

Welcome to
St. Luke Union Church

Presbyterian Church (USA) • United Church of Christ
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**Sunday Worship Service —
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany and Scout Sunday**

February 23, 2025 10:30am

The love of God is perfected in those who obey the word of Christ. 1 John 2:5

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING SONG #SPW 27

“I Sing Praises”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Take delight in the Lord, who satisfies the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord and trust in God’s actions.

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for God.

The Lord is our salvation and our refuge in times of trouble.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of abundant mercy, you alone can turn evil into good, sorrow into rejoicing, and death into everlasting life. Teach us your way of grace; to meet hatred with kindness, to answer curses with blessing, to love without holding back, to give without thought of return. Let us worship this day all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN #467

“How Great Thou Art”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus promised us that God is kind even to the ungrateful and the wicked, even to us.

Trusting in God’s kindness and love, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have not followed your ways or trusted your promises. We love only those who love us; we show kindness only to those who are kind to us; we give only when we expect to receive. Forgive us, Lord. Fill our hearts with your selfless love. Change our lives by your matchless grace. These things we pray through Christ our Savior. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Children of the Most High God, through Jesus Christ our Lord we have received grace in good measure—spilling out and running over.

Now go and live as Christ commands: Be merciful, as God is merciful; do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; but forgive, and you will be forgiven. **Amen.**

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

Gracious God, by your Word you provide all we need for salvation, for wholeness, for abundant life. Now draw us close in your Spirit so that we may discover your will and live according to your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 45:1-15

ANTHEM

“The Perfect Wisdom of Our God”
SLUC Choir

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 6:27-38

SERMON

“Things I Don't Want To Do”
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Gifford

HYMN #414

“As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought”

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 #372

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

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