

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 — Second Sunday After Christmas

January 5, 2025 10:30am

Glory to Christ who is proclaimed among the nations, and believed in throughout the world.

1 Timothy 3:16

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Word became flesh and lived among us

And we have seen his glory.

The true light that enlightens everyone has come into the world.

Glory to God who has blessed us in Christ. Glory to God forever.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of glory, your Word made a home with us so that we might be at home in you.

Gather your children from the farthest places in the world and lead us to that home

where the human race can become a human family; through Jesus Christ and in the Spirit,
one God now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #56

“The First Nowell”

Verse 1/Refrain/Verse 2-3/Refrain/Verse 4-5/Refrain

CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting in God’s love made known in the gift of Jesus, let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we are a distracted people and forgetful of your love. We make selfish choices, hurt each other, and perpetuate injustice in your world. We have sinned against you and are deeply sorry and repent of our disregard of you, each other, and your creation. By the power of your Spirit, forgive, restore, and strengthen us to live in your light and walk in your truth; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

As children of the Holy One, God forgives you and loves you eternally. By the power of God’s Spirit, forgive yourself and forgive others as God in Christ has forgiven you.

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

Heavenly Father, Holy Wisdom came to dwell with us in Jesus, filling our world with light and life.
May Holy Wisdom also dwell within your word this day, that we may have intimate knowledge of your love for us, through the One who is close to your heart, Jesus Christ your Son. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Jeremiah 31:7-14

ANTHEM

“Love’s Perfect Light”
SLUC Choir

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON

“Gift of the Magi”
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Gifford

HYMN #22

“Angels, form the Realms of Glory”

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 #31

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

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