

Welcome to
St. Luke Union Church

Presbyterian Church (USA) • United Church of Christ
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Sunday Worship Service

August 16, 2026 10:30 am

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

OPENING SONG

“His Mercy Is More”

We will remain seated as we sing.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Merciful God, this day is full of possibilities and healing reconciliation, for new beginnings and restored relationships. **Unite our hearts with Your will. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus, Son of God, your blessings know no boundaries that faith cannot cross. Strengthen us to trust in your mercy, reach out for your healing, and receive your reconciliation. **Amen.**

***HYMN #477**

“Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins without fear to the One who yearns to embrace us, forgive us, protect us, and bless us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess we have not been obedient to your will for us. We have sought justice for ourselves but neglected justice for others. We have insisted on our rights but have not lived rightly in our relationships. We have desired mercy for our sins, but we have not offered mercy to those who have sinned against us. By the power of your Holy Spirit free us from the prison of our disobedience. Help us to love as you have loved us that our lives may testify to your abounding grace through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

SILENT REFLECTION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Receive the gift of forgiveness and share that gift with others, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #579**

“Glory Be to the Father”

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Merciful Savior, your suffering has saved our lives, secured our future, and restored us to a relationship with God. Remove the shame and fear that cause us to cower in your presence. By the power of your Spirit, open our eyes and hearts to your Word of love, mercy, healing, and blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 56:1,6-8

*HYMN #298

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"
Tune: "Come, Thou Fount"

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 15:21-28

SERMON

"Wide Mercy"
Rev. Susan Baller-Shepard

Spiritual Challenge #6:

This week is a challenge with a choice. First, you can watch where and when you see mercy exhibited in the world. Let us know some of the stories or places you've seen mercy. Or, pray like the Canaanite woman, "Lord, help me," about something near and dear to your heart. How does this prayer change things?

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*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.

*HYMN #422

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*HYMN #593

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

*POSTLUDE

Thank you to today's liturgist, Lynne Wright.