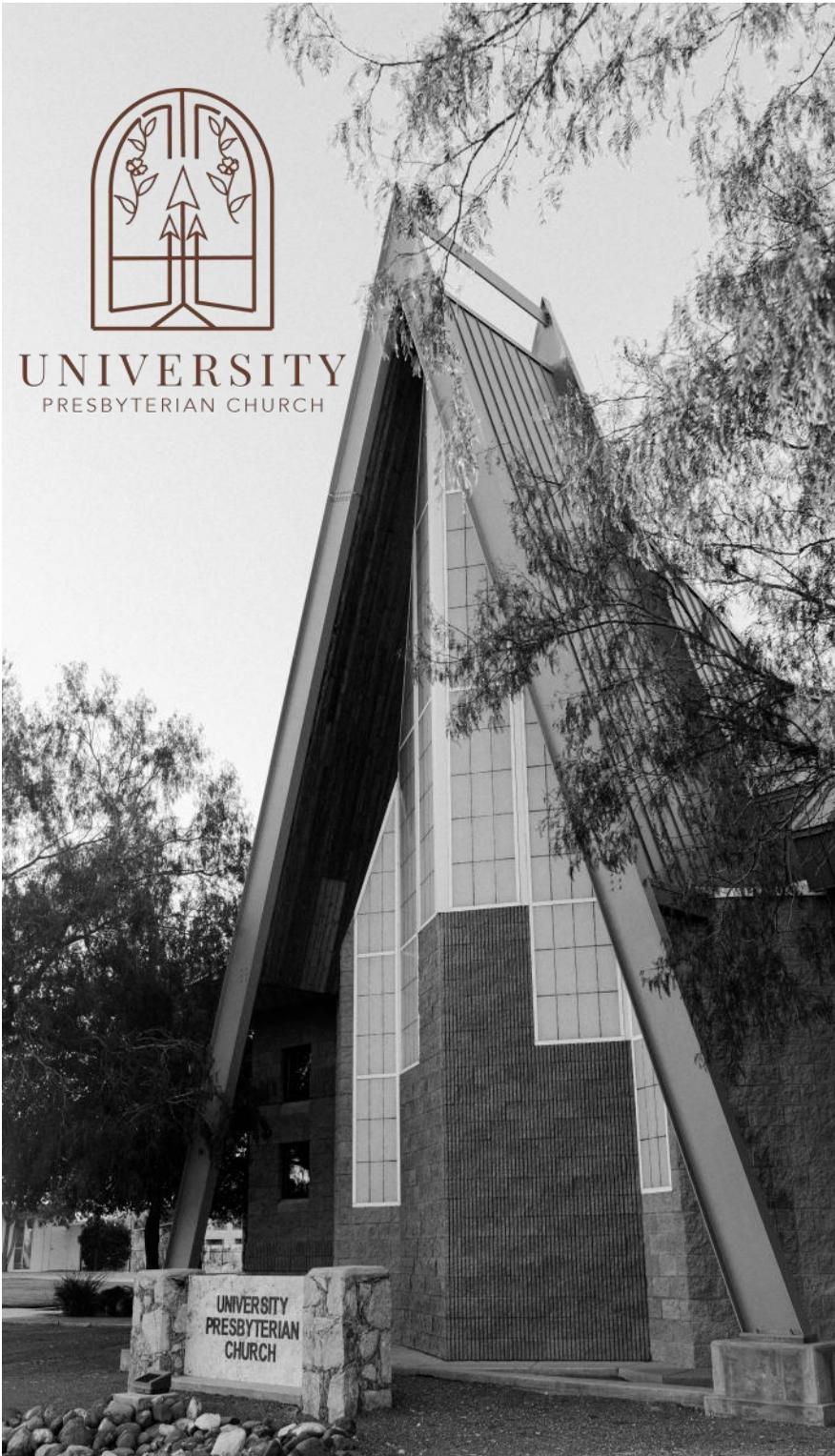




UNIVERSITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SUNDAY

WORSHIP

March 8, 2026

We aim to be a *hospitable people* rooted in the *Word*, in *worship*, and *prayer*—and we are *committed to cultivating disciples* in our homes, our church, and the world around us.

Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Amen

Welcome

We are so glad you're here today! Whether it's your first time at UPC or your first time at church altogether, we just want you to know that you're welcome here.

If you have any questions about what you are seeing today, becoming members, or life at UPC, we invite you to reach out. We invite you to connect with our Deacons at UPCdeacons@upclc.com.



Scan here to visit our website. Connect, watch live, and learn more about the life of

Preparing for worship

Jesus invites us to come as we are, knowing He will not leave us there. So, we invite you to take a few moments of quiet reflection before the service to prepare your heart for worship.

Parents with small children

We understand parenting is challenging! In an effort to support you, we offer a staffed nursery for our youngest ones (ages 0-3) during each worship service. Our hope, however, is for our children to participate in corporate worship as soon as they are able.

Sharing a prayer request

Prayer is the communication of our desires to God our Father. Prayer is not simply thinking about God or having concerns. Rather, prayer is expressing need from the heart to God.



Scan to share a prayer request.

Order of Worship

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

Congregation: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Leader: Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

Congregation: Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

Leader: He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in.

All: Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of men! For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

Psalm 107:1–9

* PRAYER OF ADORATION

*“Oh Give Thanks (Psalm 107)”

Kimbrough

We were wandering in the desert
With our souls so starved and weak



Call to Worship

A formal invitation to the congregation to enter corporate worship. It is drawn from Scripture and unites the congregation in acknowledging God's presence and preparing their hearts for worship.

* Please stand if you're able.

We were hungry for a homeland
We did not know how to seek
But we lifted up our voices
To the only One who hears
And the God of mercy came
And brought us near

We were locked out of the garden
With our backs bent down with pain
In the shadow of death's darkness
We were slaves to sin and blame
Then we cried out in our labor
To the only One who hears
And the God of mercy wiped
Away our tears

[Chorus]

Oh, give thanks to the Lord
For His love endures forever
We were wandering and lost
And our Father brought us home
To a safe dwelling place
To a feast of joy and laughter
Oh, give thanks to the Lord
For He is good

We were fools in our rebellion
With our hunger strike of pride
We were sick and growing closer
To the death we should have died

* Please stand
if you're able.

Then He heard of our condition
And He called us by our names
And the God of glory took
Away our shame

We were far out on the ocean
Making wealth and chasing dreams
But the waves of great destruction
Brought us trembling to our knees
Then we cried like drunken sailors
To the only One who hears
And the God of comfort took
Away our fears

Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good

Wendell Kimbrough
© 2014 Kimbrough, Wendell
CCLI #372115

CALL TO CONFESSION

Our Lord Jesus said,

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.



Call to Confession

An invitation to bring our sins before The LORD. Because of Christ's work on the cross, we can confess freely, knowing that in Him, there is no condemnation, only grace and restoration.

* Please stand if you're able.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3–10



Words of Assurance

These words are an invitation to rest in God's grace. He declares that all who repent and believe in Jesus are completely forgiven from all of their sins, and their guilt wiped clean.

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, you have mercy upon all—take away from us our sins, and mercifully kindle in us the fire of your Holy Spirit. Take away from us hearts of stone, and give us hearts of flesh, hearts to love and adore you, hearts to delight in you, to follow and to enjoy you, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Ambrose

*** WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Congregation: Amen.

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Congregation: The Maker of heaven and earth.

Leader: O Lord, open our lips,

Congregation: and our mouths will sing your praise.

* Please stand if you're able.

***“Jesus, Thank You”**

Sczebel



Tithes and Offerings

We give back to God the portion of our wealth and talents that he calls his in recognition that they all come from him. These gifts help support the mission and ministries of the church. Some of us choose to put an offering in the plate, while others give online.

