

ST. LUKE'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

727 N. Main St.
Independence, Missouri 64050
Church Phone: 816-461-0302
www.stlukesuccindep.org
Margie Foley, Organist/Pianist
Matthew Bennett, Conductor/Violinist

Rev. E. Paul Emily, Pastor
Pastor's Phone: 816-379-5726
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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.

AUGUST 30, 2026

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SILENT MEDITATION: "If I let God take hold of me more and more; possess me, as fire possesses the burning log, then I give off light and heat to the whole world even though the influence be completely hidden."
—Ruth Burrows, Before the Living God

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING

PRELUDE

"Near to the Heart of God"

Cleland B. McAfee

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 407 "God Has Spoken by His Prophets"

BEECHER

God has spoken by His prophets, Spoken His unchanging Word,
Each from age to age proclaiming God, the one, the righteous Lord.
In the world's despair and turmoil One firm anchor holds us fast:
God is King, His throne eternal, God the First and God the Last.

God has spoken by Christ Jesus, Christ the everlasting Son,
Brightness of the Father's glory, With the Father ever one;
Spoken by the Word incarnate, God of God, ere time was born;
Light of Light, to earth descending, Christ as God in human form.

God is speaking by His Spirit, Speaking to our hearts again;
In the ageless Word expounding God's own message, now as then.
Thro' the rise and fall of nations One sure faith yet standing fast:
God abides, His Word unchanging, God the First and God the Last.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God is light and there is no darkness in God at all.

All: Since we live in the light, we have fellowship with each other.

One: Live your life as children of light.

All: Let our light produce fruit of goodness, justice and truth.

One: Be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord!

All: May God's Fiery Spirit burn brightly in our worship and in our living.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Merciful God, shine into the dark places of our lives and into the shadowy depths of our souls. In your grace and mercy, transform us into vessels of light, that we might be lamps shining with compassion, kindness, justice and mercy, reflecting your light through the darkness of our world. 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	“The Hand of God Shall Hold You”	Marty Haugen
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SCRIPTURE Exodus 3:1-15

SERMON "Discovering Fire"

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 217 "Holy Ground"** BEATTY

This is holy ground; We're standing on holy ground, For the Lord is present and where He is is holy.
This is holy ground; We're standing on holy ground, For the Lord is present and where He is is holy.

These are holy hands; He's given us holy hands. He works through these hands & so these hands are holy.
These are holy hands; He's given us holy hands. He works through these hands & so these hands are holy.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS “Lamb of God” Bob Hurd

*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)**

Gracious God, we seek to reflect your light in our world. May the offerings we present be used in ways that cast the light of your grace over others. May the work and power of your transforming hope be shared with our community and as far as our influence can reach. Receive us and our gifts, we pray. Amen

I, the Lord of sea and sky I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in deepest sin My hand will save
I have made the stars of night I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain: Here I am, Lord Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My people's pain.
I have wept for love of them, They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide 'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them Whom shall I send?

**BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE**

"Go Into the World"

Natalie Sleeth

The Liturgist is Jodie Puhr.
Thank you to Carol Lyon for accompanying the hymns today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RALLY SUNDAY

September 13th

Sunday School begins with classes for all ages. After worship there will be a freewill offering lunch.

Sunday School classes are hybrid, both online and in person.

If you would like a link to join online please contact the church office.

The Prophets Class uses zoom and the Dreamers Class uses Google Meet.

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.

