



Everyone is welcome here

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON

DO JUSTICE • LOVE KINDNESS • WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD



Sunday
January 26
2025
10:00am



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

January 26, 2025 • 10:00am

Today we're going to take a short detour back to the end of chapter two in Luke's gospel, to tell the only story in the canonical gospels about Jesus's life between his naming and his baptism. Young Jesus goes with a large group of friends and relatives on an annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for Passover, and stays behind when the group sets off for home. After searching widely, his parents find him in the courts of the Temple, studying with scholars there. We can make all kinds of guesses and draw all kinds of conclusions about parenting styles in the first century, but for Luke, the point of the story is what Jesus says, "Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house"?

We Gather as a Community of Faith

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

GATHERING MUSIC "How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely" Aimée Backus, *flute*; Rebecca Mebert, *piano*

*How lovely, Lord, how lovely is your abiding place; my soul is longing, fainting, to feast upon your grace.
The sparrow finds a shelter, a place to build her nest; and so your temple calls us within its walls to rest.*

*In your blessed courts to worship, O God, a single day is better than a thousand if I from you should stray.
I'd rather keep the entrance and claim you as my Lord than revel in the riches the ways of sin afford.*

*A sun and shield forever are you, O Lord Most High; you shower us with blessings; no good will you deny.
The saints, your grace receiving, from strength to strength shall go, and from their life shall rivers of blessing overflow.*

Words: Arlo D. Duba (para. Psalm 84), © 1986 Hope Publishing Company. Music: Hal H. Hopson (MERLE'S TUNE), © 1983 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

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WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

based on Psalms 122 & 123

One: I was glad when they said to me "Let us go to the house of the LORD".

All: How good it is to be together in worship, joined in one family by our love of God!

One: For the sake of my relatives and my friends, I will pray for the peace of this house

**All: for here the LORD ordained his blessing,
life forevermore. Amen!**

***SONG OF GATHERING** "I Love Your Kingdom, Lord" (see page 3)

* = *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.

I Love Your Kingdom, Lord 549

$\frac{F}{A}$ F $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{G7}{D}$ C F $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{C7}{G}$ F Gm F C

1 I love your king - dom, Lord, the house of your a - bode,
 2 I love your Church, O God— her walls be - fore you stand,
 3 For her my tears shall fall, for her my prayers as - cend,
 4 Be - yond my high - est joy I prize her heaven - ly ways,
 5 Sure as your truth shall last, to Zi - on shall be given

$\frac{C}{E}$ F $\frac{F}{A}$ C $\frac{C}{E}$ F Dm C $\frac{F}{A}$ Bb $\frac{F}{A}$ Bb $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 F

the Church our blest Re - deem - er saved with his own pre - cious blood.
 dear as the ap - ple of your eye, and grav - en on your hand.
 to her my cares and toils be given till toils and cares shall end.
 her sweet com - mun - ion, sol - emn vows, her hymns of love and praise.
 the bright - est glo - ries earth can yield, and bright - er bliss of heaven.

Words: Timothy Dwight, alt. (para. Psalm 26:8). Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams's *New Universal Psalmodist*, 1770. Public Domain.

GATHERING PRAYER (together)

adapted from a prayer by Joanne Harader

Holy God,
 we gather to learn from your Word about who you are.
 We live within the joy of your love for us.
 Our contentment comes and goes.
 Our happiness ebbs and flows.
 Our feelings depend upon our circumstances,
 our physical health, our brain chemistry.
 But our *joy* is deeply rooted
 in our identity as your beloved children.
 And we give you thanks. Amen!

We Tell and Hear the Word

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

FOCUS LESSON *Luke 2:39–52, CEB*

³⁹When Mary and Joseph had completed everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to their hometown, Nazareth in Galilee. ⁴⁰The child grew up and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God’s favor was on him.

⁴¹Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. ⁴²When he was 12 years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to their custom. ⁴³After the festival was over, they were returning home, but the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn’t know it. ⁴⁴Supposing that he was among their band of travelers, they journeyed on for a full day while looking for him among their family and friends. ⁴⁵When they didn’t find Jesus, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple. He was sitting among the teachers, listening to them and putting questions to them. ⁴⁷Everyone who heard him was amazed by his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him, they were shocked.

