

Welcome to  
**St. Luke Union Church**

Presbyterian Church (USA) • United Church of Christ  
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Sunday Worship Service — World Communion Sunday

October 6, 2024 10:30am

*God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God,  
and God abides in them. 1 John 4:16b*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Long ago, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets,  
**but in the last days he has spoken to us through his Son Jesus Christ.**  
Jesus is the reflection of God's glory, and he sustains all things in the world by his powerful Word. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, should give his only son to suffering for our salvation.  
**Therefore we will proclaim God's name. In the midst of the congregation, we will praise God.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God, sometimes we do not understand why bad things happen to good people. Sometimes all we can do is lift up our eyes and hearts to heaven, and scream out loud, Why? Sometimes we do not want to persist in our integrity; we allow our suffering to lead us into despair. Yet wisdom comes from listening to your Word. Enable us to see the life you have given us through the joy, trial, and tribulation of your son Jesus Christ, who lived, suffered, died, and was raised for us. In his name we pray and in His spirit seek your presence. **Amen.**

**HYMN #478**

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

In God, we find light for our darkness, and through that light we discover the things that separate us from God. We ask God to prove us and try us, and to test our hearts and minds, as we seek to receive forgiveness.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**You gave us commandments, God of love, because you know the hardness of our hearts. You have created us to live in community, and still we oppress others and separate ourselves from you. Jesus loved the children, but there are still children in the world who live in hunger or fear, rejected and unloved. Forgive us, and call us to faithfulness. Bind all your children together as sisters and brothers, and nurture us with your love and forgiveness, that we might share what we have been given, and receive your kingdom with the wonder and gratitude of children. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**SILENT REFLECTION**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Jesus said, Let the children come to me, do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Seeing our repentant hearts, Jesus will embrace us in grace and comfort us with mercy. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. We are children of God! Live in peace!

**HYMN OF RESPONSE #579**

“Glory be to the Father”

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Long ago, God spoke to our ancestors, but in these last days God has spoken to us through Jesus Christ. Open our hearts and minds to your Word, that we may see your light. **Amen.**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Mark 10:2-16

**ANTHEM**

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”  
SLUC Choir

**EPISTLE LESSON**

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

**SERMON**

“God Forgives”  
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Gifford

**OFFERING**

**HYMN #507**

“I Come with Joy”

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Distribution of Loaf and Cup

Prayer Following Communion

**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 #442 (v.1,2,4,5)**

“The Church’s One Foundation”

**CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

**HYMN #593 (Doxology)**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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**