

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 — Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 26, 2025 10:30am

*The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor and release to the captives.
Luke 4:18*

PRELUDE

OPENING SONG

“As We Gather”
Jeff Hendricker

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 19

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy One, we thank you for the gift of the Bible, for its psalms and poems, myths and stories, histories, teachings, and prophecies. May the Holy Spirit who called out those ancient writings continue to call us out today, that our lives may reflect the message of Ezra and the first sermon of Jesus, our crucified and risen Christ. Let us worship you this day. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

HYMN #464

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sin as an offering of our trust in God’s love and forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of our restoration, whenever we come home to you, we realize how far we have strayed and how much we have forgotten of your law and your love. We have not loved you with our whole hearts or loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, heal us, and restore us to our relationship with you and one another; through Jesus Christ, in whom we trust. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God’s word does not come to condemn us, but to make us wise, reviving our souls and rejoicing our hearts. God’s Word has been fulfilled among us in Jesus Christ, who sets us free to live in accord with God’s own jubilee. In Christ’s 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

Just as we see your wisdom and glory in nature around us, God, may we hear your Word for us in the words of these readings, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may be drawn closer to you. Through your great preacher, Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Nehemiah 8:1-10

ANTHEM

“Here I Am to Worship”
SLUC Choir

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 4:14-21

SERMON

“Good Speech”
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Gifford

HYMN #335

“Though I May Speak”

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 #420 (Verses 1/2/4)

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

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

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING