



SAINT LUKE'S  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 23, 2025 10:30 am



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## In Preparation for Worship

“Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.” – Ian Maclaren

### Prelude

Here I Am, Lord  
*arr. John Carter*

Kelly Sloan & Jen Weier

## Welcome and Announcements

### Call to Worship\*

Leader: Worship is a place to rest.

**People: We breathe deeply here. We still our aching bones. We sit in the quiet.  
We surround ourselves with music.**

Leader: Worship is a place to rest. Worship is a place to grow.

**People: We listen for God's word. We invite it to challenge us. We lean in with  
curiosity. We ask questions.**

Leader: So come into this space. Come rest and grow here.

**People: For where two or more are gathered, God is always there.**

Leader: Let us worship our gracious God.

### Opening Hymn\* 415

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

### Prayer of Confession\*

Holy God,

There are days when we fail to rest.

We stretch ourselves too thin. We say “yes” to every invitation.

We run a million miles a minute. We ignore your command to rest.

There are also days when we fail to act.

We wait for someone else. We take the easy road.

We find excuses and justify our inaction.

God, forgive our imbalance.

Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly.

Show us how to do the same.

With hope we pray, also with the quiet prayers of our hearts...

*(a moment of silence is kept for personal prayers)*

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer. Amen.**

## Assurance of Forgiveness\*

### Song of Praise\* 609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

### Prayer for Illumination

Kay Loerch

### Scripture Reading

Luke 13:1-9

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

### Tell Us Our Story

Shannon Dill

*All children are invited to come forward for Tell Us Our Story. Afterwards, parents will walk their children to Room 119 for "ABC's of the Bible" (ages 3's, PreK and K) or Room 117 for childcare (birth through 2's.) 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

River in Judea

Chancel Choir

arr. John Leavitt

*Oftentimes I dream of music, of the river that freely flows.  
And it sings a song sweeter than honey, one everybody knows.  
Late at night, I hear it singing then again when I wake at dawn.  
And it fills me up with hope and goodwill, the will to go on.*

*There is a river in Judea that I heard of long ago.  
And it's a singing, ringing river that my soul cries out to know.*

*I believe it keeps on traveling, but it rests on the Sabbath day.  
And the times when it pauses in stillness, I almost hear it pray.  
When I'm weary and downhearted, how I long for the song it sings,  
for the calm within its gentle blue, the peace that it brings.*

*May the time not be too distant when we meet by the river, meet by the shore.*

*'Til then dream of that wonderful day as we sing once more:*

*There is a river in Judea that I heard of long ago.  
And it's a singing, ringing river that my soul cries out to know.*

### Sermon

Investing in Fruitlessness

David Lower

## **Affirmation of Faith\***

from A Sanctified Art

We believe in a God who loves and tends to us like a gardener.

We believe that like the trees,  
some seasons are for growth,  
and some seasons are for rest.

Some days require pruning,  
and some require planting.

Fortunately, we believe that our green-thumbed God  
sees us and cultivates the sweetest fruit.

So may we plant roots,  
reach for the sky,

grow where we can,  
and rest when we need,

for we believe there is holiness in the pruning and  
in the planting. And we do not grow alone.

Thanks be to God, 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**

Sometimes a Light Surprises  
SALLEY GARDENS

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](https://slpres.org/giving).*

*3) Send a text message to 73256, starting with the keyword GIVETOSLPRES followed by the amount.*

## **Closing Hymn\***

Beneath the Soil

## **Benediction\***

## **Choral Amen\***

## **Postlude\***

Lenten Recessional on "Llangloffan"  
Franklin D. Ashdown

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

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