



*Everyone is welcome here*  
**UNITED PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON**  
DO JUSTICE • LOVE KINDNESS • WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD



**Sunday, November 24, 2024 • 10:00am**  
**Reign of Christ Sunday**

📺 Our worship service is livestreaming on our YouTube Channel: [upcbgm.org/youtube](https://upcbgm.org/youtube)

Join via phone call on Zoom: (+1) 646-558-8656, Meeting ID 865 274 8433

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# ***Welcome to the Celebration!***

## **November 24, 2024 • 10:00am**

*As we come to the end of the Christian year, we remember both how far we have to go in our work of building community and mending the world, and the love and grace of God that makes this work possible. We know our limits and our frailties, our hopes and our dreams of a world made new, and we follow a savior who came and lived among us and taught us to love. In the tension between the already and the not-yet in Christian life, we have the assurance that when we live in God's love and offer it to others, we will never be separated from the One we call Lord. We rejoice that through him, new vision and new life are possible, and we look forward to the coming of the new year and the new possibilities that come with Advent.*

### ***We Gather as a Community of Faith***

**OPENING BELL** *The bell tolls to center our hearts and minds for worship.*

**GATHERING MUSIC** "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

UPC Choir

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore!

By his Word was all created; he commanded; it was done:  
heaven and earth and depths of ocean, universe of three in one,  
all that sees the moon's soft shining, all that breathes beneath the sun,  
evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be.  
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore! Amen.

Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 5th c.; trans. John Mason Neale, alt., and Henry Williams Blake, alt.  
Music: DIVINIUM MYSTERIUM, Plainsong, Mode V, 13th c. Public Domain.

### **WORDS OF WELCOME**

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\* = *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

**HEARING ASSISTANCE** *devices are available; please inquire with one of our technicians at the back of the sanctuary.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*responsive*)

One: The Spirit is coming to bless us all with a new song:

**All: Let our joy be complete!**

One: Gifts for the good of all, poured out on all to teach us a new song:

**All: Love one another!**

One: Strangers and neighbors, foreigners and family will join in the new song:

**All: No longer servants but friends!**

One: Come, let our worship make a joyful noise,

**All: rejoicing in the friendship of God.**

**\*SONG OF GATHERING** “Healing River of the Spirit” (see page 4)

**GATHERING PRAYER** (*together*)

God, our Source and place of rest,  
you no longer call us servants but friends.  
There is so much you have entrusted to us,  
even the future of your kingdom of justice and love.  
Give us the grace to work out with you  
the growth of mercy and goodness in this world,  
to be united with all Christians  
and with all who seek your will with a sincere heart  
in bringing reconciliation and joy to everyone.  
Let us go together the way to you,  
our living and loving God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen!

**We Tell and Hear the Word**

**TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART**

**FOCUS LESSON** *John 15:9-17*, CEB

<sup>9</sup>“As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. <sup>12</sup>This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than to give up one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I don’t call you servants any longer, because servants don’t know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because everything I heard from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You didn’t choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you could go and produce fruit and so that your fruit could last. As a result, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. <sup>17</sup>I give you these commandments so that you can love each other.

**REFLECTIONS** “The Reign of Christ: A World of Forgiveness”

Rev. Kimberly P Chastain

# 642 Healing River of the Spirit

JOEL 8.7.8.7 D

Capo 3: (G) (C) (D) (Em) (C) (B) (Em)  
Bb Eb F Gm Eb D Gm

1 Heal-ing riv - er of the Spir - it, bathe the wounds that liv-ing brings.  
2 Well-spring of the heal-ing Spir - it, stream that flows to bring re - lease,  
3 Liv - ing stream that heals the na - tions, make us chan-nels of your pow'r.

(C) (Bm7) (G maj7) (F#m7) (E)  
Eb Dm7 Bbmaj7 Am7 G

Plunge our pain, our sin, our sad-ness deep be-neath your sa-cred springs.  
as we gain our selves, our sens - es, may our lives re-flect your peace.  
All the world is torn by con-flict; wars are rag-ing at this hour.

