

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 9, 2026 10:30 am

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

OPENING SONG #SPW 218

“Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus”

We will remain seated as we sing.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God speaks peace to the faithful, to those who turn to God in their hearts.

Surely salvation is at hand for those who fear God.

Where God dwells, steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Faithfulness springs up from the ground and righteousness looks down from the sky. God gives what is good and we respond with abundant praise!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, you speak to us in a voice unexpected and come to us in ways we do not recognize.

Never leaving us to our own devices or defenses, you are the ever-present, all-powerful God.

Call us out in faith again and again, until we learn to walk with you in steadfast love and faithfulness, and in peace. In the name of him who comes to us upon the waters, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

***HYMN #308**

“O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

CALL TO CONFESSION

God makes no distinctions among us, the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous. Indeed, everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Confessing our sins, we depend on God's generosity and grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you call us to step out in faith, trusting in you for all things. We respond to your command but then sink in doubt and fear. We hide from the challenges of bold discipleship. We are not able to fulfill your commandments, for our purposes are never in full accord with yours. Forgive us, we pray, when we confess with our lips but do not believe in our hearts. Help us to practice our faith in all circumstances. Lift us out of sin into the arms of your mercy. Though we are distracted by noise all around, allow us to hear your voice even when it is the sound of sheer silence.

SILENT REFLECTION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Jesus is Lord! God raised him from the dead and we are saved through him.

**This is the good news we believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths:
in Jesus Christ we are forgiven! This is good news to share with all people!**

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #579**

“Glory Be to the Father”

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of our present trouble and promised triumph, open our eyes to see you in the midst of our struggles. Open our ears to hear your words of invitation and assurance. Open our minds to recall your wonderful works and miracles. Open our hearts to glory in your name and seek strength in your Word; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 37:1-4

SOLO

"Voice of an Angel"
Chuck Maney

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 14:22-33

SERMON

"Our Stance in Storms"
Rev. Susan Baller-Shepard

Spiritual Challenge #5:

Stepping out in faith amidst a storm can be daunting, yet Jesus bids us "come." Step out in faith to do something that might feel scary. Risk something in faith this week. If it is something you've had doubt about before, all the better.

HYMN #404

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

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 #379

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*HYMN #593

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

*POSTLUDE

Thank you to today's liturgist, Penny Kellogg.