

Welcome to
St. Luke Union Church

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

March 9, 2025 10:30am

*The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not forsake.*

Psalms 51:17

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING SONG #SPW 186

“We Are an Offering”

CALL TO WORSHIP

The God of our ancestors heard our cries and saw our oppression when we were slaves in Egypt.

God brought us out with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with signs and wonders

God brought us through the wilderness.

The Lord, our shelter, our refuge, our dwelling place, says,

“When my people call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble;

I will show them my salvation.”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God Most High, thank you for signs of your power and grace, shown to us even in the wilderness.

Give us courage to stand firm in your Word in every time of trial and testing, that we may enter the land of your freedom and receive the salvation you so generously give. May we feel your presence as we worship you this day. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN #466

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

CALL TO CONFESSION

God is faithful, leading us into freedom, but we are conditioned to the slavery of sin. Comfortable with the way things are, we lose sight of the way God intends them to be. We bring our confession before the One who is more powerful than Pharaoh in Egypt, and mightier than the devil in the wilderness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, our refuge and fortress, forgive us when we fail to trust in you. We fall to temptation; we are swayed by false words; we speak false words of our own. We choose our ease and comfort over your demanding claims upon us and upon the world. In turning from you, we settle for less than the abundant generosity you intend. Forgive us, we pray. Do not let us be put to shame, O God. Hear us as we call to you and show us your salvation. In Christ’s name we pray. **Amen.**

SILENT REFLECTION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Scripture declares, The Lord is generous to all who call on God’s name. Friends, believe the good news: God does not turn away from us, but desires to bring us into the glorious freedom offered in Jesus Christ. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. You are forgiven.

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.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Chuck and Martha Maney

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Bring your word near to us, O God. May it rest not only on our lips, but also reside in our hearts.
By the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to respond to your word with our whole lives until you
become our dwelling place; through Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 10:8b-13

ANTHEM

“Come Unto Me and Wait”
SLUC Choir

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 4:1-13

SERMON

“Into the Wilderness”
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Gifford

HYMN #387

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

OFFERING

HYMN #428 (Verse 1)

“We Give Thee but Thine Own”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN #341

“Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!”

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