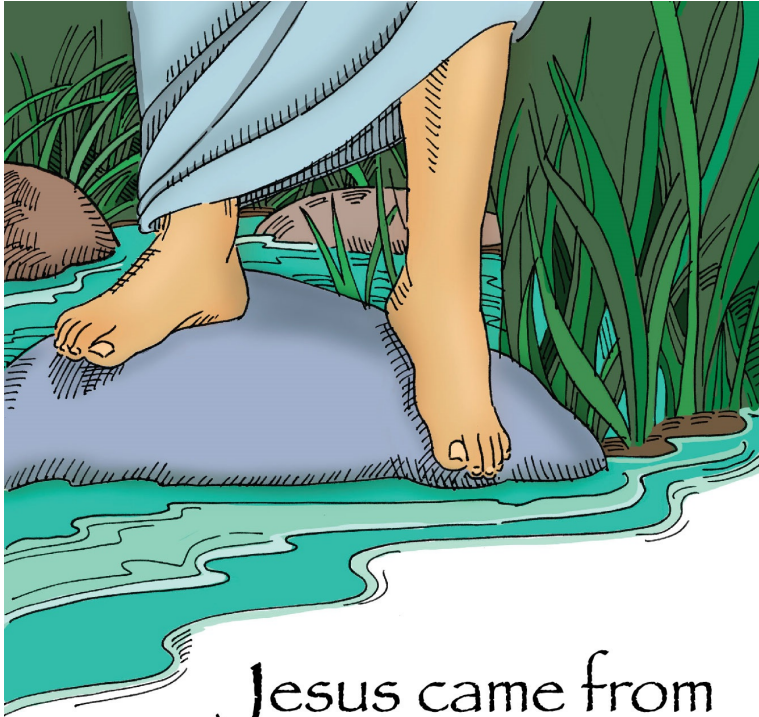


St. Paul's United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551
610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org
Worship 10:30am

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you're welcome here.*



Jesus came from
Nazareth of Galilee
and was baptized by
John in the Jordan.

Mark 1:9, NRSV

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Online Streaming Worship Service

*May God's loving presence be very real to you,
and may you receive strength and guidance today
that will enable you to handle life's challenges.*

+++

Sunday, February 21, 2021
First Sunday in Lent

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

We Gather

*We are coming together as a community of faith to worship our God,
and provide for one another our love, support, and care.*

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*{To center your hearts and minds,
you are invited to individually offer this prayer silently during or before the Prelude}*

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP ^②

Gracious God, lead us in your truth this day. We long to know your ways and to be guided by your Spirit. Direct us into that realm where your purposes govern the hearts and minds of all your children. We want to grow in the likeness of Jesus, to learn to live in ways that are pleasing to you. We wait for you now, eager to respond to your instruction. Let nothing cut us off from you or separate us from one another, not only in this time of worship but as we face the challenges of another week. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN “Forty Days and Forty Nights”

vs 1, 2 & 3

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*INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of God the Father, and of God the Son, and of God the Holy Spirit.
ALL: Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP ^②

Leader: Welcome to the time of covenant renewal.
The God of our salvation greets us here.
People: **We are reminded of God’s promises to us;
We remember the promises we have made.**
Leader: See the rainbow in the sky.
Wonder at God’s steadfast love.
People: **All creation proclaims the wonders of God.
We come together to learn what God wants to teach us.**

Virtual Worship Service

Online: [Live Stream](#) at www.sprucc.org - Live or Watch & Listen on [St. Paul’s UCC YouTube Channel](#) Later
[Phone Stream](#) at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later

[Zoom](#): Meeting ID: 104 401 368; Passcode: 301301 (or call 1-646-558-8656) - Live Only

If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610-621-5770 or Office@sprucc.org

Forty Days and Forty Nights

205

George Huzar Smytten, 1856; alt.

