



SAINT LUKE'S

P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H

September 20, 2026



10:30 am Worship Service
Welcome to Saint Luke's!
September 20, 2026

In Preparation for Worship

“Faith is not the clinging to a shrine but an endless pilgrimage of the heart.”

–Abraham Joshua Heschel

Prelude

Kum Bah Yah
arr. John F. Wilson

Festival Ringers

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship*

from Child of Blessing liturgy

Child: God is good. God is great.
People: **God gives us all we need.**
Child: God is just. God is kind.
People: **God gives us all we need.**
Child: We meet here to praise God.
People: **We gather here to meet Jesus.**
Child: We come here to be gathered up by the Holy Spirit.
People: **Let us worship God together in love. Amen.**

Opening Hymn* 49

The God of Abraham Praise

Prayer of Confession*

Calling God, you invite us beyond what we know and into the future you are creating.
Yet we cling to what is familiar. We allow fear to narrow our world and choose comfort over faithful trust. You bless us so that others may be blessed, but we hold tightly to what we have received.
We draw boundaries around your grace and treat your gifts as privileges to protect.
Forgive us, O God. Loosen our grip and enlarge our hearts.
Give us courage for the next faithful step and teach us to become a blessing wherever you lead us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray together, and now silently....
(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* 581

Glory Be to the Father

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.

Passing of the Peace*

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Prayer for Illumination

Carol Hickey

Scripture Reading

Genesis 12:1-9

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Tell Us Our Story

Catherine Anne Thomas

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

Be Thou My Vision
Skip Stradtman

Chancel Choir

Sermon

Leaving Home for God Knows Where

Rev. Dr. David Lower

Affirmation of Faith*

from The Confession of 1967, 9.16-17

We believe in God, Creator of all things, whose reconciling love is revealed in Jesus Christ, the Word of God made flesh.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who speaks to us through the holy scriptures.

Through their prophetic and apostolic witness, our faith is nourished, our obedience is guided, and the church is drawn more deeply into the life of Christ.

The Scriptures were written by human beings, in languages and cultures shaped by their times and places.

Therefore, we approach them with faith and care, with literary and historical understanding, and in dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

We trust that God continues to speak as Scripture is faithfully proclaimed and attentively read.

With open minds and ready hearts,

we seek God's truth and direction for the church and for our changing world.

We believe God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of life and all creation entrusted to our care.

Already, God's reign is stirring in the world, awakening hope and calling us to faithful work.

Therefore, we seek a better world, without mistaking our achievements for God's kingdom or surrendering to disappointment and defeat.

With steadfast hope, we look beyond every partial victory to the fulfillment of God's purposes and the final triumph of God's reconciling love.

Amen.

Prayers of the People and 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.

Moment for Ron Davis

The Offering

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 inside the Friendship Pads or in the offering plate in the narthex,
- 2) Scan the QR code or give online via slpres.org/giving,
- 3) Send a text message to 73256, starting with the keyword GIVETOSLPRES followed by the amount.

If you give electronically, there is a blue, laminated, electronic giving card in the pew rack to place in the offering plate as it is passed.

**please stand*

Offering Music

Enigma Variations, IX. Nimrod
Edward Elgar, arr. Pierre Gouin

Closing Hymn* 694

Great God of Every Blessing

Benediction*

Choral Amen*

Postlude*

Toccata on LEONI
Joel Raney

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Highlights:



Please join us in the church lobby for fellowship and conversation!
For the latest Saint Luke's news and information go to slpres.org or scan the Highlights QR code.

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.

To give:

