

# ST. LUKE'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

727 N. Main St.  
Independence, Missouri 64050  
Church Phone: 816-461-0302  
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

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. David Lyon & Rev. Ralph Koch

\*If comfortable doing so, you are invited to stand.

**The hymns today come from The Methodist Hymnal.**

---

**DECEMBER 29, 2024**

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**SILENT MEDITATION:** "For all that has been—thanks.  
For all that shall be—yes!" Dag Hammarskjold

## **GATHERING MUSIC**

### **GREETING**

### **PRELUDE**

"Adeste Fideles"

Arr. Jacob B. Weber

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 219 "What Child Is This"

**GREENSLEEVES**

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. (Refrain)

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. (Refrain)

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come, join the search for all God will reveal.

**All: We are the church, committed to an encounter with the mystery of God.**

One: The glory of God has risen upon us.

**All: God has sent light to dispel our fears.**

One: The radiance of truth surrounds us.

**All: Boldly and confidently we approach our God.**

## **\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

### **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

**God of Grace, your promise is to make all things new. Let not our past predict our future. Dwell in us to make us a new people, responsive to your eternal design. Open our eyes, open our hearts and lead us another step toward eternity's purpose for our lives. 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.**

## **MOMENTS WITH MINNIE**

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

“O Come All Ye Faithful”  
Joshua Ramon, Trumpet

John A Dempsey

### **PASTORAL 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**

“Jesus Means Christmas to Me”

Arr. Luke Gambill

### **SCRIPTURE**

John 1:1-5,14

### **SERMON**

“It’s Just the Beginning”

### **\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 238 “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

**GLORIA**

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? (Refrain)

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)

See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. (Refrain)

### **STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION**

#### **CALL TO STEWARDSHIP**

#### **THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS**

“Mary Had a Baby”

Arr. Mark Hayes

#### **\*CELEBRATING STEWARDSHIP — DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:  
Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

#### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)**

**God of Hope and Blessing, may our hands extend a blessing to friends and strangers  
who may have needs. May our presence comfort and inspire others. May our witness to  
your gift of newness help to make it real to those whose path lack the light of hope.  
Help us face the future and all it holds by trusting you, as we join in the work to which  
you call us, wiping away tears and caring for the least of those among us. Amen**

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: [Refrain]

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: [Refrain]

Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;  
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: (Refrain)

**BENEDICTION  
POSTLUDE**

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

Arr. Luke Gambill

The Liturgist today is Mel Sehart.  
Thank you to John Kritos for accompanying the hymns.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**HOLIDAY OFFICE, LIVESTREAM AND SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE**

**Monday**, December 30th—9:45 AM—Livestream and Regular Office Hours  
**Tuesday & Wednesday**, December 31st & January 1st—NO livestreams and Office Closed  
**Thursday**, January 2nd—Resume regular schedule

**WINTER WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

If in person worship is canceled due to winter weather conditions, the announcement will be put on the website, in the Facebook group Windows Into St. Luke's, and on Channel 9. When looking on Channel 9, look for St. Luke's UCC, Independence. There are other churches with the same name. The service will be livestreamed on Facebook no matter what the weather is.

**SAVE THE DATES**

There are many things coming up that you want to add to your calendars.  
More details will be put in the bulletin and Glimpse closer to time.

**ANNUAL MEETING**

January 28th, immediately following worship. This will be a hybrid meeting, both in person and on zoom. You will be able to join the zoom meeting as soon as worship ends and the meeting will begin when technology is in place. A link to the zoom meeting will be sent out the week before the meeting

**PASTOR PAUL'S 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

We will celebrate Pastor Paul's 10 years of Ministry at St. Luke's on February 16th, during and after worship. A lot of fun surprises are being planned. You won't want to miss it.

## CHECK IN, SHARE AND COMMENT



If you are worshipping in person, please “Check-in” on Facebook, then, share the service, comment on it and like it. You are encouraged to have your device out during the service. If the music inspires you, tell Matthew and Margie by commenting about how wonderful it was or say thank you.

If the sermon speaks to you, comment with how it touched you. If there is a great story during Children’s Moment or a kid makes you laugh, comment and tell what it was. If someone makes a comment, reply to them. We encourage you to connect with those online as well as in person. If you are worshipping online, share and comment on the service. Comment on the things listed above, reply to and/or like other people’s comments. It is so important to stay connected & these are simple ways to do that.

## INSTAGRAM

Use this QR code to follow St. Luke’s UCC on Instagram!



## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

10:45 AM Online & In person Worship followed by in person fellowship  
Monday—Friday, 9:45 AM Live with Pastor Paul in Windows Facebook Group  
Monday & Wednesday, 6:30 PM NA Meeting

For more information about any of these, please email the church office at [stlukes@stlukesuccindep.org](mailto: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 on the website.
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](mailto:stlukes@stlukesuccindep.org) for instructions.

4. Vanco Mobile App - download the free app on Google Play or the App Store. Enter St Lukes (without punctuation) as the church name Select St. Luke's United Church of Christ in Independence. From there you can create an account and use the app for donations.

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 or use the QR code to the right.



## PHOTO/VIDEO POLICY

May it be understood that any pictures/videos taken during any church event may be used for promotion. Church events, including but not limited to, worship services may be broadcast live on Facebook.

If you are not in agreement with this notify the church office.