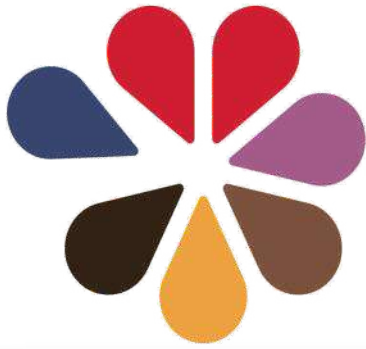
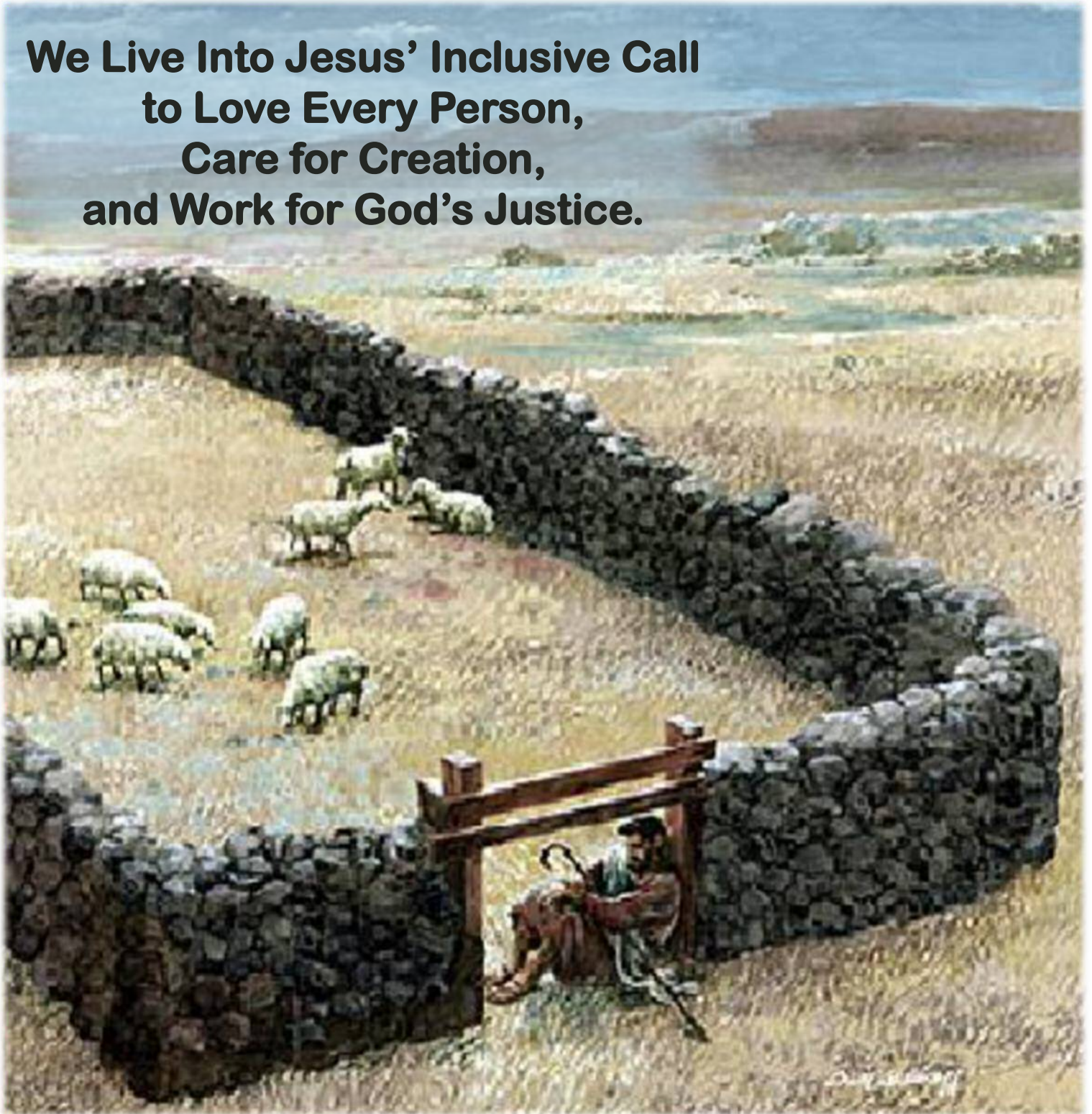




DOWNTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



Celebration of Worship
April 26th, 2026 11:00 AM
Fourth Sunday of Easter & Earth Day

[Click Here to Worship Online](#)

*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 "Listen for God" Jo Beesley

Words of Welcome Rev. Kristina Hansen

Announcements Pat Tweet

Chime

Introit Stand in that River Moira Smiley

"I went to my river but my river was dry. The dust rose up to a darkened sky.

