

Welcome to
St. Luke Union Church

Presbyterian Church (USA) • United Church of Christ
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Sunday Worship Service — Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025 10:30am

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:32

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING SONG #SPW 109

“Oh for a Thousand Tongues”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Everyone who thirsts:

Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent and return so that you may live.

All who are hungry for righteousness:

Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent and return so that you may live.

All who need the help of God:

Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent and return so that you may live.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Your glory and power, O God, surround us in your sanctuary. We lift up our hands and let us call on your name. We are your people, thirsty for the living water you alone can give. When we consider how you have helped us, giving us a spring that gushes up to eternal life, we cling to you, singing praises with joyful lips. Let us come to you today and worship our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN #420

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Scriptures call us to turn from sinful ways and return to God, who offers mercy and pardon. Trusting in that mercy, let us call upon God who is near and seek forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we have grown complacent in our response to you. You set before us a rich feast of blessing, but we are drawn to lesser things that cannot satisfy. You call us to attend to urgent needs in the world, but we indulge our own desires. Our ways are not your ways; our thoughts do not ascend to your thoughts. Forgive us when we fall short of your claim upon our lives. Disturb our complacency and quicken our desire for a more fruitful life. Be patient, we pray, as we amend who we are, in the hope of becoming who you intend us to be. We ask for forgiveness in the name of our Savior, your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God’s love is sure and steadfast, always providing a way out, a way through, a way back to God. Through the waters of baptism, we have died with Christ and are raised with him. With gratitude, in faith, we will walk the way of Christ as his forgiven children.

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

We seek you in your word, O God, as though we are searching for water in a dry and weary land. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may this word be to us a rich feast, satisfying the soul. Then with our mouths, we will praise you; and with our lives, we will bless you, our Host and our Hope. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 55:1-9

ANTHEM

“Jesus, My All, to Heaven Is Gone”
SLUC Choir

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 13:1-9

SERMON

“One More Chance”
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Gifford

HYMN #298

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

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 #422

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

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