

Welcome to  
**St. Luke Union Church**

Presbyterian Church (USA) • United Church of Christ  
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**Sunday Worship Service – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

April 28, 2024 10:30am

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you,  
you also should love one another. John 13:34

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

In the wilderness, water brings life.

**Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.**

In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

**Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.**

In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior  
nourishes everyone.

**Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.**

Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity.

Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Wondrous Vinegrower, you make all things new in water and Word, feeding your people with love,  
joy, and peace. Lead us today and every day to the font of new beginnings. Teach us to love what you  
have commanded and to prune what does not nourish your creation, in the name of the Creator,  
Redeemer, and Sustainer, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**HYMN**

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee ” PH #464

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess to God and  
to one another our failure to love our neighbor.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as  
you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive  
us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ,  
in whose name we pray. Amen.

**SILENT REFLECTION**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

You have already been cleansed by the word that God has spoken to you. In baptism God claimed  
you and joined you to Christ, as branches to a vine. Believe the promise given to you: know that God  
loves you, in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**RESPONSE**

“Because He Lives” SPW #123

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Come, Holy Spirit, that through your word we may be guided into the love of God for all the world.  
Amen

## GOSPEL LESSON

John 15:1-8

## ANTHEM

“A Jubilant Song” SLUC Choir

## EPISTLE LESSON

1 John 4:7-21

## SERMON

“Abide in Love”  
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Gifford

## HYMN

“Abide with Me” PH#543  
verses 1,3&4

## OFFERING

“Thine is the Glory” SLUC Joyringers

## OFFERTORY

“We Give Thee but Thine Own” PH #428 v.1

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HYMN

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing” PH #538

## CHARGE & BENEDICTION

### DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## POSTLUDE