



# UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH Charlottesville, VA

God has called University Baptist Church to minister to the University Community and to the residents of the Greater Charlottesville-Albemarle Community, serving as agents of Christ's love and justice for those in need and offering a vital family of faith.

**January 4, 2026**  
**Epiphany of the Lord Sunday**

## GATHERING

Marking the Hour

Opening Words

Dr. Matthew Tennant

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Prelude

*We Three Kings*

arr. Anna Laura Page

Lighting the Candles

*We light these candles to welcome the Spirit, for they represent how Jesus is the Light of the world which guides us through life.*

Opening the Bible

*We open the Bible to remind us that God speaks to us through the Holy Word.*

\*Call to Worship

Theo Gregg

Arise, shine: for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.  
**We come to this space, following the star, seeking a miracle.**  
You will see and be radiant, your heart shall thrill and rejoice  
**for here we find a prophecy fulfilled, and a mystery revealed!**

\*Hymn 143

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

REGENT SQUARE

\*Invocation

Larry Johnson

Greeting

*The ministries of University Baptist Church are made possible by your financial support.  
Offering boxes are located at the rear of the Sanctuary and electronic giving  
by scanning the QR code on the back of the bulletin.*

## Puerto Rico Mission Trip Commissioning

Dr. Tennant

**Leader:** Mission Team, is it your desire that University Baptist Church commission you to this mission work in Puerto Rico?

*Mission Team: God is calling. We seek to answer that call and be God's light in Puerto Rico next week.*

**Leader:** Do you dedicate yourselves to the mission task before you in Puerto Rico, and in doing whatever God may lead you to do during this time away from home and family?

*Mission Team: Jesus told his followers to go with complete dependence on God's provision. With the congregation's support and prayers, we dedicate ourselves to God's work in Puerto Rico.*

**Leader:** Congregation, how do you respond?

**People:** We send this team with gratitude for their commitment to act for transformation and to be transformed for action.

**Leader:** Congregation, will you dedicate yourselves to pray for our mission team during this time that they are away from us?

**People:** We will pray for their health and safety and for God's light to shine through them while they are working for God's kingdom.

**Leader:** Congregation, will you receive the team's testimony?

**People:** We will receive your testimony when you return as part of our own journeys of faith. We commit to act in advocacy as prompted by the group's experience in order to transform the world so that all may live the fullness of the life that God intends.

**All:** We, the congregation and friends of University Baptist Church, commission you to the service of God through your efforts in Puerto Rico. Go, in the name of our Lord. Go with our blessings and our prayers, and with the blessings of our Lord and Savior.

## The Commissioning Prayer

Dr. Tennant

### HEARING

#### Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (p.464)

Ezra Flaherty

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God!

#### Anthem

*Behold That Star!*  
Sanctuary Choir

African-American Spiritual  
arr. H. T. Burleigh

*Behold that star! Behold that star up yonder! Behold that star! It's the star of Bethlehem.*

There was no room found in the Inn.

It's the star of Bethlehem for Him who was born free from sin. It is the star of Bethlehem.

The wise men came on from the East. It is the star of Bethlehem.

To worship Him the Prince of Peace. It is the star of Bethlehem.

A song broke forth upon the night. It is the star of Bethlehem.

From angel hosts all robed in white. It is the star of Bethlehem.

Glory to God world without end. It is the star of Bethlehem.

## Morning Prayer

Rev. Megan Sharp

## Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the promise of the Lord:  
**See, our salvation has come!**  
You are a holy people, redeemed by God;  
**sought out and not forsaken.**  
Then let us proclaim together:  
**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.**

\*Doxology

GLORIA

**Let the nations shout and sing, glory to their Savior bring.  
All below and all above sing your praise with joy and love.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12 (p.783-84)

Ray Gaines

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

\*Hymn 151

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

KINGS OF ORIENT

Sermon

Preferential Option for the Poor

Dr. Tenant

*At this time, children in Kindergarten through 5th Grade may exit  
to attend Worship+Wonder in the Children's Suite.*

## RESPONDING

Meditation

Barbara Moore

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Dr. Tenant

Invitation

Dr. Tenant

\*Hymn 150

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

DIX

\*Benediction

Dr. Tenant

\*Postlude

*The Three Kings*

Wilbur Held

*\*Please rise as you are able, in body or spirit.*

Instrumentalist:  
Organ/Piano: Barbara Moore

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# University Baptist Church

Thank you for coming to worship today. We are blessed by your presence, and we trust that this hour will help to deepen your spiritual life. We look forward to meeting you personally at the close of the service.

**About Us:** University Baptist Church is a vibrant community of faith, bringing together university students and area residents in worship, study, and service to our community. We seek to be an authentic community of Christians who love and care for each other as a family, and openly welcome and include all people regardless of age, race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, or background. We believe that all people have important gifts to share in God's family, working together as the hands and feet of our good and loving God. Learn more at [universitybaptist.org](http://universitybaptist.org).

**Newsletter:** If you would like to stay updated on all the latest news and events at UBC, please call or email the church office at [linda@universitybaptist.org](mailto:linda@universitybaptist.org).

**Additional Parking:** Additional parking is available at the 14th St. Garage. Just show them your bulletin when you leave.

**Worship Online:** Visit [universitybaptist.org/live](http://universitybaptist.org/live) to download the Sunday worship bulletin and find instructions for how to watch live services online or listen on the radio.

**Acknowledgements:** The text and music for the hymns are reprinted by permission to University Baptist Church, Christian Copyright License No. A-742738.

**Personal Hearing Receivers:** Hearing devices are available from an usher.

**Giving:** Please place your gift in one of the boxes at the back of the Sanctuary or mail your contribution to the church office. You can also give online by scanning the QR code below or texting "give2ubc" to 73256.

**Prayer Requests:** Prayer Request cards are available in each pew rack. They may be left in an offering box or handed to an usher or minister following worship.

**Flowers:** Flowers this morning are given by Jen May to the Glory of God and in memory of her husband, Joseph W. May, M.D. on his birthday today, Jan. 4.

Newsletter



Website



Giving



## Church Staff

Senior Minister – Dr. Matthew Tennant

Associate Minister for Music & College Students – Rev. Megan Sharp

Voces Laetae Director – Will Cooke

Organist – Barbara Moore

Office Coordinator – Linda Weirich

Financial Coordinator – Amanda Ohlms

Church Administrator – Alan Hendricks

Maintenance Assistant - Hunter Cooper