(C) (Em) (C) (B)  
Eb Gm Eb D

Wea - ry from the rest-less search-ing that has lured us from your side,  
Grate-ful for the flood that heals us, may your church en-act your grace.  
Sav - ing Spir - it, move a - mong us; guide our wind-ing hu - man course,

(Em) (D) (G) (C) (D) (G)  
Gm F Bb Eb F Bb

we dis - cov - er in your pres-ence peace the world can-not pro - vide.  
As we meet both friend and stran-ger, may we see our Sav-ior's face.  
till we find our way to - geth - er, flow-ing home-ward to our Source.

Words: Ruth C. Duck, © 1996 The Pilgrim Press. Music: Sally Ann Morris (JOEL),

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## **We Respond to the Word**

**\*SONG OF RESPONSE** “This Is My Song” (see pages 6–7)

**WE SAY WHAT WE BELIEVE** (*together*) “A New Creed”, *The United Church of Canada*, rev. 1995  
**We are not alone, we live in God’s world.**

**We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God’s presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen!**

### **WE OFFER OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

*You are invited to support the ministry of this congregation through online giving at [upcbgm.org/give](http://upcbgm.org/give), or by sending a check to the church office or putting an offering in the plates by the door.*



### **MUSICAL OFFERING** “Thy Perfect Love”

UPC Choir

*Jesu, my love, my joy, my rest, thy perfect love close in my breast  
that I thee love and never rest; and make me love thee of all things best,  
and wound my heart in thy love free, that I may reign in joy with thee.*

Words: Anonymous, traditional, 15th c. Music: John Rutter, © 1975 Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.  
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### **DEDICATION OF THE WORK OF THE CHURCH**

*Throughout the year, a small group of talented and generous people work to create quilts, hats, mittens, scarves, and other useful items to give to those who are isolated or in need. Today we give thanks for the work of their hands and their generosity of spirit, and we dedicate these gifts to the work of this congregation and the glory of God. May these quilts and other items make warm the bodies and spirits of those who receive them. We also offer back to God today the work of our hands and the mission of our congregation this year, as we partner with people and groups to build Christ’s reign in downtown Binghamton, including the Wednesday Sewing Group, the workers of the Community Meal and the Pantry, those working at the border with refugees, teachers and educators, musicians, VINES, JUST, ACBC, Walk With Me, STIC, A4TD, the Workers Center, the NAACP, Rotary, the Lions Club, the Stakeholders of Broome County, Citizen Action, and so many others.*

# This Is My Song

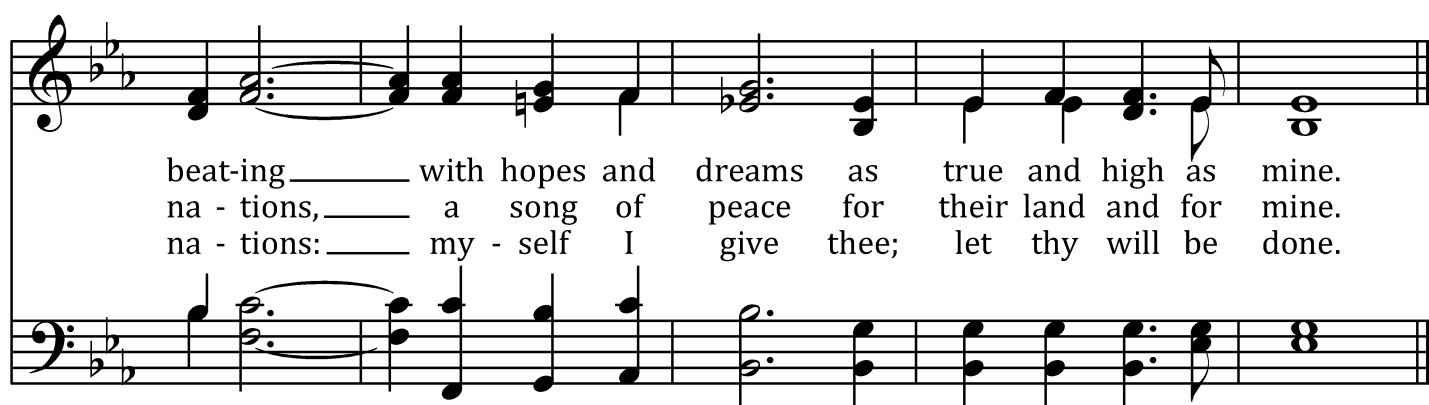
1. This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,  
 2. My coun-try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,  
 3. This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's king-doms:

