



Everyone is welcome here

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON

ACT JUSTLY • PRACTICE KINDNESS • WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD



Sunday
October 19, 2025
10:00am
Nineteenth Sunday
after Pentecost



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

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

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Welcome to the Celebration!

October 19, 2025 • 10:00am

Sometimes we have to work hard to find something positive or uplifting in the stories the Bible tells about the people of God. Just like in our world today, there are times when none of the people act very well. Today's story tells about one of those times. King Ahab apparently has two palaces, one in Samaria and one in Jezreel. He wants to expand his land holdings in Jezreel, and proposes a land swap with Naboth, to turn Naboth's vineyard into a vegetable garden. Naboth refuses, telling Ahab that he has sworn an oath to the One God to preserve his family's ancestral lands. Naboth sulks, and Jezebel finds a solution in turning the oath into an accusation of blasphemy. Naboth is put to death and Ahab takes possession of the vineyard. Elijah has a thing or two to say about this...

We Gather as a Community of Faith

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

GATHERING MUSIC Gekkō Rōteki ("moonlight flute")

Austin Shadduck, *shakuhachi*

Music: Randō Fukuda, 1931.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

adapted from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program

One: Let us focus on God's presence.

In the midst of a world where people hunger and thirst ...

All: come worship a God who feeds the hungry.

One: In the midst of a world where people are abused and oppressed ...

All: come worship a God who calls for compassion and justice.

One: In the midst of a world filled with wars and rumors of war ...

All: come worship a God who desires nothing less than peace for the world.

One: In the midst of a world of spiritual emptiness ...

All: come worship a God who gives life meaning.

One: Come, let us worship the Lord,

All: whose grace and love know no end!

***SONG OF GATHERING** "How Long, O Lord" (see page 4)

* = Please rise in body or in spirit.

How Long, O Lord

(Psalm 13)

777



1 How long, O Lord, will you for - get an an - swer to my
2 How long, O Lord, will you for - sake and leave me in this
3 How long, O Lord? But you for - give with mer - cy from a -



prayer? No to - kens of your love I see; your face is
way? When will you come to my re - lief? My heart is
bove. I find that all your ways are just; I learn to



turned a - way from me; I wres - tle with de - spair!
o - ver - whelmed with grief, by e - vil night and day!
praise you and to trust in your un - fail - ing love!

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GATHERING PRAYER (*together*)

Lord, take our song
and fill it with your presence.
Let it bring a word of hope
to weary hearts, full of care.
Take our song
and fill it, Lord.
Fill it with yourself.

Lord, take our life
and fill it with your praises.
Let us speak a word of peace
to a world crying out in need.
Take this life
and fill it, Lord.
Fill it with yourself.

adapted from the Northumbria Community

Lord, take this place
and fill it with your blessing.
Let it be a haven
where the poor in spirit sing.
Take this place
and fill it, Lord.
Fill it with your praise.

We Tell and Hear the Word

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

FOCUS LESSON 1 Kings 21:1–29, CEB

¹ Now it happened sometime later that Naboth from Jezreel had a vineyard in Jezreel that was next to the palace of King Ahab of Samaria. ² Ahab ordered Naboth, “Give me your vineyard so it can become my vegetable garden, because it is right next to my palace. In exchange for it, I’ll give you an even better vineyard. Or if you prefer, I’ll pay you the price in silver.”

³ Naboth responded to Ahab, “LORD forbid that I give you my family inheritance!”

⁴ So Ahab went to his palace, irritated and upset at what Naboth had said to him — because Naboth had said, “I won’t give you my family inheritance!” Ahab lay down on his bed and turned his face away. He wouldn’t eat anything.

⁵ His wife Jezebel came to him. “Why are you upset and not eating any food?” she asked.

⁶ He answered her, “I was talking to Naboth. I said, ‘Sell me your vineyard. Or if you prefer, I’ll give you another vineyard for it.’ But he said, ‘I won’t give you my vineyard!’”

⁷ Then his wife Jezebel said to him, “Aren’t you the one who rules Israel? Get up! Eat some food and cheer up. I’ll get Naboth’s vineyard for you myself.” ⁸ So she wrote letters in Ahab’s name, putting his seal on them. She sent them to the elders and officials who lived in the same town as Naboth. ⁹ This is what she wrote in the letters: “Announce a fast and place Naboth at the head of the people. ¹⁰ Then bring in two liars in front of him and have them testify as follows: ‘You cursed God and king!’ Then take Naboth outside and stone him so he dies.”

¹¹ The elders and the officials who lived in Naboth’s town did exactly as Jezebel specified in the letters that she had sent. ¹² They announced a fast and placed Naboth at the head of the people. ¹³ Then the two liars came and sat in front of him. They testified against Naboth in front of the people, “Naboth cursed God and king!” So the people took Naboth outside the town and stoned him so that he died.

¹⁴ It was then reported to Jezebel, “Naboth was stoned. He’s dead.” ¹⁵ As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned to death, she said to Ahab, “Get up and take ownership of the vineyard of Naboth, which he had refused to sell to you. Naboth is no longer alive; he’s dead.” ¹⁶ When Ahab heard that Naboth had died, he got up and went down to Naboth’s vineyard to take ownership of it.

¹⁷ The LORD’s word came to Elijah from Tishbe: ¹⁸ Get up and go down to meet Israel’s King Ahab in Samaria. He is in Naboth’s vineyard. He has gone down to take ownership of it. ¹⁹ Say the following to him: This is what the LORD says: So, you’ve murdered and are now taking

ownership, are you? Then tell him: This is what the LORD says: In the same place where the dogs licked up Naboth's blood, they will lick up your own blood.

²⁰ Ahab said to Elijah, "So you've found me, my old enemy!"

