

Welcome to
St. Luke Union Church

Presbyterian Church (USA) • United Church of Christ
2101 East Washington St. Bloomington, IL 61701
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Sunday Worship Service — Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 6, 2025 10:30am

*Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, we press on toward
the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 3:13,14

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING SONG #SPW 214

“Wonderful, Merciful Savior”

CALL TO WORSHIP

As people formed by God, we give praise to God:

Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert, Christ among us—God is doing a new thing!

As people restored by God, we give praise to God:

Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert, Christ among us—God is doing a new thing!

As people pressing on in faith, we give praise to God:

Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert, Christ among us—God is doing a new thing!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creator God, you have formed us as your own, so whether we are weeping or laughing, dreaming or shouting for joy, we are always coming home to you. Let us worship you this day with open hearts.

For all this and more, we thank you in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

HYMN #376

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

CALL TO CONFESSION

If we ask God to restore us to the way we have been, then we have not asked for as much as God intends to give. God is not content simply to return or restore us to former things. Instead, God seeks to give the gift of resurrection—a new and abundant life. With confidence in God’s generosity, we confess our sins and seek the new life offered in Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Purifying God, we grow comfortable with the way things are in our lives, in the church, and in the world. We do not always welcome the new life you offer in Christ, for you overturn our notions of power and protocol. Sure in our own self-righteousness, we are critical of others. Wanting to control our assets, we hoard the gifts you give us. Forgive us, we pray, for seeking our gain at the expense of others. Help us bend our lives toward your own life of self-giving and sacrifice. Fill us, our homes and churches, the whole world, with the abundant love of Christ until all are made new. In Christ’s name, we pray. **Amen.**

SILENT REFLECTION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The apostle Paul reminds us that we do not make ourselves righteous. Our righteousness comes through faith in Christ, who has made us his own. Hear the good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. The old life has passed away—and a new life has begun. Forgetting what lies behind, and straining forward to what lies ahead, we press on toward the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

HYMN OF RESPONSE #579

“Glory Be to the Father”

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Break open the Scripture through the power of your Spirit, O God. Let your word, read and proclaimed, pour out until its fragrance fills this house and our lives. Then, anointed with your word, send us out to share the good news we have received. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who is with us always.
Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 12:1-8

ANTHEM

“How Amazing!”
SLUC Choir

EPISTLE LESSON

Philippians 3:4b-14

SERMON

“Transformation”
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Gifford

HYMN #359

“More Love to Thee, O Christ”

OFFERING

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord’s Prayer

Words of Institution

Distribution of Loaf and Cup

Prayer Following Communion

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 #485

“To God Be the Glory”

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