Tell me, where is hope? Where do the waters run clear?

I do not know my way from here.

Ref.: Come and stand in that river, current gentle and slow!

Send your troubles down water, down on that water flow.

When you stand in that river, angels sing in your head.

Secrets beyond every worry, dreams beyond every dread!

Tell me sister, brother, where does that river flow?

It flows down to the great water, where soon my people will go. Ref."

*Call to Worship (Prayers to Share 100 & VW110, mod.)

One: God brings us together as a shepherd gathers the flock.

Many: God's care for us is wholehearted.

One: As a shepherd seeks a lost sheep...

Many:...so God seeks and saves those who are lost.

One: Therefore, let us praise God in thanksgiving that we are received!

Many: We receive, welcome, and rejoice over one another in the name of Jesus the Christ! To God be the glory! Alleluia!

Prayer of Invocation (KDH)

Gracious and Loving Shepherd,

You gather us out of the tumult of our lives to rest in you.

You gather us out of the inertia of our lives to serve as Christ served.

You shepherd us to ebb and flow.

Help us this day to know your will for us at this time, on this day,
in this week, in this season.

Let us hear your voice that we might walk in your ways of love, rest in your love,
and share your love through acts of compassion and justice in your name.

Hear our earnest prayer as we pray the prayer Jesus' taught us to pray together...

† Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo
through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples
of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom, sustain our hope and come
on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we
absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, Now and forever. Amen.

*Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

(Verses 1-4, Music may be found on page 8.)

Time with Young Disciples

Robin Sheik

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org>, mod.)

Loving Shepherd, you know our names; you care for us.

When we face darkness and death, journey beside us.

When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence.

When we are fearful, feed us at your table.

When stray from your grace or from your presence call us back to you
that we might dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days of
our lives.

(A moment of silence is observed for listening and personal prayer.)

One: God calls each of us by name, bidding us to stay in God's presence.
Many: **We are covered by God's grace and mercy!**
We are loved unconditionally! Alleluia! Amen.

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

Music for Reflection

Earth Song

Frank Ticheli

*"Sing, be, live, see
This dark stormy hour The wind, it stirs
The scorched Earth cries out in vain
Oh war and power, you blind and blur
The torn heart cries out in pain
But music and singing have been my refuge
And music and singing shall be my light
A light of song, shining strong
Hallelujah, hallelujah
Through darkness and pain and strife
I'll sing, I'll be, live, see. . .
Peace."*

Gospel Lesson

John 10:1-10

Sermon

In Search of Abundant Life

Rev. Hansen

*Hymn

Listen for God
(Music may be found on page 9.)

Andrew Brown
and Jo Beesley

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for Healing and Justice

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Music

The Bluebird

Charles Villers Stanford

*"The lake lay blue below the hill,
O'er it, as I looked, there flew
Across the waters, cold and still,
A bird whose wings were palest blue.*

*The sky above was blue at last,
The sky beneath me blue in blue,
A moment, ere the bird had passed,
It caught his image as he flew."*

Text: Mary E. Coleridge

Isa 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 (Rev. Karen Eiler)

**O God, we recognize that everything we have, and everything we are,
all comes from you. Bless the gifts we return to you. Use them, and use us,
to build and establish your reign on earth until Christ comes in glory. Amen.**

***Hymn**

Sing Praise to God, You Heavens!
(Music may be found on page 10.)

WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

Benediction

Postlude

Easy on the Earth

Luke Wallace

Please join in singing the refrain.

Arr. Shawn Kirchner

**"Ref. Easy on the earth, lightly on the water,
remember this place is for all children onward.**

**Easy on the earth, lightly on the water,
remember who this place is for.**

*Yeah, get your kids to a garden, with the garden they'll grow
and they'll learn to go easy, They'll learn to live slow.*

*Get your kids to a river, with the river they'll flow
it'll teach 'em how to paddle, it'll teach 'em how to row,
it'll take them where they need to go.*

*Let them see their reflection wherever they go,
in the rainwater, floodwater, sleet, hail, snow."*

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...

Rev. Kristina Hansen

Liturgist: Pat Tweet

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 Robin Sheikh in grateful appreciation for DUPC and three years of serving as Sunday School teacher. She steps away with a full and thankful heart for this chapter.