Matt. 4:1-11; Heb. 2:18

1 For - ty days and for - ty nights you were fast - ing in the wild;
2 Shall we not your sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,
3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
5 Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, ev - er con - stant by your side;

For - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.
Fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with you to suf - fer pain?
Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant that we not faint or fail!
'Round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as served you faith - ful - ly.
That with you we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

The son of a doctor in Bombay, George Huzar Smytten became a priest in the Church of England. He published several collections of verse. This hymn was one of three Lenten hymns that appeared in The Penny Post (1856).

Tune: HEINLEIN 7.7.7.7.
Attrib. to Martin Herbst, 1676

We Repent

This is a time to confess our wrongdoings and neglects, ask for God's mercy, admit our need for God's forgiving grace, hear the assurance of our forgiveness, and then give God our thanks and praise.

*CALL TO CONFESSION[®] (Leader)

In our day, we cannot escape temptation, for it comes in so many forms, from so many sources. As Jesus was tempted, so are we. But we have yielded to temptation, and Jesus did not. Sometimes we do not even recognize the sins into which we have slipped. We seek to recall them now. Repent, and believe in the good news.

*CONFESSION OF SIN[®] (Unison)

O God, have mercy on your church, for we forget the covenant into which you call us. We muddle along in our self-serving schemes rather than waiting on your word. We follow the path of least resistance without seeking your higher way. We forget our baptism into a faith community built on trust and forgiveness. We turn from the vision of heaven to the treacherous hell of competing egos. O God, we turn to you to lead us to a new day. According to your steadfast love, forgive us, we pray. Amen.

***SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

{A time to silently offer our personal prayers of confession}

***PRAYER FOR MERCY**

“Kyrie”

Red # 518

Leader *(spoken)*: Lord, have mercy upon us.
People (sung): Lord, have mercy upon us.
 Leader *(spoken)*: Christ, have mercy upon us.
People (sung): Christ, have mercy upon us.
 Leader *(spoken)*: Lord, have mercy upon us.
People (sung): Lord, have mercy upon us.

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***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** [®] *(Leader)*

God is faithful to the covenant, even when we forget. In mercy and steadfast love, God lifts us above the sins of our youth and the transgressions of today. Christ brings us to God that we might receive a new spirit and a good conscience. We are God’s beloved children who are welcomed into God’s kingdom right here, right now, in the midst of life. **Amen.**

{Please be seated}

We Hear the Word of God

We seek to learn more about God’s love and grace, and how we are to live our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Bible is our primary text on faith, which we consider to be scripture - sacred writings. We believe the Bible to be the “inspired word of God.” Gospel (which means “Good News”) refers to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which are Christians’ most central books of the Bible.

PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

First Lesson: [Genesis 9:8-17](#)
Second Lesson: [1 Peter 3:18-22](#)
Gospel: [Mark 1:9-15](#)

HYMN

“Forty Days and Forty Nights”

vs 3 & 4

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CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

We Respond with Thanks

*We have heard God's call and have come and worshiped,
we have confessed our sins and been assured of our forgiveness, we have
learned more about God's grace and God's will. We now respond by
re-affirming our faith in God,
praying with and for one another, trusting in God's providence in our world, and
giving of ourselves for the sake of the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.*

{Those who are able, please rise}

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(Unison)* *The Apostle's Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended to the dead;
on the third day he rose again,
ascended into heaven,
and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,*
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

* The word "catholic" means "relating to the church universal" and was the word used in the original version of the Creed. It does not mean the Roman Catholic Church, but the church, the body of Christ, as a universal fellowship.

{Please be seated}

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray....