His mother said, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Listen! Your father and I have been worried. We’ve been looking for you!”

⁴⁹Jesus replied, “Why were you looking for me? Didn’t you know that it was necessary for me to be in my Father’s house?” ⁵⁰But they didn’t understand what he said to them.

⁵¹Jesus went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. His mother cherished every word in her heart. ⁵²Jesus matured in wisdom and years, and in favor with God and with people.

REFLECTIONS “In the Father’s House”

Rev. Kimberly P Chastain

We Respond to the Word

*SONG OF RESPONSE “See the Children Here Before Us” (see page 5)

WE SAY WHAT WE BELIEVE (*together*) *by Noel Palsma, for the World Communion of Reformed Churches*

**We share one faith,
have one calling,
are of one soul and one mind;
have one God and Father,
are filled with one Spirit,
are baptized with one baptism,
eat of one bread and drink of one cup,
confess one Name,
are obedient to one Lord,
work for one cause,
and share one hope.**

(continued on page 6)

See the Children Here before Us 509

G C D G C D

1 See the chil-dren here be-fore us, fresh ex-pres-sions of God's love,
 2 Price-less gifts be-yond all meas-ure are the chil-dren in our care.
 3 Now the church has come to-geth-er with a prom-ise we must share:

G C D G C D G

each young life a pre-cious prom-ise, sent from heav-en's realm a-bove.
 At this hour of ded-i-ca-tion, God, please hear our hum-ble prayer:
 to be faith-ful to the chil-dren you en-trust-ed to our care.

D7 G Em C D

God, we ask you now to bless them as they learn and grow each day.
 bless these par-ents on their jour-ney through a vast, un-chart-ed land;
 Let us see your love re-flect-ed in each small and pre-cious face;

G C D G C D G

Help us teach en-dur-ing les-sons that will guide them on their way.
 help them fol-low as you lead them with a gen-tle guid-ing hand.
 help us show them all the won-ders of your end-less love and grace.

**Together we come to know
the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ;
are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity;
know and bear one another's burdens,
thereby fulfilling the law of Christ
that we need one another and up build one another,
admonishing and comforting one another;
that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness.
Together we pray; together we serve God in this world.**

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, or by sending a check to the church office or putting an offering in the plates by the door.



MUSICAL OFFERING "I Will Give Thanks unto the Lord"

UPC Choir

I will give thanks unto the Lord, and I will praise the name of the Lord, most high.
I have set the Lord alway before me, for he is on my right hand; therefore I shall not fall.

Words: Psalm 7:19; Psalm 16:9. Music: Thomas Matthews. © 1964 H.T. FitzSimons Co., Inc. All rights reserved.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(together)*

by Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson

**Holy God,
Grant us a heart full of grace,
and a soul generated by love,
that we may serve you and your world.
Thank you for all those who have shown us the way
and all those who are showing us the way. Amen!**

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.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

adapted from a prayer by John Maynard

Eternal God, you have been our resting-place through the ages.
Generations come and pass away, but you abide forever.
We praise you for your presence among us.
You bring us comfort amid our trials,
clarity where confusion persists,
peace in the midst of conflict,
and hope of eternal life.
Hear us now as we pray for your church and the needs of the world,
for you are the God of our lives.

We pray for the Church of Jesus Christ;
that, begun, maintained and promoted by the Holy Spirit,
it may be true, engaging, glad, and active, doing your will.
Let your church be always faithful, O God,
and ready to promote the cause of compassionate love and peace.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world.
We pray that everywhere upon this earth there may be justice and peace.

We pray especially today for the wellbeing of people
in parts of the world affected by fire, drought and famine.
We continue to pray for nations and people torn apart by war, that they may find a way to
peace.

Lord, we pray for all people in their daily life and work —
for our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.
We name before you individuals and families
experiencing personal hardship or facing an uncertain future,
those who are separated from loved ones,
those who grieve this today,
and those who are sick in hospital or ill at home.

Hear us, Lord, as we now lift up those people and those situations
you have placed upon our hearts...