The myst’ry of the cross I cannot comprehend
The agonies of Calvary
You the perfect Holy One crushed Your Son
Who drank the bitter cup reserved for me

[Chorus]

Your blood has washed away my sin
Jesus, thank You
The Father’s wrath completely satisfied
Jesus, thank You
Once Your enemy now seated at Your table
Jesus, thank You

By Your perfect sacrifice I’ve been brought near
Your enemy You’ve made Your friend
Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace
Your mercy and Your kindness know no end

Lover of my soul
I want to live for You
Lover of my soul
I want to live for You

Pat Sczebel
© 2003 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music; Sovereign Grace Worship
CCLI #372115

TITHES AND OFFERINGS



Scan to Give

* Please stand if you’re able.

“There Is One Gospel”

Robinson/Thompson

There is one Gospel on which I stand
For all eternity
It is my story my Father’s plan
The Son has rescued me
Oh what a Gospel oh what a peace
My highest joy and my deepest need
Now and forever He is my light
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

There is one Gospel to which I cling
All else I count as loss
For there where justice and mercy meet
He saved me on the cross
No more I boast in what I can bring
No more I carry the weight of sin
For He has brought me from death to life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

There is one Gospel where hope is found
The empty tomb still speaks
For death could not keep my Savior down
He lives and I am free
Now on my Savior I fix my eyes
My life is His and His hope is mine
For he has promised I too will rise
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

* Please stand
if you’re able.

And in this Gospel the church is one
We do not walk alone
We have His Spirit as we press on
To lead us safely home
And when in glory still I will sing
Of this old story that rescued me
Praise to my Savior the King of life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

And when in glory still I will sing
Of this old story that rescued me
Praise to my Savior the King of life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
Praise to my Savior the King of life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson
© 2022 CityAlight Music
CCLI #372115

***“Doxology”**

Trinity 731

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Thomas Ken
Public Domain

***SCRIPTURE READING**

John Pummell
John 19:1-16

* Please stand
if you’re able.

Leader: If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come;
your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

SERMON: "Suffered Under Pontius Pilate, Part 2" Rick Downs

CONFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and
invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God;
begotten of the Father before all worlds;
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God;
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made.
Who, for us men and for our salvation,
came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;



The Lord's Supper

We invite those seated closest to the pulpit to come to the table first. Please file through outer aisles and back up middle aisle.

Wine is in the clear cups;
juice is in the purple cups.

Please take the bread as you receive it.
Hold onto the cup, as we will drink it together signifying our unity in the body of Christ.

* Please stand if you're able.

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures;
and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the
Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the
dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life;
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified;
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Nicene Creed

THE LORD'S SUPPER

All those who have publicly professed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, are repentant of their sins, and are baptized members of a church where the gospel is loved and proclaimed are warmly invited to participate in the Lord's Supper with us. For those of you who have not yet trusted in Jesus, please let these elements pass by you. We would love to talk to you about your relationship with the Lord after the service.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND WINE

* Please stand
if you're able.

“On Jordan’s Stormy Banks I Stand”

Miner/Stennett

On Jordan’s stormy banks I stand,
And cast a wishful eye
To Canaan’s fair and happy land,
Where my possessions lie.

All o’er those wide extended plains,
Shines one eternal day;
There God, the Son, forever reigns,
And scatters night away.

[Chorus]

I am bound ... *I am bound*
I am bound ... *I am bound*
I am bound for the promised land,
I am bound ... *I am bound*
I am bound ... *I am bound*
I am bound for the promised land.

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath
Can reach that healthful shore;
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death,
Are felt and feared no more.

When shall I reach that happy place,
And be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father’s face,
And in His bosom rest?

Christopher Miner, Samuel Stennett
© 1997 Getty Music Hymns and Songs
CCLI #372115

* Please stand
if you’re able.

* MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH

Congregation: Christ has died! Christ has risen! Christ will come again! Hallelujah!

