

Welcome to  
**St. Luke Union Church**

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

December 22, 2024 10:30am

**PRELUDE**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE ~ Jim & Charlene Munro**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: The prophet calls us to attention: “Look, the young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.”

**People: We light this candle in peace, trusting that God is with us.**

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

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

Leader: Praise the Lord!

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

**Reading:**

Hebrews 10:5-10

**Prayer:**

With the writers of the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we tell the good news of Jesus Christ, the child of Bethlehem, who came to save us, and is coming again to rule in glory.

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

**HYMN #38**

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

In the world, and in this season, there are many claims on our lives. We take this time to remember that in our baptism, Christ claimed us as his own. We acknowledge before God and one another that we have not followed Jesus Christ with all our heart and mind and strength. Trusting in God’s grace, let us pray.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary’s song, we still seek security in pride, power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

**SILENT REFLECTION**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**HYMN OF RESPONSE**

“Praise God, the 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**

O Mighty One, who scatters the proud and fills the hungry, by your Holy Spirit let your word leap in us and bring to our yearning the joy that comes with new beginnings and renewed lives. **Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Micah 5:2-5a

**ANTHEM**

“Blessed Are You”  
SLUC Choir

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 1:39-55

**SERMON**

“Life of Faith and Song”  
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Gifford

**HYMN #43**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

**OFFERING**

**HYMN #41 (Refrain)**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**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**

“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**