"I found you," Elijah said, "because you've enslaved yourself by doing evil in the LORD's eyes. ²¹ So I am now bringing evil on you! I will burn until you are consumed, and I will eliminate everyone who urinates on a wall that belongs to Ahab, whether slave or free. ²² I will make your household like that of Jeroboam, Nebat's son, and like the household of Baasha, Ahijah's son, because of the way you've angered me and because you've made Israel sin. ²³ As for Jezebel, the LORD says this: Dogs will devour Jezebel in the area of Jezreel. ²⁴ Dogs will eat anyone of Ahab's family who dies in town, and birds will eat anyone who dies in the country."

(²⁵ Truly there has never been anyone like Ahab who sold out by doing evil in the LORD's eyes — evil that his wife Jezebel led him to do. ²⁶ Ahab's actions were deplorable. He followed after the worthless idols exactly like the Amorites had done — the very ones the LORD had removed before the Israelites.)

²⁷ When Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes and put mourning clothes on his body. He fasted, even slept in mourning clothes, and walked around depressed. ²⁸ The LORD's word then came to Elijah from Tishbe: ²⁹ Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has done so, I won't bring the evil during his lifetime. Instead, I will bring the evil on his household in the days of his son.

REFLECTIONS

Rev. Kimberly P Chastain

We Respond to the Word

*SONG OF RESPONSE "O God of Every Nation" (see page 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.**

(continued on page 8)

O God of Every Nation

1 O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land,
 2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
 3 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem your whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand;
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

where hate and fear di - vide us, and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign,

in love and mer - cy guide us, and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

Words: William W. Reid, Jr., © 1958, ren. 1986 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company).

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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

CALL TO OFFERING

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 “Lao Rahal Soti” (“If My Voice Departs”)

UPC Choir

Lao rahal soti mab tirhal hanna zhirqom.
‘Ayuni ‘ialla buqraw ‘albi marhom.
Lao rahil muranni bitdahlil ‘arani,
tizhmah li’lu bilmaqsu rah wil bit’iani.

*If my voice departs, yours will remain.
I look unto tomorrow and my heart is with you.
Even if the singer goes, the songs would remain,
bringing together the broken and suffering hearts.*

Words and Music: Samih Choukeir. Music arr.: Shireen Abu-Khader.

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS (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 Birch

God in community, in whose love we live and move,
we pray for a world crying out to feel loved,
wanted, cherished, and unique —
we seek your love.

We pray for a world torn apart by conflict and war;
a world that lives uneasily in a climate of fear
with no clear vision for future days —
we seek your mercy.

We pray for a world that thinks less of others than of self;
a world where division between nations, race, religion
neighbor, and family leads to distrust —
we seek your peace.

We pray for a world that is short on happiness,
too busy to enjoy this world you have created,
too preoccupied with living to appreciate life —
we seek your joy.

We pray for a world where spiritual longing is satisfied
by fashionable notions and temporary solutions
with no thought for tomorrow —
we seek your wisdom.

We pray for a world that needs to know your love, your mercy,
your peace, your joy, and your wisdom;
a world that needs to know it is special, unique,
and is uniquely loved by the one
who taught us when we pray to say:

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** “All Who Love and Serve Your City” (see page 10)

BLESSING

Go in peace.
Be of good courage.
Hold fast to what is good.
Return to no one evil for evil.
Support the weak, strengthen the frightened, help the suffering.
Honor every person.
Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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 this day and always.

Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

SENDING MUSIC “Celebration”

Nancy McNamara, *organ*

Music: Charles Callahan. © 2007 Birnamwood Publishers (a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.). All rights reserved.

(Please exchange a greeting of peace with those around you as our worship concludes.)

All Who Love and Serve Your City 351



1 All who love and serve your cit - y, all who
2 In your day of wealth and plen - ty, wast - ed
3 For all days are days of judg - ment, and the
4 Ris - en Lord, shall yet the cit - y be the



bear its dai - ly stress, all who cry for
work and wast - ed play, call to mind the
Lord is wait - ing still, draw - ing near a
cit - y of de - spair? Come to - day, our



peace and jus - tice, all who curse and all who bless:
word of Je - sus, "You must work while it is day."
world that spurns him, of - fering peace from Cal - vary's hill.
judge, our glo - ry. Be its name "The Lord is there!"

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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 160 meals 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, 11:30am–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, 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**, Lou McKeage lmckeage@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.

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

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.



There is a nursery for infants through age four staffed with two nursery attendants, if that is a better choice for your family. The nursery is at the end of the hall past the bathrooms. Nursery staff are on duty from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Parents are welcome to stay in the room and listen to the service over the speaker, or to return to the sanctuary to worship. Please let us know if you have questions.

PRAYER CREDITS: **Call to Worship** adapted from *Sacraments and Seasons: Peacemaking Through Worship* from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, reposted on re:Worship, re-worship.blogspot.com. **Gathering Prayer** adapted from Northumbria Community Morning Prayer, posted on the Prayers & Creeds blog, prayersandcreeds.wordpress.com.

We Say What We Believe from The United Church of Canada, united-church.ca. **Prayer of the People** adapted from a prayer by John Birch, posted on Faith and Worship, reposted on re:Worship, re-worship.blogspot.com.

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Pastors Rev. Kimberly P Chastain and Rev. Becky Kindig ~ **Reader** Linda McDevitt

Musicians Aimée Backus, *Music Coordinator*; Nancy McNamara, *guest accompanist*; Austin Shadduck, *United Ringers director*; Andrea Gilebarto, Starletta Noll-Long, Phil Westcott, and the UPC Choir

Technicians Andy Chadwick, Matt Johnson, Scott Kindig, Sara Lieberman