

Welcome to
St. Luke Union Church

Presbyterian Church (USA) • United Church of Christ
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Ash Wednesday Worship Service

March 5, 2025 6:00pm

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, through love you have made us, and for love you call us to repentance. Grant that we who seek to mend our sinful ways may find strength in your compassion and forgiveness. Restore to us the joy of your salvation; give us your Holy Spirit that we may serve you with willing hearts, bearing witness to your abundant mercy in all the world; through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

HYMN #81

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting in divine mercy, and with humble hearts, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, whose ways are good and true, we confess that we have not lived as Christ has called us to live. We have shut our eyes to evils our world allows. We have sealed our ears from the cries of the suffering whose pain we abide. We have clung to the hostility we harbor against one another and hardened our hearts to the creative power of love.

Therefore we pray:

Open our eyes to see injustice in our world.

Give us courage to resist the powers that oppress the poor.

Open our ears to hear the cry of the needy.

Teach us generosity for sharing the abundance of your creation.

Open our minds to imagine an end to human strife.

Grant us wisdom to pursue the ways of peace.

Open our hearts to love our neighbors and our enemies near and far.

Give us desire to embody the compassion of Christ.

For the sake of the world, in the name of Christ we pray.

Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

According to the Lord’s abundant mercy, there is forgiveness for all who seek repentance, and grace for all who turn their hearts to the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

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.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

O Lord, by your Spirit open to us the Words of Life, a spring of water that shall never fail. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 58:1-12

ANTHEM

“Come Unto Me and Wait”
SLUC Choir

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalms 51:1-17

SERMON

“For Thee Not Me”
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Gifford

HYMN SPW #186

“We Are an Offering”

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

In peace let us pray to the Lord, saying, Lord have mercy.

For the church throughout the world, that all who bear the name of Christ may find true repentance for their sins and walk in the ways of the peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the nations of the world, wherever there is poverty, war, or oppression of human spirit, that all people may repent of the evil they do to one another, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the planet Earth, God’s gift to humankind, that we repent of selfish or thoughtless exploitation and tend it with care so that all may share justly in its bounty, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the leaders of the nations, that they may work for the common good of all people and repent of arrogant nationalism, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our enemies, that we may learn to love them with regard for God’s compassion, forgiving wrongs and seeking reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who are sick or in trouble, for the defenseless, the weak, and the poor, that they may find help in time of need, and that the church may heed their cry, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Loving God, hear the prayers of your people for the sake of our world. With our prayers, accept the dedication of our lives that we may minister to the world in the name of Jesus, through whom we pray.

Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

HYMN #370

“Just as I Am, Without One Plea”

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE