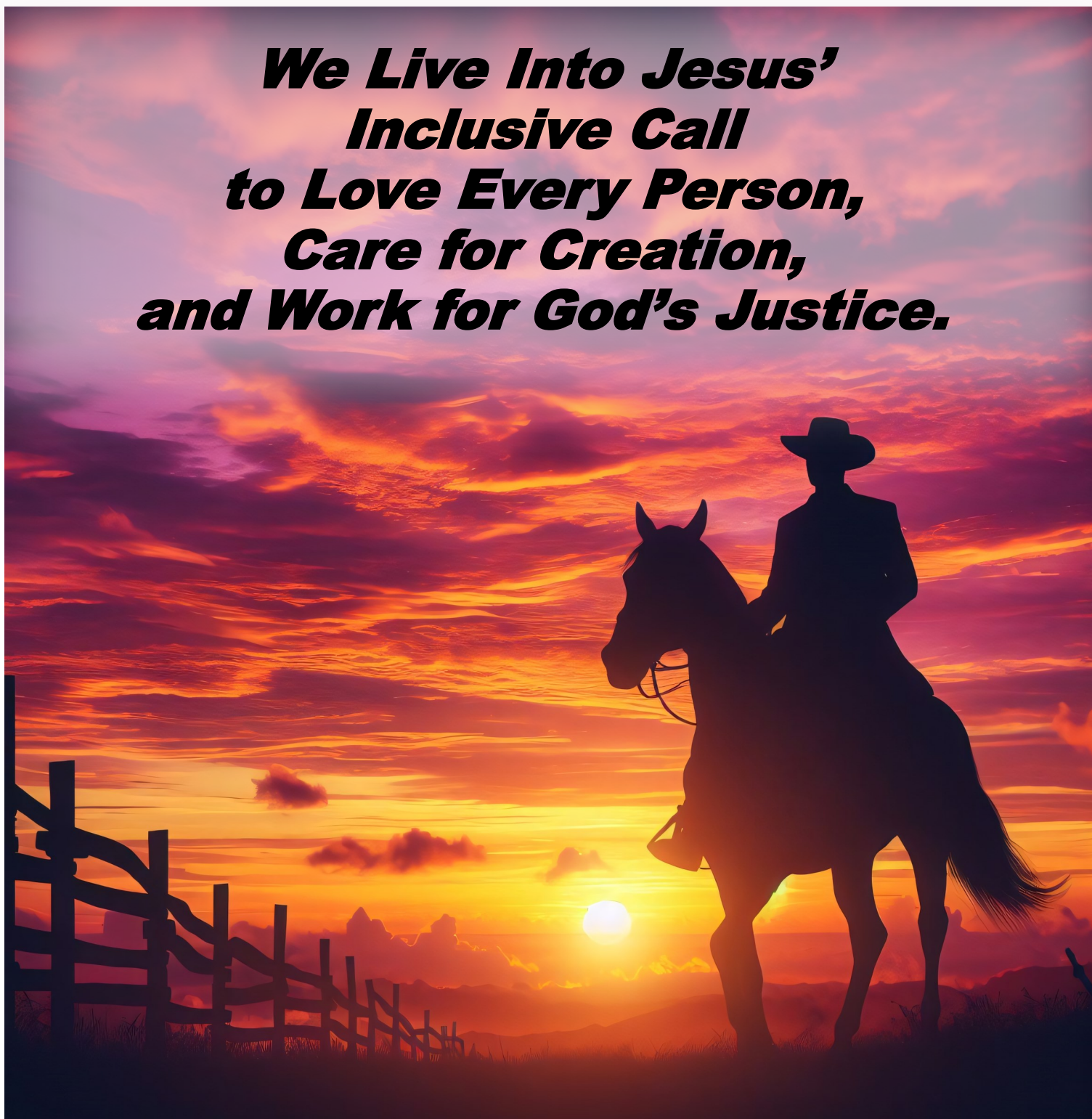




DOWNTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



Celebration of Worship
January 18th, 2026 11:00 AM
Second 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 "MLK"

U2

*"Sleep, sleep tonight
And may your dreams be realized
If the thundercloud passes rain
So let it rain, rain down on him
Mmm. . . So let it be"*

Words of Welcome

John DeHority

Announcements

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 (MinistryMatters.com, mod.)

One: Listen up, everyone! God has given us work to do!

Many: God has called each of us before we were even born.

One: It was God who *named* us.

Many: It is God who *claims* us!

One: The light of God's love shines in us.

Many: Let's shine God's love into all the world!