Coming up at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, April 26

9:45AM Sunday Forum, Hybrid
10:00AM Choir Warm-up
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM Worship
11:15AM Sunday School
12:00PM Refreshments, Sanctuary
4:00PM *Arts Link:*
Eastman Organ Concert

Tuesday, April 28

10:30AM Psalms+ Bible Study

Wednesday, April 29

7:00PM Choir Practice

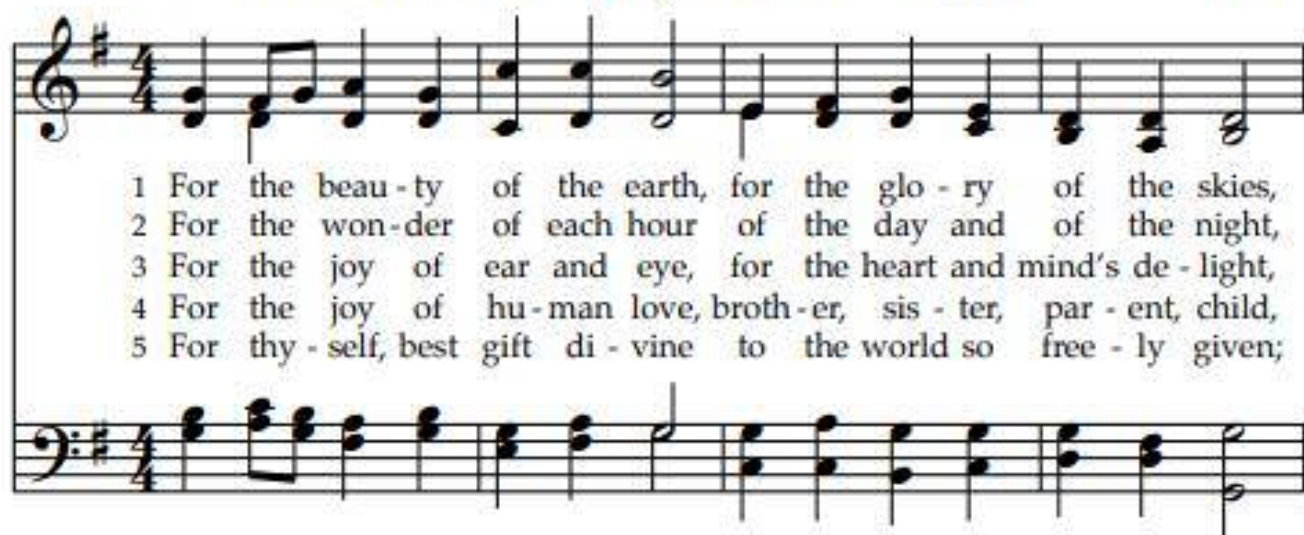
Thursday, April 30

7:00PM Session Mtg, Hybrid

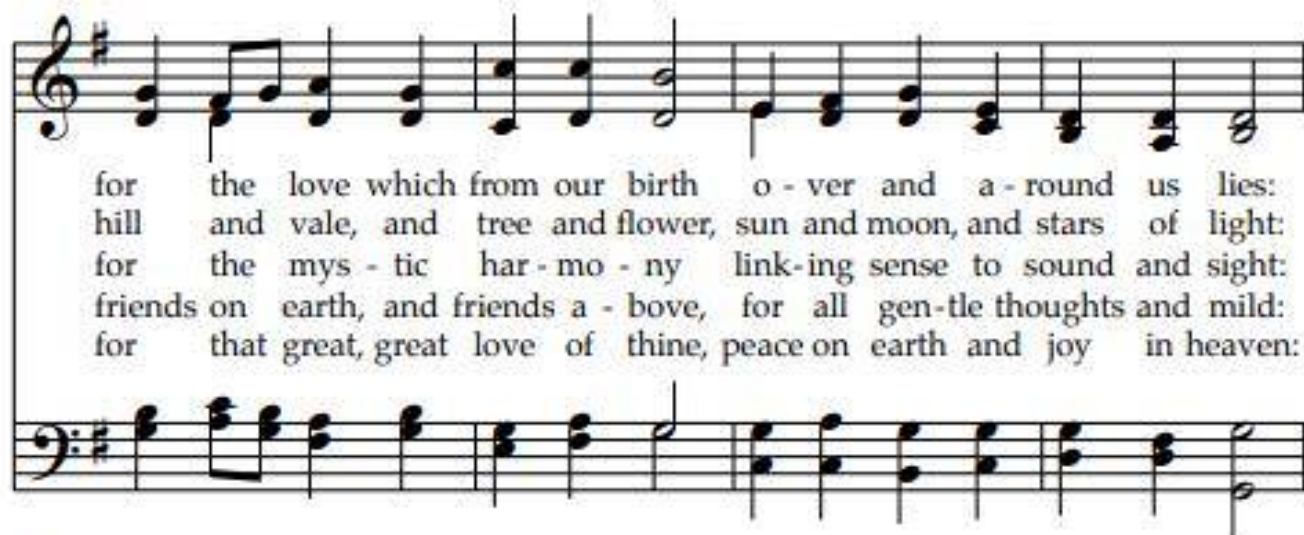
Sunday, May 3

9:45AM Sunday Forum, Hybrid
10:00AM Choir Warm-up
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM Worship — Choir
Appreciation
11:15AM Sunday School
12:00PM Refreshments, Sanctuary
4:00PM *Arts Link:* John Williams
Piano Concert

For the Beauty of the Earth 14

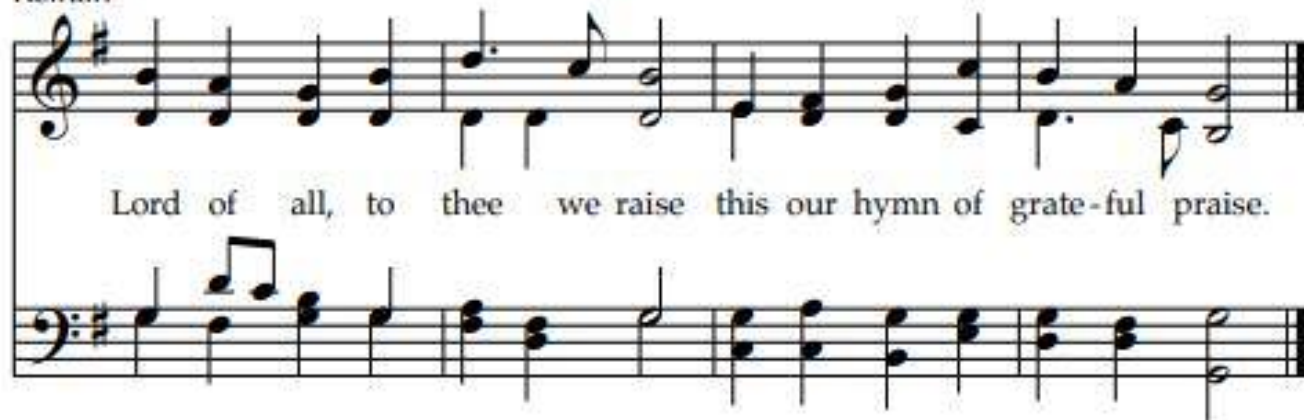


1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

