

Welcome to
St. Luke Union Church

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

December 8, 2024 10:30am

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: John cries out: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

People: We light this candle in love, trusting that the Holy One who loves us will shape our hearts and minds.

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

People: As we walk daily in the way of the kingdom we await.

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: The Lord’s name be praised.

Reading:

Philippians 1:3-11

Prayer:

With John the Baptist, calling from the wilderness, we cry:

“Prepare the way of the Lord! Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

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

HYMN #9

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Saints, let us trust in God’s love for us and confess our sin, confident in God’s mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, your church, and society.

Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, I am confident of this: if we repent, God is sure to forgive us. The One who began a good work in us will bring it to completion. Grateful for the promise of joy and of peace, let us share that peace with one another. In Christ we are forgiven.

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

Lord, through your Holy Spirit instruct us by the light of your prophets. Illumine our hearts,
that we may hear your call to follow your path into the world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.
Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Malachi 3:1-4

ANTHEM

“Who Is This King of Glory?”
SLUC Choir

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 3:1-6

SERMON

“It’s Time”
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Gifford

HYMN #13

“Prepare the Way”

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