One: It is in our worship that we express our love for God and hear God speak to us.

Many: Let us worship, love, and listen.

*Hymn

Lift Every Voice and Sing
(Music may be found on page 8.)

LIFT EVERY VOICE

Time with Young Disciples

Robin Sheikh

Prayer for Transformation and New Life *(Unison)*

(Taught by Love, 32, mod.)

God of glory, we confess that our lives have not always glorified you. God of justice, we admit our complicity with systems of injustice. God of light, we are aware of the shadows we create that keep others from seeing you. All-inclusive God, we regret any places our vision is narrow and fails to be fully inclusive. We yield to you anything that keeps us from full commitment to the way of Jesus. With earnest hearts we pray. Amen.

(Please take a moment in silent reflection on where your life needs transformation.)

Words of Assurance

One: God is faithful and ever-present. The God who knew us before our birth loves us unconditionally and strengthens us. Believe the good news of the Gospel: we are forgiven. Grace and mercy abound!

Many: Thanks be to God!

First Reading

Isaiah 49:1-7

(Responsively)

One: Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away!

Many: God called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb
God named me.

One: God made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of God's hand I was hid;

Many: God made me a polished arrow, in God's quiver I was hid away.

One: And God said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;

Many: yet surely my cause is with my Source, and my reward with my God."

Musical Response *(all singing together):*

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;

Place in my hand the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Reading Responsively:

One: And now God says — who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back, and that Israel might be gathered in,

**Many: For I am honored in the sight of the Holy One, and my God has
become my strength —**

One: God says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise
Up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel;

**Many: I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach
to the end of the earth."**

Musical Response:

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear;
And while the wave-notes fall on my ears, everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Reading Responsively:

One: Thus says God, the Redeemer of Israel and the Holy One, to one deeply
despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up,

Many: Princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,

One: Because of God, who is faithful,

Many: the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Music Response:

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Second Reading

John 1:35-42

Sermon

Saddle Up

Rev. Hansen

*Hymn

Come! Live in the Light!
(Music may be found on pg 10.)

WE ARE CALLED

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

Your Heart Today

Manoling V. Francisco, SJ

"Where there is fear I can allay, where there is pain I can heal, Arr. Palan Reyes

Where there are wounds I can bind and hunger I can fill,

Ref: Lord grant me courage; Lord grant me strength; grant me compassion

That I may be Your heart today.

Where there is hate I can confront, where there are yokes I can release,

Where there are captives I can free and anger I can appease, (Ref.)

When comes the day I dread to see our broken world,

Compel me from my cell grown cold that our people I may behold.

And when I've done all that I could yet there are hearts I cannot move,

Lord give me hope that I may be Your heart today."

*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

We Walk in Love

Deanna Witkowski

(Music may be found on pg 11.)

Benediction

Postlude

I'll Trust in the Lord and Do the Best I Can Adolphus Hailstork

"When my heart is feelin' heavy, and I'm almost gittin' lonesome,

I trust in the Lord and do the best I can.

When my mind's in doubt, and my courage falters,

I trust in the Lord and do the best I can.

*Take heart, have hope, and be of good cheer.
Stand up, sing out, for the vict'ry is near.
I'm gonna march out, gonna lift my voice and sing!
Hallelu! Hallelujah!*

Text: Joseph Fletcher Jordan, from Willard C. Frank, Jr., *My People—Our Church:
The Jordan Missions and Schools, Norfolk and Suffolk, Virginia, 1886-1986*

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. Kristina Hansen

(See page 15 for Rev. Hansen's biography.)

Liturgist: John DeHority

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*

*on temporary leave

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 Snook with hope for our "small" church at the
beginning of the year!



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."

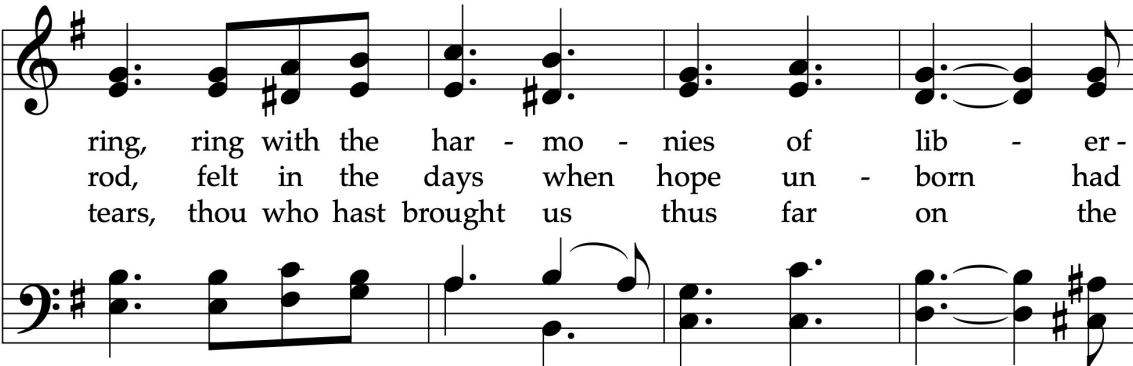
We hope you will join us after worship for conversations and refreshments! Cookies and drinks are available in the front of the sanctuary.