Listen For God

Andrew Brown

Jo Beesley

$\text{♩} = 110$

1. List - en for God, who speaks with - in our hearts,
 2. God, in - ha - bit - ing the edge;
 3. God, in ho - ly scrip - tures' voice;
 4. God, for oth - er voi - ces call,
 5. God, so all may ful - ly live;

5

in — wild - est thoughts, when we are least a - ware,
 heard — through the lost, un - want - ed, dis - poss - essed,
 learn - ing from all who wrote how lives were stirred,
 en - cou - ra - ging our self - ish, care - less ways;
 for — we must hear the truth and change our ways

9

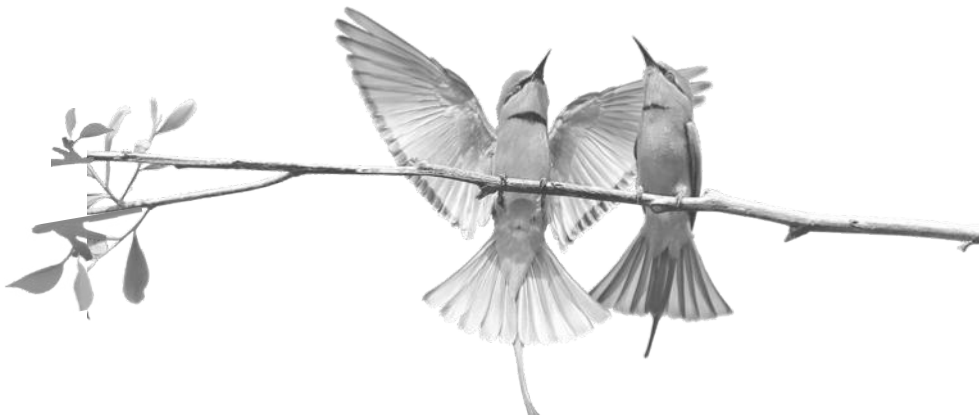
and in the si - lence at the heart of prayer.
 those at the mar - gins, ea - si - ly op - pressed.
 trans - formed, re - born by the great liv - ing Word.
 ig - nor - ing oth - ers, all the costs they pay.
 to shape a new world, one of love and praise.

