

ST. LUKE'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Independence, Missouri 64050
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Rev. E. Paul Emily, Pastor
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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 8, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SILENT MEDITATION: "Isn't that what Christmas is all about? The hope that in the end, our better natures will prevail." –John Foster in *"The Man Who Invented Christmas"*

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING

PRELUDE

"Long Expected Jesus Medley"

Arr. Nick Robertson

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 184 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he
of the things that are, that have been
and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heaven, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory and dominion,
and eternal victory, evermore and evermore. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather to hear words of promise and hope; words of peace and joy; words of challenge.

All: Give us ears to hear your word, O God.

One: We gather expecting God to move and work among us.

All: Give us expectant hearts that anticipate the movement of your Spirit, O God.

One: We gather seeking to know what God's love has done, is doing and will do in our world.

**All: In this season of promise and preparation,
we come to be redeemed, renewed and restored.**

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God of Promise and Peace, bring us back to a sense of mystery, a sense of awe and wonder, a sense of excited anticipation, a sense that something special is about to break into our everyday world. Help us prepare our hearts, souls and minds for the coming of Christ among us. Our paths have become crooked and our way is blocked by mountains of sin. Forgive us and guide our feet back into the path of peace. 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.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE

All: Loving God, draw us into the light of your peace, melting hearts of ice and giving the angels reason to sing. Give us a burning passion which risks and works for peace each day. May your realm of peace come among us and may our lives become pure reflections of the Prince of Peace. Amen

MOMENTS WITH MINNIE

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

“Canticle of Joy”

Arr. by Camp Kirkland and Tom Fetteke

SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:1-11

SERMON

“Can People Change?”

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 218 “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”**

CAROL

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS “Behold That Star”

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)

Good and Loving God, these gifts are brought with our love for you and for our world.
Bless these offerings with the power of the Holy Spirit. May the way be prepared and
the message of Christ’s peace to be proclaimed. Use us as your messengers to all who
wait to hear the good news of great joy which is for all people. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 204 “Emmanuel, Emmanuel” (Sing Twice)

McGEE

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

BENEDICTION POSTLUDE

“Celebrate the Day!”

Franklin Ritter

The Liturgist today is Pete Jaberg.
Thank you to Carol Lyon for accompanying the hymns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS **MEN’S FELLOWSHIP**

Men’s Fellowship will meet on Monday, December 9th, at Noon
Soup and dessert will be served. It is a time for men and their friends to gather for a time of fellowship. If you
have any questions, please contact Larry Franciskato.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This year’s Christmas Pageant will be on December 15th, during worship. Plan to attend to experience the
Christmas story and traditions from around the world, through the eyes, voices and laughter of children.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be Tuesday, December 24th, at 7:00 PM in person or virtual.
Invite a friend to this very special Christmas Eve Worship Service.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you would like Offering Envelopes for the new year, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or
contact the church office. Let us know whether you would like weekly or monthly envelopes

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A LITURGIST?

If you would like to be a liturgist please contact the church office. A new list goes out
twice a year and you typically serve 2-3 times in a six month period

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.

NEW YEAR’S WORSHIP AND BREAKFAST

Let’s celebrate the end of 2024 and the beginning of 2025 with breakfast, fellowship and worship with your
church family on December 29th. Breakfast at 9:30 followed by worship at 10:45 AM.

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

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 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.