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.

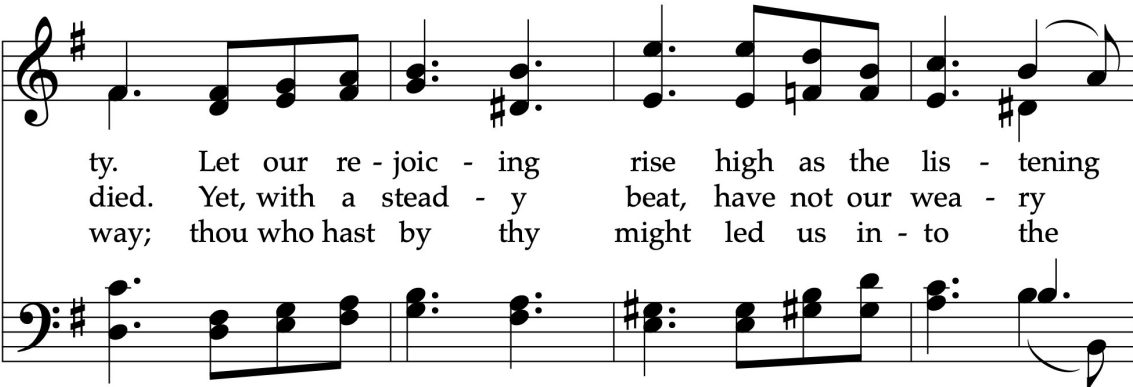
339 Lift Every Voice and Sing



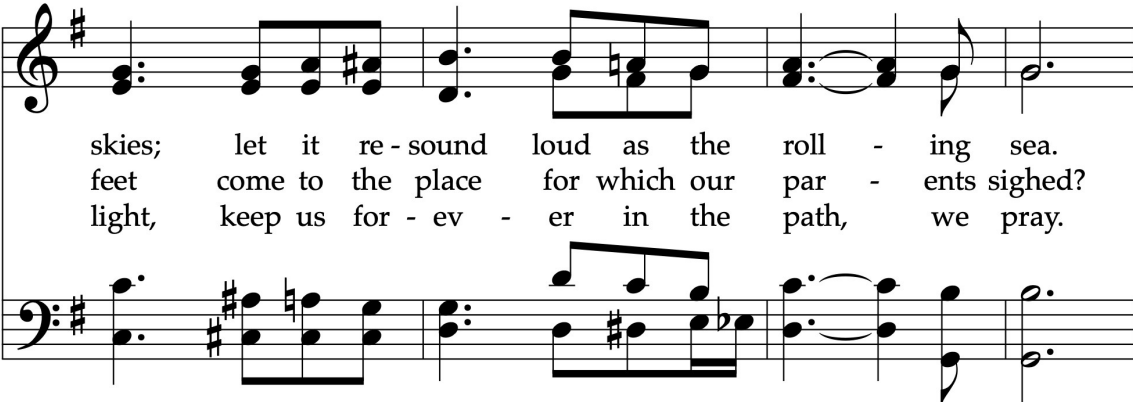
1 Lift ev - ery voice and sing till earth and heav - en
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent



ring, ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
 rod, felt in the days when hope un - born had
 tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the



ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening
 died. Yet, with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry
 way; thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the



skies; let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 feet come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 light, keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Initially a poem for a school assembly at which Booker T. Washington spoke on Lincoln's birthday in 1900, this text and tune have gained national recognition and devotion, not only within the African American community, but also among all who seek liberation from oppression.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh -
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get

us. Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -
 tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at
 thee; shad - owed be - neath thy hand may we for - ev - er

gun, let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.
 last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Come! Live in the Light!

We Are Called

1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that

joy and the love of the Lord! We are called
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called
 great day when all will be one! God will reign,

to be light for the king - dom, to live in the
 to be hope for the hope - less so ha - tred and
 and we'll walk with each oth - er as chil - dren of

free - dom of the cit - y of God.
 vio - lence will be no more.
 God u - nit - ed in love.