13

1. $\text{♩} = 110$ 3. List - en for

2.

repeat for verses 1-4



Sing Praise to God, You Heavens! 17

(Psalm 148)

1 Sing praise to God, you heav-ens! Sing praise, each shin-ing light!
 2 Sing praise, O earth, sing prais-es! Sing prais-es, hill and plain,
 3 Sing prais-es, all you crea-tures in whom God takes de-light:
 4 Sing prais-es now, God's peo-ple; your gift of speech em-ploy

Sing, plan-ets in your or-bits; sing, stars all burn-ing bright!
 you moun-tains thrust-ing sky-ward, you val-leys ripe with grain!
 you whales that roam the o-ceans, you ea-gles in your flight!
 to praise the Lord, your Mak-er, with thank-ful-ness and joy!

Sing praise, you winds and tem-pests, you driv-ing rain and snow!
 Sing praise, each fra-grant flow-er; your fair-est hues dis-play.
 Sing praise, you sheep on hill-sides, you cat-tle in the stall!
 Sing with the whole cre-a-tion; a cos-mic cho-rus raise:

Sing, clouds that race and bil-low and shad-ow earth be-low!
 Sing praise, you trees of au-tumn in glow-ing, glad ar-ray!
 Though word-less, sing your prais-es to God who made you all!
 "To God a-lone be glo-ry and ev-er-last-ing praise!"

This paraphrase of Psalm 148 reflects the spirit of praise linking Psalms 146–150. Of the two great themes found in these final five psalms—creation and deliverance—this psalm focuses on the former. The opening praise “from the heavens” is matched by praise “from the earth.”

Welcome Visitors!

**We live into Jesus' inclusive call to love all people,
care for creation, and work for God's Justice.**

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 children 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.



This is a Hearing Loop equipped sanctuary – please switch your hearing aid to the "T" (telephone) position.

† **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.

* **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.

If you would like to honor someone or a special event with flowers you can purchase a bouquet (\$35) for a future worship service by contacting Deacon Helen Ganotis at <helenganotis@gmail.com>.

The Downtown Church Staff

Cheryl Bittle, Weekend Receptionist
Jason Cloen, Associate Musician
Eileen Dietsch, Director of Operations
Rev. Kristina Hansen, Senior Pastor
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. Kristina
Hansen, 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

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www.DowntownPresbyterian.org





Sunday Forums—April 2026

Caring for Creation: From the Grassroots

**From Last Resort Supplier to Providing a Foothold
April 12 on Fairness: Foodlink Challenges Inequity**
Presenter: Brandy Madera, Foodlink



Once distributors of surpluses, food banks across the U.S. have become community "first responders." When individuals and families lack consistent access to nutritious food, the effects extend far beyond hunger, influencing educational outcomes, work-force participation, and overall community well-being. This presentation will explore how food insecurity is intertwined with other disparities because food is foundational to building communities that are healthier, stronger, and more resilient.

**Community-Based Gardens and Farms:
April 19 Creating Local Capacity**
Presenter: Erin Turpin, RIT Program Specialist



From building community gardens at St. John's and St. Mark's Episcopal Church to introducing RIT students to Foodlink's Community Farm, Program Specialist Erin Turpin has been putting into practice her major in Sustainability and Sociology. Erin believes in nature-based learning and helping organizations understand and advance environmental justice and will share her knowledge with us.

**Repurposing Payphones for Community Benefit:
April 26 Updating Local Resources**
Presenter: Eric Kunsman, RIT Professor



Come learn about The Good Phone Project, and meet its founder, RIT Professor Eric Kunsman. What started as his photography series depicting old payphones, has evolved into a meaningful public-service effort to repurpose old payphones into free phones accessible for all. For communities in need, the Good Phones are intended to serve as a lifeline for individuals, and to ensure that all individuals have the opportunity to connect with one another and social services.

Sundays, 9:45AM—The Shaw Room

A piano concert by John Williams

"Songs of Faith and Inspiration"

Sunday, May 3, 4PM



**The Downtown United
Presbyterian Church**

121 North Fitzhugh Street
Rochester, NY 14614

** Free parking*

** Reception following concert*



**Suggested Donation:
\$25/adults, \$10/students,
Choose your own price**

**Proceeds to support
programming for
Arts Link at DUPC**