a song of peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my  
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver-leaf and pine. But oth - er  
 thy king-dom come; on earth thy will be done. Let Christ be

home, the coun-try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my  
 lands have sun-light too, and clo - ver, and skies are ev - ery-  
 lift - ed up till all shall serve him, and hearts u - nit - ed

dreams, my ho - ly shrine; but oth - er hearts in oth-er lands are  
 where as blue as mine. So hear my song, O God of all the  
 learn to live as one. So hear my prayer, O God of all the

Words: St. 1-2, Lloyd Stone, © 1934, ren. 1962 The Lorenz Corp.; st. 3 Georgia Harkness, alt., © 1964 The Lorenz Corp.  
 Music: Jean Sibelius (FINLANDIA); arr. *Hymnal* 1933, alt., © 1933, ren. 1961 Presbyterian Board of Education (admin.  
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### PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(together)*

**We dedicate these gifts, freely given and gratefully received,  
to the work of this congregation:**

**Building honest, caring relationships across all lines of difference;**

**Growing in spirit and searching for meaning, together and apart;**

**Promoting freedom, practicing compassion, and working for justice.**

**May these gifts, and the work of our hands and hearts,  
give power to all we stand for as a community of faith,  
and glory to the One God. Amen!**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS *(responsive)*

*As each petition is concluded, the prayer leader and congregation respond:*

**One:** Lord, in your loving kindness,

**All:** hear our prayer.

#### PASTORAL PRAYER

Let us give thanks for the remarkable gifts  
of God's creating and redeeming love,  
the loving that casts out all fear.

For the love that frees us to ask questions and explore,  
to frame doubts and investigate new possibilities,  
to build theories and then cross-examine them:  
We thank you, God of adventurous love.

For the love that enables us to marvel at our own existence,  
to ponder and remember,  
recognize our own needs  
and affirm our own knowledge and purpose:  
We thank you, God of determined love.

For the love that helps us to communicate with one another,  
to express trust and respect,  
share heartaches and visions,  
to convey love and mercy:  
We thank you, God of reconciling love.

For the love that inspires us to warmly encourage those around us,  
to affirm and build up, comfort and enlighten:  
We thank you, God of nurturing love.

For the love that liberates us to celebrate the world around us  
in poetry and song,  
to delight in shapes and colors, intricacies and patterns,  
awesome forces and deep mysteries:  
We thank you God of visionary love.

For the love that encourages us to express something of our faith;  
for creeds and prayers, hymns and readings,  
discussion groups and sermons:  
We thank you, God of creative love.

Above all else we thank you  
for the love that allows us to admit  
that we have no words in which to adequately describe  
the process of faith in Christ,  
the awesome worship of our God,  
and the holy wonder of the Spirit.  
We thank you for that point where  
our love becomes wordless adoration.  
Through Christ Jesus,  
who is the pure glory of your loving, Amen!

