

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

Sunday Worship Service

August 23, 2026 10:30 am

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

You, who are many, are transformed to become one in Christ.

We, who are many, are called to worship God, the Three in One. Let us worship God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Ever-present God, who is at the side of every creature in creation, renew our lives so that we may discern and do your will, what is good and acceptable and perfect. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

***HYMN #417**

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Confident in this ever-gracious, never-failing help, we come before the Lord, confessing our sin and seeking forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgiving God, we confess that we are conformed to this world. We conform to this world's frantic pace, too hectic to notice all the blessings you provide. We conform to this world's reckless waste, exploiting what you entrust to our care. We conform to this world's shallow values, oblivious to the giftedness of people different from us. We conform to this world's impatient attitudes, preferring the latest instead of the lasting. Forgive our conformity and transform us, O God. We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SILENT REFLECTION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,

We would now be lost in sin.

But it is the Lord who is on our side.

And so we are forgiven. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #579**

"Glory Be to the Father"

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Lord our God, your name and your word are exalted above everything. We are listening for your word; we are looking for your light. By the power of the Holy Spirit, renew our minds and hearts so we may discern your will and respond in faith. We pray in the name of your Son, our Savior. **Amen.**

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 12:1-8

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 16:13-20

SERMON

“Holy Transitions & Transformations”

Rev. Susan Baller-Shepard

Spiritual Challenge #7:

Consider the names of God. YHWH (Yahweh), Elohim (Creator God) Lord, Adonai (Lord and Master), El Shaddai (God Almighty, All Sufficient), El Olam (Everlasting God) El Roi (God Who Sees) Immanuel (God with us), El Emeth (God of Truth), Alpha & Omega (Beginning & the End), Messiah-Christ (Anointed One), Redeemer, The Rock, the Advocate Holy Spirit, The Comforter, etc. Try praying to God using a name for God you don't always use. Sometimes this can deepen our faith by bringing forth an aspect of God we haven't counted on before.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*HYMN #428 (Verse 1) “We Give Thee but Thine Own”

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN #SPW 186

“We Are an Offering”

We will remain seated as we sing

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 #441

“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*HYMN #593

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

*POSTLUDE

Thank you to today's liturgist, Jim Munro.