

ST. LUKE'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

727 N. Main St.
Independence, Missouri 64050
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www.stlukesuccindep.org
Margie Foley, Organist/Pianist
Matthew Bennett, Conductor/Violinist

Rev. E. Paul Emily, Pastor
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Pastors Emeriti: Rev. David Lyon & Rev. Ralph Koch

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

The hymns today come from The Celebration Hymnal.

JANUARY 18, 2026
SILENT MEDITATION

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

"Holy ground is the stable place of clarity and confidence in a turbulent human landscape of shifting values, crumbling hopes, frayed trusts, uncertain commitments." John S. Mogabgab

GATHERING MUSIC
GREETING
PRELUDE

"Prelude on Quebec"

Henry Baker

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 290 "As with Gladness Men of Old"**

DIX

As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, To that lowly manger bed;
There to bend the knee before Him whom heav'n and earth adore;
So, may we with willing feet Ever seek the mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare At that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, every day Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come! Let us find refuge in the shelter of God's love.

All: We are eager for a place of shelter and sanctuary.

One: Come! Feast upon the abundance of God's mercy.

All: We are ready to hear the truths of God's word.

One: Come! Drink deeply from the fountain of life.

All: We are open to the empowering and transforming light of God.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Loving and Giving God, we stand in despair when you wait to fill us with new possibility. We stand in helplessness when you wait to fill us with purpose and power. Forgive us for our lack of faith and for ceasing to be the blessing which you call us to be to all your children. 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

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

"Blessed Assurance"

Phoebe Palmer Knapp

SCRIPTURE SERMON

Psalms 36:1-10
"Where Do We Stand?"

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 424 "The Servant Song"

THE SERVANT SONG

Brother, sister, let me serve you, Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to Let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey; We're together on this road.
We are here to help each other Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you In the night-time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you, Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow Till we've seen this journey thro'.

When we sing to God in heaven, We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together Of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you, Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to Let you be my servant too.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

William B. Bradbury

*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 All Abundance, come, bless these gifts and the ones who bring them. May your
Spirit transform the gifts we bring and the lives we live into what is needed to bring the
fullness of your joy into our hearts, our homes, our congregation, our neighborhood
and our world. Amen

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 572 "Blessed Assurance"

ASSURANCE

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]

Perfect submission - all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with His goodness, lost in His love. [Refrain]

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL MEETING

January 25th, 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.

ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS

If you need an annual giving statement/tax statement, please sign up on the sheet in the hallway or email the church office at stlukes@stlukesuccindep.org Your statement can be given to you the following Sunday, emailed or mailed to you. Please indicate your preference when making your request.

PRAYER FOR PEACE SERVICE

Boyd Ahrens, former Music Director at St. Luke's UCC, will be playing the organ at the Community of Christ Temple, 1001 W Walnut, Independence for their weekly Prayer for Peace Service, on Wednesday, February 11th, at 1:00 PM. All are welcome to attend. The service is also available on the Temple's Facebook page & YouTube Channels.

SHARING TABLE

Take time on Sundays, or anytime during normal office hours, to **SHOP** at the sharing table. There are Bibles and some old hymnals available if you would like to take one or even more.

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.



CHECK IN, SHARE AND COMMENT ON FACEBOOK

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.

INSTAGRAM

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



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sundays 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

For Giving options click on the QR code to the left.

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.