

Welcome to
St. Luke Union Church

Presbyterian Church (USA) • United Church of Christ
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Sunday Worship Service—Third Sunday of Advent and Choir Cantata

December 15, 2024 10:30am

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE ~ Rhett & Renee Stolte

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Mary guides us through her song: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”

People: We light this candle in joy for God has scattered the proud, brought down the powerful, and lifted up the lowly.

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

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

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: The Lord’s name be praised.

Reading:

Philippians 4:4-7

Prayer:

With Mary, the mother of Jesus, we magnify the Lord, rejoicing in God our Savior, for the Mighty One has done great things for us, and holy is God’s name.

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

HYMN #12

“People, Look East”

CALL TO CONFESSION

As John the Baptist called the people to repent, as Jesus calls us now, we turn to the one who is both judge and savior, trusting that repentance opens the door to new life, and that peace beyond all measure has been promised to us. Let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

In the name of the one God who lives and moves among us, you are forgiven.

The Lord has taken away the judgments against you. Do not worry. Live in peace.

God’s grace reigns.

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy Word, you are our guide and ultimate assurance. By your Holy Spirit, open us to your promises and commands and shower us again with the fire of your love. **Amen.**

AND GLORY SHONE AROUND

*A Christmas Cantata
Celebrating Love’s Perfect Light
Presented by the SLUC Choir*

Who Is This King of Glory?
Savior of the Nations, Come
Blessed Are You
A Stable in Bethlehem

The Offering

Gloria! To God Sing Gloria!
No Candle Was There
Love’s Perfect Light
The Glory of the Lord

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 #40 (verses 1,2,3)

“Joy to the World!”

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