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*“God So Loved”

Bergthold/Cash

Come all you weary; come all you thirsty
Come to the well that never runs dry
Drink of the water; come and thirst no more

Come all you sinners; come find His mercy
Come to the table; He will satisfy
Taste of His goodness; find what you’re looking for

[Chorus]

For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever

Bring all your failures; bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting there with open arms

Praise God! Praise God! From whom all blessings flow
Praise Him! Praise Him! For the wonders of His love

The power of hell forever defeated
Now it is well; I’m walking in freedom
For God so loved, God so loved the world

Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Cash
© 2019 Angie Feel Good Songs
CCLI #372115

* BENEDICTION



Benediction

A pronouncement of God's blessing and commission upon His people as they are sent into the world. It is more than a closing prayer—it is a declaration of God's grace, peace, and presence. We depart with this “good Word” as a reassurance of His faithfulness and a charge to walk in obedience and faith throughout the week.

* Please stand if you’re able.

Sermon Notes



Things to think about while listening to the sermon.

-What are the main points?

-What is the context of this passage?

-What are some repeated words and themes?

-How does this message point to Christ?

-How do we see God's grace, justice, mercy, or sovereignty in the text?

-How does this passage stir us to action?

Announcements

- All Church Prayer Meeting tonight! We meet for prayer each second Sunday of the month from 6-7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Please join us with your family to pray together to our sovereign, holy, and loving God.
- A new Sunday School class has started on the book of Habakkuk. We are studying this prophet's complaints to God, God's replies, and Habakkuk's final response. Warning: God may expand your faith.
- Volunteers for Kairos—Kairos, a local prison ministry, is looking for volunteers to support an event at UPC for the prisoners they serve May 14-17 (new dates). The next training for volunteers is in the Great Room Saturday, March 21, from 9- 3:00. Contact John Shipp for more details at 915-526-4618.
- Farewell Dinner for the Downs! On Saturday, we will host a farewell dinner 4-7:00 p.m. for Pastor Rick and T Downs. Come wish them well and extend a hearty thanks for their time and labors with us. If you are able, please bring a main Mexican food dish plus a side, salad, or dessert.
- RUF Freshman Bible Study Meals—RUF is hosting new students Thursday nights for fellowship, a home-cooked meal, and time in Scripture. A link to sign up to provide a meal is in Wednesday's CrossTalk Notes.
- Maddox Hechler interns this summer with Serge to spread the gospel in London! He seeks financial and prayer support. Text or call him at 575-202-4664 to assist or to ask him more about this opportunity.

This Week at UPC

Tues (2/10): •Women's Prayer Group, 10:00am
•Women's Bible Study, 6:45pm

Wed (2/11): •Midweek Fellowship Dinner, 5:00pm
•KFC/Youth Group, 6:30pm
•Men's Bible Study, 6:30pm

Thurs (2/12): •Women's Bible Study, 9:00am
•Worship Team Practice, 6:00pm

Sat (2/14): •Farewell Dinner for the Downs,
4:00pm

Sun (2/15): •Prayers from the Boiler Room,
8:15am
•Adult Education/Youth/Children
Sunday School, 9:00am
•Worship Service, 10:00am



Pastoral Staff

Dan Smith, **Pastor**

Rick Downs, **Interim Pastor**

Daniel Dávalos, **RUF Campus Minister**

Church Staff

Tessa Kennedy, **Ministry Coordinator**

Jon Cheney, **Office Manager**

Samantha Lish, **Bookkeeper**

Elders

Richard Heerema

Chris Hoxworth

David Moon

Simon Rawson

Robin Rose

Deacons

Luke Biel

Chris Kennedy

Eric Tessier

Want to stay up to date with what's happening in the life of UPC? Please sign up for our weekly news letters by scanning



University Presbyterian Church
2010 Wisconsin Ave
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Office Phone: (575) 522-0828

Office Email: upcoffice@upclc.com

Office Hours: 9:00am - 3:00pm

Mon-Fri (Closed Wednesdays)