

Welcome to  
**St. Luke Union Church**

Presbyterian Church (USA) • United Church of Christ  
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**Sunday Worship Service—First Sunday of Advent**

December 1, 2024 10:30am

*Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is near.*

*Romans 13:11*

**PRELUDE**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: The Apostle reminds us: “Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.”

**People: We light this candle in the hope that “the night is far gone; the day is near.”**

Leader: May this hope guide us in a spirit of attentiveness this Advent season,

**People: As we daily walk in the way of the One whom we await.**

Leader: Praise the Lord!

**People: The Lord’s name be praised.**

**Reading:**

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

**Prayer:**

On this day we bear witness to the light of Christ with all the faithful of every time and place:

With Isaiah and Jeremiah, prophets of Israel, we await the promised salvation of the lord,

and look for the coming of the one who will bring justice and righteousness to the earth.

The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory. **Alleluia!**

**HYMN #8**

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Jesus said, Do not let your hearts be weighed down by the sins and worries of this life,  
but watch and pray for the grace of God, who will save you in your time of trial.

With confidence in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there were no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.**

**SILENT REFLECTION**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven. May the Lord guide your way,  
strengthen you in all holiness, and make you abound in love for one another and for all.

**HYMN OF RESPONSE**

“Praise God, Source of Life and Birth”

Praise God, the Source of life and birth; Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;  
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame; All glory, honor to God’s name! Amen.

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

God our salvation, there is wisdom, peace, and joy for those who keep your Word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, lead us in your truth and teach us to do your will; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Jeremiah 33:14-16

**ANTHEM**

“Savior of the Nations, Come”  
SLUC Choir

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 21:25-36

**SERMON**

“Preparation Time”  
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Gifford

**HYMN #2**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

**OFFERING**

**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 #361**

“How Firm a 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**