

Welcome to
St. Luke Union Church

Presbyterian Church (USA) • United Church of Christ
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Sunday Worship Service — Baptism of the Lord

January 12, 2025 10:30am

*A voice came out of the cloud saying, "This is my Son,
my Chosen; listen to him!" Luke 9:35*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

The voice of God resounds upon the water.

The Spirit of the Lord hovers over the stream.

The Son of God is named, "Beloved."

And all who worship shout out, "Glory!"

Ascribe to the Lord majesty and strength.

Let us worship God in holy splendor.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan the heavens opened, the Spirit descended, and your voice affirmed your love in Jesus for the healing of the human race and all creation. By water and word you lovingly invite us into this same life-giving mission. May your Spirit, moving like a stream of water flowing from its source, work in us this day to realize your vision of a world made new in Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

HYMN #492

"Baptized in Water"

CALL TO CONFESSION

God loves us and calls us each by name. Knowing we are eternally forgiven and infinitely loved, let us boldly confess our sins before God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are precious in your sight, yet we often forget that we are your beloved. We confess that our love is fickle and inconstant. We follow selfish goals and deny that our way of life harms others and hurts your world. We are sorry and we want to change. Create in us a clean heart, strengthen our resolve, reconcile us one to another, and bless us with your peace. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Beloved, God forgives your sins; know that you are pardoned and be at peace to love the Lord and serve the world. In Jesus name you are forgiven.

HYMN OF RESPONSE #579

"Glory Be to the Father"

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Glorious God, when Jesus was baptized the heavens opened in a flash of glory as vision and voice echoed upon the waters. May your Spirit so burn in us that we hear your word translated into deed and follow Jesus in paths of justice, right relationship, and peace. **Amen.**

EPISTLE LESSON

Acts 8:14-17

ANTHEM

“On the Wings of a Dove”
Charles and Martha Maney

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

SERMON

“Moral Elevation”
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Gifford

HYMN #322

“Spirit of the Living God”

OFFERING

HYMN #428 (verse 1)

“We Give Thee but Thine Own”

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 #316

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

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