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*together*)


**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom 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 kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen!**

**We Go Forth in Gratitude to Serve**


**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS**

**\*SONG OF SENDING** "For the Healing of the Nations" (see page 9)


# For the Healing of the Nations 621



1 For the heal-ing of the na-tions, Lord, we pray with one ac-cord,  
2 Lead your peo-ple in - to free-dom, from de-spair your world re-lease,  
3 All that kills a - bun-dant liv-ing, let it from the earth be banned:  
4 You, Cre - a - tor - God, have writ-ten your great name on hu-man-kind;



for a just and e - qual shar-ing of the things that earth af-fords.  
that, re-deemed from war and ha-tred, all may come and go in peace.  
pride of sta-tus, race, or school-ing, dog-mas that ob-scure your plan.  
for our grow-ing in your like-ness, bring the life of Christ to mind;



To a life of love in ac-tion help us rise and pledge our word.  
Show us how, through care and good-ness, fear will die and hope in-crease.  
In our com-mon quest for jus-tice may we hal-low life's brief span.  
that by our re-sponse and serv-ice earth its des-ti-ny may find.

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## **WE BLESS EACH OTHER ON THE WAY** (*responsive*)

One: So now we leave this space of worship,  
and while so much of the road ahead is uncertain,  
the path constantly changing,  
we know some things that are as solid and sure  
as the ground beneath our feet,  
and the sky above our heads.

**All: We know God is love.**

**We know Christ's light endures.**

One: We know the Holy Spirit is there,  
found in the space between all things,  
closer to us than our next breath,  
binding us to each other,  
until we meet we again.  
Go in peace.

## **SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE**

One: Peace be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## **SENDING MUSIC** "Thanksgiving Medley"

David Berti and Ken Mebert, *vocals*; Rebecca Mebert, *piano*

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens  
his will to make known; the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.  
Sing praises to his name, he forgets not his own.

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things hath done,  
in whom this world rejoices; who from our mothers' arms hath blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home; all is safely gathered in,  
ere the winter storms begin. God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied;  
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise,  
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days.  
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing with glad adoration, a song let us raise:  
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving, to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

"We Gather Together" — Words: Netherlands folk hymn, attr. Adrianus Valerius; trans. Theodore Baker. Music: KREMSER, *Neder-landsch Gedenck-Clanck*, 1626; harm. Eduard Kremser. "Now Thank We All Our God" — Words: Martin Rinkart; trans. Catherine Winkworth, alt. Music: Johann Crüger (NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT); harm. Felix Mendelssohn. "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" — Words: Henry Alford, alt. Music: George Job Elvey (ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR). "Let All Things Now Living" — Words: Katherine K. Davis, alt., © 1939, 1966 E.C. Schirmer Music Company. Music: ASH GROVE, Welsh folk melody; harm. Gerald H. Knight, © Royal School of Church Music. All rights reserved.  
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*(Please exchange a greeting of peace with those around you as our worship concludes.)*

*After the service, everyone is invited to join us downstairs  
for a time of fellowship and refreshments.*

**Get Involved!** Without any doubt, the ministry of our congregation depends largely on the dedication and selfless contributions of volunteers — the incredible individuals who give generously of their time, energy, and unique talents. Here are some ways you can help us do Christ's work in our community:

**Community Meal & Pantry:** Each Tuesday at 5pm, we offer a sit-down meal that is free for anybody, serving about 100 people a week. Volunteers are needed during the day on Monday and Tuesday to help with food preparation, and on Tuesday evening to serve the meal and clean up afterwards.

On Wednesdays from noon to 5pm, we run a free food pantry that also offers personal care & hygiene items when they're available. Volunteers help staff the pantry, and donations of non-perishable food and personal care items are always welcome.

Contact Kitchen Coordinator Sherry Conklin for more info: [meal@upcbgm.org](mailto:meal@upcbgm.org)

**Worship services:** You may not have noticed how many people are involved in our Sunday morning worship services, but most weeks there are at least a dozen of us, and often there are more than 20: folks who read prayers and scripture, greet visitors, share musical talents, operate technology, set up refreshments, help serve communion, or contribute their ideas and support behind the scenes. If you'd like to take part, contact Worship Team chair Suzie Raboy: [sraboy54@stny.rr.com](mailto:sraboy54@stny.rr.com)

**Music at UPC:** Music is an important part of our coming together at United Presbyterian Church. We are excited to make music with every resource that we have, and to use a variety of styles, not all at once but intermingled. What emerges is a vibrant worship service with music that includes everyone who wishes to participate.

