



**Welcome to Saint Luke's – Aug. 27, 2023**

*Today's flowers are given to honor the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Phil and Ginger Williams.*

**In Preparation for Worship**

“None of us would behave so unseemly, recklessly, and extravagantly. These are not stories about us. They are stories about God.” – Will Willimon

**Prelude**

Sheep May Safely Graze

J.S. Bach, arr. Egon Petri

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship\***

Leader: God calls to the lost, the least, and all who long for home.

People: God calls when we wander from the path chosen for us.

Leader: God calls and welcomes us back to worship this day.

People: Let us celebrate and rejoice in God's gracious presence with us.

**Opening Hymn\* 20**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

**Prayer of Confession\***

Holy God, we must confess that when we find ourselves unskilled at doing good for others, we too often turn away from those in need. Too often, we turn a deaf ear to the cries of people around us. Searching God, who never relents from rescuing us, forgive us and restore us to your goodness. Then, send us forth to search for all who sit in the shadowed corners of our world, yearning for someone to come and find them, even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, came to find us. *(a moment of silence is kept for personal prayers)*

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayers. Amen.

**Assurance of Forgiveness\***

**Song of Praise\***

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

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

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Reading**

Luke 15: 3-6

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## Tell Us Our Story

Catherine Anne Thomas

Children are welcome to come forward for Tell Us Our Story. After Tell Us Our Story, parents will walk children across courtyard to Room 117 (3 and under) and Room 119 (PreK and K). 1st through 5th graders will gather in the narthex and walk with leaders to 252Kid and 252Preteen. Parents will pick up from The Dock and The Lighthouse. Of course, all children are always welcome to remain in worship with their families.

## Anthem

Come Unto Me

Mark Blankenship

## Sermon

Even Us, Even You

Shannon Dill

## Affirmation of Faith\*

from A Brief Statement of Faith (1983)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.  
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.  
In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.  
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Amen.

## Prayers of the People 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## The Offering

Safe Within Your Arms

Mark Hayes

Lindsey Sanders

All are invited to participate in support of God's work at Saint Luke's, in one of three ways:

- 1) Giving envelopes, available in each pew, may be placed in the offering plates as they are passed.
- 2) Give online via [slpres.org/giving](http://slpres.org/giving).
- 3) Send a text message to 73256, starting with the keyword GIVETOSLPRES followed by the amount.

## Closing Hymn\* 821

My Life Flows On

## Benediction\*

## Postlude\*

Enigma Variations Op. 36, No. 9

Edward Elgar, arr. Robert Gower

**Please join us in the church lobby for fellowship and conversation!**

For the latest Saint Luke's news and information, go to [slpres.org](http://slpres.org).

If you would like to share prayer concerns, or know someone who would (with their permission), you may submit prayer requests for inclusion in the Prayer Guide by sending them to [prayerrequest@slpres.org](mailto:prayerrequest@slpres.org).



SAINT LUKE'S  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**SLPRES.ORG**

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