



Everyone is welcome here

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON

ACT JUSTLY • PRACTICE KINDNESS • WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD



Sunday, December 28, 2025 • 10:00am

1st Sunday of Christmas

► Our worship service is livestreaming on our YouTube Channel: upcbgm.org/youtube

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

Welcome to the Celebration!

December 28, 2025 • 10:00am

Luke's telling of Jesus's nativity has three songs scattered in it: Mary sings the Magnificat, Zechariah sings of the child who will grow up to guide us on the path of peace, and Simeon sings of the hope that all people will be redeemed by God's coming among us. In a time of darkness and confusion, we can find again the hope and the courage that these songs reflect, and dream again of a world redeemed by hope, peace, love and joy.

We Gather as a Community of Faith

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

GATHERING MUSIC "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Starletta Noll-Long, *vocals*; Andy Chadwick, *piano*

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley. Music: Rowland H. Prichard (HYFRYDOL); arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams. Public Domain.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Luke 1:68b-79

All: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them."

One: ⁶⁹ He has raised up a mighty savior for us
in the house of his child David,

All: ⁷⁰ as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹ that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

One: ⁷² Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors
and has remembered his holy covenant,

⁷³ the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us

All: ⁷⁴ that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness
in his presence all our days.

One: ⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

* = Please rise in body or in spirit.

All: ⁷⁷ to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

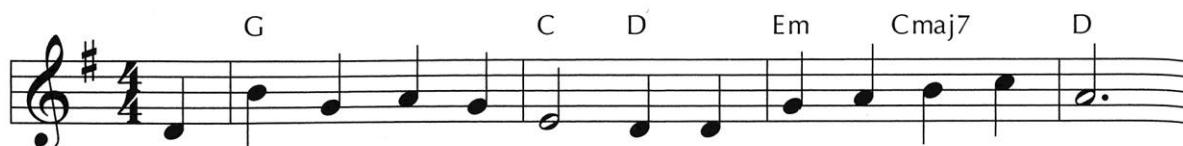
One: ⁷⁸ Because of the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,

All: ⁷⁹ to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

*SONG OF GATHERING "Blest Be the God of Israel"

109 Blest Be the God of Israel

Song of Zechariah



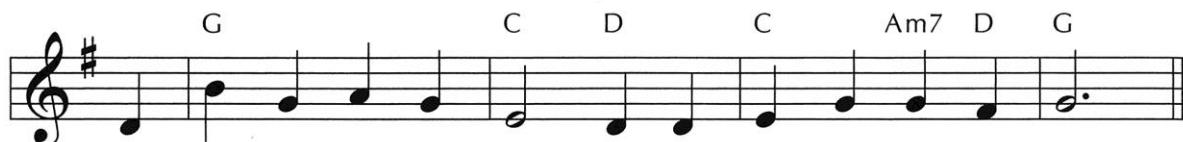
1 Blest be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free;
2 God from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has given;
3 On those who sit in dark - ness the sun be - gins to rise,



who vis - its and re - deems us, who grants us lib - er - ty.
a Sav - ior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.
the dawn-ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin-ner's eyes.



The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
God guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.



God shall ful - fill that prom - ise and bring the peo - ple peace.
the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

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We Tell and Hear the Word

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

FOCUS LESSON *Luke 1:46–55, CEB*

⁴⁶ Mary said,
 “With all my heart I glorify the Lord!
⁴⁷ In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.
⁴⁸ He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.
 Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored
⁴⁹ because the mighty one has done great things for me.
Holy is his name.
⁵⁰ He shows mercy to everyone,
 from one generation to the next,
 who honors him as God.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm.
 He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.
⁵² He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones
 and lifted up the lowly.
⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
 and sent the rich away empty-handed.
⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
 remembering his mercy,
⁵⁵ just as he promised to our ancestors,
 to Abraham and to Abraham’s descendants forever.”

REFLECTIONS

Rev. Kimberly P Chastain

We Respond to the Word

*SONG OF RESPONSE “Mary, Did You Know?” (see pages 6–7)

WE SAY WHAT WE BELIEVE (*together*) “A Litany of Commitment”

by Christine Sine

Come and see!

The light of God has come into our world

to proclaim God’s justice and love;

it has overcome the darkness and brought new life.

Come and follow!

Christ our companion has redeemed our world;

he draws us into a loving family

from every tribe and family and culture.

Go and tell!

