

Welcome to
St. Luke Union Church

Presbyterian Church (USA) • United Church of Christ
2101 East Washington St. Bloomington, IL 61701
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Sunday Worship Service — First Sunday After Christmas

December 29, 2024 10:30am

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Colossians 3:15-16

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to praise the Lord. As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, we seek to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. We work to bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven us, so we also must forgive. Above all, we clothe ourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, Christ, Holy Spirit, we call on You to be present with us in worship this day, and as we live and grow in You. Quiet our noisy thoughts, our list-making, our desire to live in the future or past rather than here now with You. We seek You, with open hearts. Draw near we pray, Amen.

HYMN #28

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

CALL TO CONFESSION

We seek to be God's true and faithful servants.

Together we confess where we have missed the mark toward this aim.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess to Almighty God precisely this: We are not almighty. We are fallible and fall short.

Like the Apostle Paul, we confess, “I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.” Forgive us, we pray. Loosen our grip on our own lives that we might grow more fully into the people You would have us be.

SILENT REFLECTION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Psalm 91 reminds us, "Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. For the Lord will command the angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways." Friends, believe the Good News, You are protected, you are loved, and you are forgiven, thanks be to God.

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

ANTHEM

“A Stable in Bethlehem”
SLUC Choir

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God, Your Word still speaks to us. Open our hearts, may we be transformed by Your steadfast love as You keep our lives, our going out and our coming in from this time on and forevermore.
Amen

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Samuel 2:18-20,26

HYMN #49

“Once in Royal David’s City”

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:41-52

SERMON

“Growing Into What?”
Rev. Susan Baller-Shepard

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 #37

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

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