

Welcome to  
**St. Luke Union Church**

Presbyterian Church (USA) • United Church of Christ  
2101 East Washington St. Bloomington, IL 61701  
309-663-7437 • stlukeunion.org • facebook.com/stlukeunionchurch

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Sunday Worship Service — Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025 10:30am

*Return to the Lord, your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Joel 2:13*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**OPENING SONG #SPW 109**

“Oh for a Thousand Tongues”

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Grace and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord. Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Gracious God, seeker of the lost: draw your children back to your loving embrace, restore us to our inheritance as daughters and sons, and reconcile our hearts to you, that we may become ambassadors of your reconciling love to all the world. Through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit we pray. **Amen.**

**HYMN #150**

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Trusting the grace promised to us in Jesus Christ, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your ways. Like the Prodigal Son, we have wasted our inheritance. You gave us the earth for our home, but we squander earth’s resources and hoard its bounty. You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions. You gave us the commandments that lead to human flourishing, but we break your law and forsake your love. Forgive us our sin and bring us to repentance. Draw our wandering hearts back to you that we may find freedom in obedience to your love. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.**

**SILENT REFLECTION**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

As a parent welcomes home a wayward child, so God embraces all who return in true repentance. In the name of Jesus Christ, we 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

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit open our minds and bodies to the re-creating power of your Word, that we may see the world through the mind of Christ and live in the world as a foretaste of your new creation. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Joshua 5:9-12

## ANTHEM

"I Love to Tell the Story"  
SLUC Choir

## EPISTLE LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

## GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

## SERMON

"Welcome Home"  
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Gifford

## HYMN #356

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

## 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 #280

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

## 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