**UPC Choir:** Wednesdays, 6:30–7:30pm in the Music Room (next to the Chapel). The vocal choir provides music for worship most every Sunday. We welcome new members at any time, and we would love to have your participation. It would be good to have you with us!

**United Ringers handbell choir:** Sundays, 11:30am–12:30pm in the Sanctuary. Our handbell choir plays 2–4 octaves of Malmark handbells and handchimes, providing music for worship about once a month. If you're interested in learning how to play handbells, please inquire. New members are always welcome! No previous experience needed. No auditions to start. If you can count to 4, you can learn to play!

We also invite instrumentalists and vocalists who'd like to share their gifts to talk with any of our music leaders about providing special music for worship — you can call the church office, email [music@upcbgm.org](mailto:music@upcbgm.org), or speak with them in person after worship.



**Other ministries:** Our ministry teams are always welcoming new team members. If you'd like to help with or learn more about the workings of the church, talk to one of the pastors or the elders on Session: **Campus Ministry**, Pastor Becky [bkindig@upcbgm.org](mailto:bkindig@upcbgm.org); **Card Committee**, Margaret Davis [mdavis.margaret@gmail.com](mailto:mdavis.margaret@gmail.com); **Community Outreach**, Pastor Kimberly [pastor@upcbgm.org](mailto:pastor@upcbgm.org) or Sherry Conklin [meal@upcbgm.org](mailto:meal@upcbgm.org); **Finance**, Andy Chadwick [cchadwick1@stny.rr.com](mailto:cchadwick1@stny.rr.com); **Hospitality**, Sally Hunt [shunt1@stny.rr.com](mailto:shunt1@stny.rr.com) or Sherry Conklin [meal@upcbgm.org](mailto:meal@upcbgm.org); **Personnel**, Cindy Burger [csburger@frontiernet.net](mailto:csburger@frontiernet.net); **Property**, Pastor Becky [bkindig@upcbgm.org](mailto:bkindig@upcbgm.org); **Sewing Group**, Cindy Burger [csburger@frontiernet.net](mailto:csburger@frontiernet.net).

**Coffee hour:** We have transitioned our coffee hour after worship to the Fellowship Hall downstairs. This offers us all a place to sit at tables and visit, while giving the younger ones a place to relax and play. Games and activities will be provided, and if anybody wants to bring in games they are welcome also.



**Children in Worship:** “Let the little children come to me...” —Matthew 19:14

We are glad that your children are here today, and we hope that you know that they are welcome and encouraged to be in worship with you. We truly believe that a community of faith is made up of people of ALL ages. There is a PrayGround space with coloring sheets and quiet toys in the front of the sanctuary to use there or can be taken to another pew, if that suits your family’s needs. Sunday school materials are mailed to our families once a month to do together at home.



There is also a nursery space at the end of the hall at the front of the sanctuary that is open for use with a parent or guardian. It has a changing table, a rocking chair, and some toys appropriate for age two and under. There is a speaker in the room so you can listen to the service. Please let us know if you have questions.

COVER IMAGE: “An IDEAL World (is always a work in Progress)” by the students of the IDEAL School of Manhattan with Timothy Lamas, 2009. [glocap.org/journals/usa-journal/featured-artwork](http://glocap.org/journals/usa-journal/featured-artwork)

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**Pastors** Rev. Kimberly P Chastain and Rev. Becky Kindig ~ **Reader** Starletta Noll-Long  
**Musicians** Aimée Backus, *Music Coordinator*; Rebecca Mebert, *accompanist*;  
Austin Shadduck, *United Ringers director*; David Berti, Andrea Gilebarto, Robert Manners,  
Ken Mebert, Starletta Noll-Long, and the UPC Choir ~ **Technicians** Chris Burger,  
Andy Chadwick, Matt Johnson, Scott Kindig, Sara Lieberman, Ken Mebert