(a time of silent prayer)

Lord in your love, hear all our prayers — both the spoken and unsaid.
May our prayers further your purposes for us all,
and bring us to that place where we may experience the joy
that has been given to your faithful down through the ages —
a joy everlasting.

And now, with the confidence of the children of God,
we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying:

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 “How Firm a Foundation” (see page 9)

BLESSING

adapted from a prayer by Rev. Brian Baker

The world is now too dangerous
and too beautiful for anything but love.
May your eyes be so blessed that you see God in everyone.
Your ears, so you hear the cry of the poor.
May your hands be so blessed
that everything you touch is a sacrament.
Your lips, so that you speak nothing but the truth in love.
May your feet be so blessed that you run
to those who need you.
And may your heart be so opened,
so set on fire, that your love,
your love, changes everything.

SHARING OF CHRIST’S PEACE

One: And may the peace that passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of God’s son, Jesus Christ, and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and abide with you today and always.

Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

SENDING MUSIC (*together*) “Jesus Loves Me” verse 1 (see page 10)

(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.*

How Firm a Foundation

G C $\frac{G}{B}$ G D

1 How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,
 3 "When through the deep waters I call you to go,
 4 "When through fier-y tri-als your path-way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je-sus still leans for re- pose,

G C $\frac{G}{B}$ Em $\frac{G}{D}$ D G

is laid for your faith in his ex-cel-lent Word!
 for I am your God, and will still give you aid;
 the riv-ers of sor-row shall not o-ver-flow;
 my grace, all suf-fi-cient, shall be your sup-ply;
 I will not, I will not de-sert to its foes;

G $\frac{D}{F\#}$ Em C G D

What more can he say than to you he has said,
 I'll strength-en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 for I will be with you in trou-ble to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt you, I on-ly de-sign
 that soul, though all hell should en-deav-or to shake,

G C $\frac{G}{B}$ Em $\frac{G}{D}$ D G

to you who for ref-uge to Je-sus have fled?
 up-held by my right-eous, om-nip-o-tent hand.
 and sanc-ti-fy to you your deep-est dis-tress.
 your dross to con-sume, and your gold to re-fine.
 I'll nev-er, no, nev-er, no, nev-er for-sake!"

Words: Rippon's *Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt. (vv. 2-5 para. Isaiah 43:1-5). Music: FOUNDATION, Funk's *Genuine Church Music*, 1832. Public Domain.

C G C F $\frac{F}{C}$ C

1 Je - sus loves me, this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so!

C G C F C $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{C}{G}$ G7 C

Lit - tle ones to him be - long: they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain
C F C $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{C}{G}$ G

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

C F $\frac{C}{G}$ Am $\frac{C}{G}$ G7 C

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

Words: Anna B. Warner. Music: William B. Bradbury (JESUS LOVES ME). Public Domain.

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 prep, 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

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

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.* 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, 11:35am–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, 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; **Card Committee**, Margaret Davis mdavis.margaret@gmail.com; **Community Outreach**, Pastor Kimberly pastor@upcbgm.org or Sherry Conklin meal@upcbgm.org; **Finance**, Andy Chadwick cchadwick1@stny.rr.com; **Hospitality**, Sally Hunt shunt1@stny.rr.com or Sherry Conklin meal@upcbgm.org; **Personnel**, Cindy Burger csburger@frontiernet.net; **Property**, Pastor Becky bkindig@upcbgm.org; **Sewing Group**, Cindy Burger 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.

PRAYER CREDITS: **Gathering Prayer** adapted from a prayer by Joanne Harader, posted on Spacious Faith spaciousfaith.com.

Prayer of Dedication by Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson, posted on Worship Words worshipwords.co.uk. **We Say What We Believe:** “Affirmation of Unity” by Noel Palsma, from *Prayerful Preparation: Living God, Renew Us* published by the World Communion of Reformed Churches, posted on re:Worship re-worship.blogspot.com. **Prayer of the People** adapted from a prayer by John Maynard on Kir-Shalom rockies.net. **Blessing** adapted from a prayer by Rev. Brian Baker posted on deanbaker.org/2019/11/my-burning-man-blessing.html.

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