Welcome to

St. Luke Union Church

Presbyterian Church (USA) • United Church of Christ
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Sunday Worship Service November 1, 2026 10:30 am

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"
SLUC Joyringers

CALL TO WORSHIP

O give thanks to the Lord, who is good. God's steadfast love endures forever!
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so: **God's steadfast love endures forever!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Most astounding God, you lead us through deserts and grant us safe crossings. You save us from trouble and deliver us from distress. You satisfy our hunger and quench our thirst with righteousness and mercy. When we lose our way, you pull us back to you and overwhelm us with love. All honor and glory are yours, our master, our teacher, our friend. Amen.

***HYMN #281** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

CALL TO CONFESSION

God turns the desert into pools of water and guides those who have gone astray. Let us confess to God the depth of our needs, that we may be saved from trouble.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord God, only you are holy. Yet we imagine that we are righteous, excusing our own faults while pointing out those of others. We are quick to lay burdens upon our neighbors but slow to help with their own. We take credit and give blame. In spite of the grace you have shown to us, we are slow to show mercy. Forgive us, O God, and wash us clean. That we may serve you with joy and thanksgiving. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Sisters and brothers, God has made a way where there was no way. In Christ Jesus sin and death have been vanquished, and we live in a state of grace. Believe the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** #579 "Glory Be to the Father"

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

By your Spirit, O God, still our restless spirits and unstop our ears. Let us hear your Word, that it may be at work in us; for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON — Joshua 3:7-17

ANTHEM — "I Love to Tell the Story"
SLUC Choir

GOSPEL LESSON — Matthew 23:1-12

SERMON — "Renewed in Faith"
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Gifford

HYMN #322 — "Spirit of the Living God"
We will remain seated as we sing.

OFFERING

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
Invitation
Prayer of Thanksgiving
The Lord's Prayer
Words of Institution
Distribution of Loaf and Cup
Prayer Following Communion

*HYMN #526 — "For All the Saints"

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*HYMN #593 — "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"
Our tradition is joining hands for our final song. For those who'd prefer not to join hands, raising your hands in a prayer or praise position signals this to your neighbor.

*POSTLUDE

Thank you to today's liturgist, Lynne Wright.