

ST. LUKE'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

727 N. Main St.
Independence, Missouri 64050
Church Phone: 461-0302
www.stlukesuccindep.org

Rev. E. Paul Emily, Pastor
Pastor's Phone: 816-379-5726
stlukes@stlukesuccindep.org
Margie Foley, Organist/Pianist
Matthew Bennett, Conductor/Violinist

Nanette Moore, Administrative Assistant/Director of Christian Education
Pastors Emeriti: Rev. David Lyon & Rev. Ralph Koch
The hymns today come from The Celebration Hymnal.

May 2, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SILENT MEDITATION: "The purpose of God in creation was, and is, to fashion a fellowship of free spirits knit together by a love in all its members which answers to the manifested love of God..." --William Temple

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

Arr. Colin Curtis

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"

ST. THOMAS

I love thy kingdom, Lord,
the house of thine abode,
the church our blest Redeemer saved
with his own precious blood.

I love thy church, O God:
her walls before thee stand,
dear as the apple of thine eye
and graven on thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall,
for her my prayers ascend;
to her my cares and toils be giv'n,
'til toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heav'nly ways,
her sweet communion, solemn vows,
her hymns of love and praise.

Sure as thy truth shall last,
to Zion shall be giv'n
the brightest glories earth can yield,
and brighter bliss of heav'n.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Christ is the True Vine.

All: And we are the branches.

One: Connected to God, we bear good fruit!

All: We seek to find our connection to the True Vine.

One: Connected to God, we have fullness of joy.

All: In our worship and in our living, we are connected to the True Vine.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God of Love and Mercy, we have pursued self-interest rather than abiding in your love. We have turned away from brothers and sisters as if they were enemies. We are afraid to love those who differ from us. We hesitate to take the risks of caring for fear we may be hurt. Release us from our fears and failures and free us to abide in your love and in the love of a connected and caring community. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA PATRI **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PRAYER and 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 sins as we forgive those
who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC	"In Christ Alone"	Shawn Craig and Don Koch
SCRIPTURE	John 15:1-8	
SERMON	"Our Lifeline"	
CONGREGATIONAL HYMN "Praise the Savior"		ACCLAIM

Praise the Savior, ye who know Him!
Who can tell how much we owe Him?
Gladly let us render to Him
all we are and have.

Jesus is the name that charms us;
He for conflict fits and arms us;
nothing moves and nothing harms us
while we trust in Him.

Keep us, Lord, O keep us cleaving
to Thyself and still believing,
till the hour of our receiving
promised joys with Thee.

Then we shall be where we would be,
then we shall be what we should be;
things that are not now, nor could be,
soon shall be our own.

OFFERING OUR TIME, TALENTS AND TITHES

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“The Water is Wide”

John Purifoy

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)

We give, gracious God, because we are grateful. We are thankful for those who have guided our attempts to understand the scriptures. We give in order to extend to others the blessings we have received. May these gifts, and we who give them, be blessed by your Spirit to make known your message of grace and hope through the ministry of this congregation. Amen

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Affirmation and Renewal of Faith (United Church of Canada Statement of Faith ~ in Unison)

We believe in God:

Who has created and is creating,
Who has come in Jesus,
The Word made flesh,
To reconcile and make new,
Who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

To celebrate God's presence,
To love and serve others,
To seek justice and resist evil,
To proclaim Jesus,
Crucified and risen,
Our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Sacrament

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

Thank you, God, for the grace that restores us into fellowship with you and one another. Here we have been united across the space that divides us. Here the good treasure of our faith has been affirmed, rekindled, nurtured and celebrated. Here we have known the presence of your Spirit. May we stand and live, united in one community, to serve and honor you in all we do. Amen

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN "God Will Take Care of You" (vs 1,2,4)

GOD CARES

Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
God will take care of you;
Beneath his wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.

Refrain:

God will take care of you,
through ev'ry day, o'er all the way;
He will take care of you,
God will take care of you.

Through days of toil when heart doth fail,
God will take care of you;
When dangers fierce your path assail,
God will take care of you. (Refrain)

No matter what may be the test,
God will take care of you.
Lean, weary one, upon His breast;
God will take care of you. (Refrain)

**BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE**

"I've Got the Joy"

Arr. Mark Hayes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please join us for Virtual Sunday School. For more information do the following contact the church office.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday

9:30 AM Virtual Sunday School for All Ages

10:45 AM Online Worship

Monday—Friday, 10:45 AM Live with Pastor Paul in Windows Facebook Group

For more information about any of these, please email the church office at stlukes@stlukesuccindep.org

GIVING OPTIONS

If you wish to make a donation to St. Luke's,
there are several options available:

1. Check mailed to church office at 727 N. Main, Independence, MO 64050
2. Internet donation – you may now donate from a secure site by clicking on the Give Now button below.
3. Electronic funds transfer – your offering can be automatically deducted from your checking or savings account.

To sign up, click here. After completing the form, contact the church office stlukes@stlukesuccindep.org for instructions.

4. GivePlus mobile giving app - download the free app on Google Play or the App Store. Enter St. Luke's United Church of Christ as the church name or tap "Find Churches Near Me". Select St. Luke's United Church of Christ and tap Give Now.

5. Text the word GIVE to 816-312-5053 and you will be directed to a secure site for giving.

CONNECT

If you are visiting today we would love to connect with you. Text CONNECT to 816-312-5053 .