The Spirit has equipped us for service:

**to love our neighbors as we do ourselves,
to bring God's salvation to the ends of the earth.**

**Come and see, come and follow, go and tell!
In God's Love the nations of the earth will put their hope.
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 a donation in one of the collection boxes or offering plates by the door.



OFFERING OF MUSIC "The First Noel"

Andrea Gilebarto, *vocals*; Andy Chadwick, *piano*

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far,
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
who hath made heaven and earth of naught, and with his blood our life hath bought. [Refrain]

Words: English carol. Music: THE FIRST NOEL, W. Sandys's *Christmas Carols*, 1833; arr. John Stainer. Public Domain.

OFFERING OF PRAYER (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

Wonderful Counselor, grant wisdom
to political leaders to govern with kindness and care,
to campaigners to creatively challenge injustice and inequality, and
to peacemakers to find lasting solutions to protracted conflict.
May the light of your wisdom dawn in the darkness of selfish ambition.

Mighty God, grant courage,
to those having to escape their homes to find refuge,
to those dreading the next violent outburst, and
to those unsure of the future for their families.
May the light of your courage dawn in the darkness of fear.

Mary, Did You Know

1. Ma - ry, did you know that your an - cient words would
2. Ma - ry, did you know that your lul - la - by would

still leap off our pa - ges? Ma-ry, did you know that your spir -
stir your own child's pas - sion? Ma-ry, did you know that your song

- it song would ech - o through the a - ges? Did you know
in-spires the work of lib - er - a - tion? Did you know

that your ho - ly cry would be sub-ver-sive word,
that your Ju - bi-lee is hope with-in the heart that the

ty - rants would be trem - bling when they know your truth is heard?
all who dream of jus - tice, who yearn for it to start?

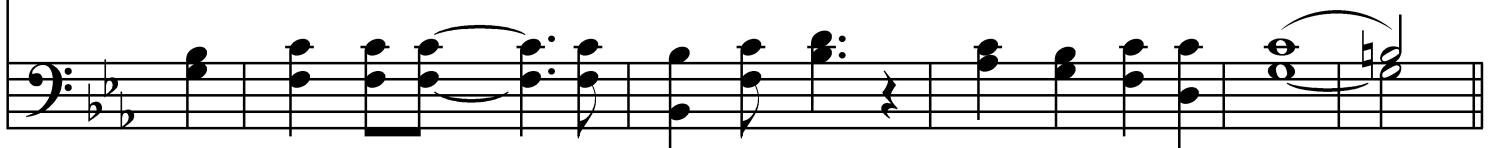
Harmony

The truth will teach, the drum will sound healing for the pain.

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The poor will rise, the rich will fall; hope will live a - gain!



3. Ma - ry, did you know that we hear your voice for the



heal - ing of the na - tions? Ma - ry, did you know your un - set -



- tling cry can help re-new cre-a - tion? Do you know



that we need your faith, the con - fi-dence of you.



May the God that you be - lieve in be so true.

Everlasting Father, grant us inspiration,
to imagine a world free from species extinction and climate chaos,
to make economic decisions so all the earth may flourish,
to commune with creation as creature before consumer.
May the light of your inspiration dawn in the darkness of eco-despair.

Prince of Peace, grant the peace
that silences gunfire and bombs,
that stills us to recognize complicit choices,
that reconciles war-weary enemies.
May the light of your peace dawn in the darkness of conflict.

We pray in the authority of the child that has been born for us,
the son given to us this day
who taught us when we pray together 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** “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout” (see pages 10–11)

BLESSING (together)

Luke 2:29–32

**“Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word,
30 because my eyes have seen your salvation.
31 You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples.
32 It’s a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and a glory for your people Israel.”**

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

One: Peace be with you!
All: And also with you.

SENDING MUSIC “Once in Royal David’s City”

Music: Henry J. Gauntlett (IRBY). Public Domain.

Aimée Backus, *flute*; Andy Chadwick, *organ*

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

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: srabo54@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.

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the
work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer-or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

Music: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN, Irish melody. Words and Music arr.: Rory Cooney, © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

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name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

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.

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Pastors Rev. Kimberly P Chastain and Rev. Becky Kindig ~ **Reader** Sharon Shadduck
Musicians Aimée Backus, *Music Coordinator*; Andy Chadwick, *accompanist*;
Austin Shadduck, *United Ringers director*; Andrea Gilebarto, Starletta Noll-Long
Technicians Matt Johnson, Scott Kindig, Shawn Landon, Sara Lieberman