Refrain

We are called to act with jus - tice; we are called to
 love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -
 oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

The thematic and musical center of this hymn on the vocation of all believers is found in the refrain, which is based on the well-known challenge of Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

38. We Walk in Love

Words by Deanna Witkowski and Lemuel Colon

Music by Deanna Witkowski

New York, NY | 2017

Gospel 3 feel (♩ = 104)

C7sus F Gm/F F Gm7

1. We walk in love u - nit - ed in pur - pose. We
2. We cry for peace and rights for all peo - ple. We
3. We dream a world of jus - tice and kind - ness. We

A7 Dm7 G7sus G7 C7sus

join our hands and lift up one voice. We
wel - come friends from far - and near. We
build a bridge cre - at - ing new paths. We

Bm7(b5) Bbm6 F/C F

speak the truth with strength and com - pas - sion re -
fight for those whose voic - es are si - lenced, re -
march with joy as all walk to - geth - er. Em -

Gm F/A Gm/Bb F/C C7sus C7 F

sound - ing with hope, with cour - age and joy.
sist - ing in faith, un - til all are free.
brac - ing each one, we bold - ly stand.

Performance Suggestion:

- Step on beat 1, Clap beats 2 & 3.

Deanna writes: "After writing the tune, I looked at 'Lift Every Voice and Sing' as a starting point in creating a list of positive key words to include in the lyrics."

Editor's note: Optional piano part available at deannawitkowski.com.

Always include songwriter's name when posting recordings. Link to PDF: <https://songs.justicechoir.org/WeWalk>

creative commons



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JUSTICE CHOIR.ORG



Sunday Forum ~ January 2026

Progressive Presbyterians: Working for God's Justice

*Sundays,
9:45 AM
Shaw Rm.*

A Strong Progressive Theology: Seeking a Pastor

Jan. 4

**Presenters: Nancy Brown, John DeHority,
Cori Wolfgang Rainbeaux, & Mary Rees**

Jan. 4

Five years ago DUPC's Transition Team surveyed the congregation, and discovered many fascinating and a few seemingly contradictory convictions. Now we are again in a search for our next pastor. Prominent in the current job description is the phrase, "the pastor is expected to have a strong progressive theological background." This need was and is core to who we are. Come take part in an interactive conversation as we seek unity & a pastor.

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 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



First Inversion

Presents

2025-2026 Season

We Are...

Connecting Community with Creativity and Care

HOLDING ON THROUGH SONG VII: THE LIVING LEGACY AND INSPIRATION OF THE AMERICAN NEGRO SPIRITUAL

Featuring special guest artist, **Jorell Williams**, baritone, pianist, composer
with the choir of First Inversion, Lee Wright, conductor

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 7:30PM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 4:00PM

Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, 14614

The appearance of Mr. Williams is funded by a grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Arts and Cultural Initiative through Rochester Area Community Foundation.

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 or call 585.520.2003, \$25/adult, \$5/student suggested admission, cash/check/credit accepted at the door

First Inversion

Presents:

A MASTERCLASS WITH JORELL WILLIAMS, BARITONE



SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 1-3 P.M.

Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, 14614

Join us for this free class to learn about performance practice with an
acclaimed opera singer, pianist and composer.

- ➡ High School, Collegiate and Adult singers of all levels may apply to perform in the class.
- ➡ A collaborative pianist will be available free of charge.
- ➡ Scan QR to complete a quick online application.



Coming up at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, January 18

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

Monday, January 19

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Building Closed

Tuesday, January 20

10:30AM Psalms+ Bible Study

Wednesday, January 21

4:30PM Sunday Forum Mtg, Zoom
7:00PM Choir Practice

Sunday, January 25

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

The Rev. Kristina Hansen is a second career pastor, who left a successful corporate career to heed a call to ministry in 2000. Her Masters of Divinity, is from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. She served United Methodist Churches from 2003-2023 in New York City, the Catskills, Long Island and Connecticut. Most recently, Rev. Hansen served in the role of interim minister for Covington United Presbyterian Church which concluded at the end of 2025.

After two decades in ministry, Rev. Hansen is still passionate about faith formation and mentoring people on their spiritual journey. Rev. Hansen grew up in a large adoptive, racially diverse family and is one of 11 siblings. She and her wife, Leslie, married in 2016. In 2023, they returned to the Rochester area to be close to family. They are ardent environmentalists, avid long distance hikers and love a good adventure.

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

121 N. Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, NY 14614

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