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE[®]

Leader: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

{A time of silent prayer}

Leader: In Jesus your realm has come near to us in every place and time. Give your church throughout the world a spirit of humility and repentance; teach us to trust always in the good news of your salvation. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth's creatures from destruction. Empower the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: All your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. Direct the words and actions of leaders in our community and throughout the world, that they may maintain justice for the lowly. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: Even in the wilderness you are with us. Walk alongside migrants and refugees crossing dangerous lands. Tend to those whose lives feel desolate. Give healing and strength to all who suffer. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: In the covenant of baptism you claim us as beloved children. Nurture us in our baptismal identity and teach us to live within it for the sake of others. Strengthen this congregation's ministries of care and concern. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: In baptism you join us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We praise you for all those who have died trusting in your faithfulness. Bring us with them to the fullness of your reign. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray....

LORD'S PRAYER *(Unison)*

**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.**

PRAYER RESPONSE "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

vs 1

**Oh, Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord, hear my prayer
When I call answer me.**

**Oh Lord, hear my prayer,
Oh Lord, hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.**

*Artist: Taizé
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OFFERTORY INVITATION ②

Leader: God has established a covenant with us and our descendants after us.
People: The Lord is to be our God, and we are to be His people.
 Leader: God has set His bow in the clouds as a sign of this covenant.
People: We give of our tithes and offerings in response to His grace, and as a sign of our covenant.

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

*{As we share in worship, there is no passing of the plate in person.
A plate is placed in the rear of the sanctuary for offerings to be placed
when arriving or departing from the sanctuary, or mailed in to the church.*

*Whether worshipping in person or online,
the safest way to offer your tithe and offering to God through his church
is through our secure [Online Giving](#) option on our website at [sprucc.org](#). [Click Here](#)
Offerings may also be mailed to St. Paul's UCC; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.*

VIRTUAL CHOIR

{Those who are able, please rise}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *“In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful ”*
**In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful,
In the Lord I’ll rejoice.
Look to God, do not be afraid,
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near;
Lift up your voices the Lord is near.**

*Artist: Taizé
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***OFFERTORY PRAYER** ②
Thank you God, for the signs and wonders that reveal your presence. Thank you for the covenant fulfilled in Jesus Christ. We want to do our part to share your love with the world. Use our offerings and our lives to bring a realization of your reign among us. Extend your realm by re-creating the church as a true representation of Jesus Christ. May we be humble, teachable, and faithful as we seek to lead others into covenant community. **Amen.**

We Are Sent Out

*In response to God’s love and grace,
we go out into the world to share God’s Good News
through our words and actions.*

***COMMISSION** ②
Leader: Be open to all God wants to teach you this week.
Seek God’s leading every day through Lent.
People: **This is a season for renewal and recommitment.
We will turn to God in prayer every day.**
Leader: God will teach you and lead you in truth.
God’s mercy and steadfast love will surround you.
People: **We will live as people of the promise.
We go out rejoicing in our baptism, serving in Christ’s name.**
ALL: **Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

***SENDING HYMN** *“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”*

All 4 verses
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*{Acolyte carries the light back into the world, leading us,
as we now go to carry God’s light and love back into the world}.*

LENT

319 O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

Fm Cm

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
 4 Be - with us through this sea - son; Lord, and

Fm Fm/D C Cm D♭

prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal

B♭ D♭ Fm E♭ Fm

for our sin, and free us from our past.
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
 ny our - selves that we - may know God's love.
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text based on Elmdis R. Henneman, 1828-1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930
 Music: A. Davison, Kentucky Harp Song, 1816; arr. hymnal version
 Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, ed. by Augsburg Fortress
 Arr. © 2007 Augsburg Fortress

CONSOLATION
 CM



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 - ② *Led by Love* by Lavon Bayler. (1996). Cleveland, OH: United Church Press.
 - *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. (1995). Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis and Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, Philadelphia.
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 - ⑦ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑧ Sunday Sermons Preaching Resources. (2017). Margate, NJ.
 - Edmonds, Robert Lee (Editor). (2008). *In Our Own Way; Living a Scouting Life Through Faith; A Handbook of Prayer and Devotion*. Dallas, TX: Red Honor Press
 - ⑨ Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
 - Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
 - The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
 - The Love Feast liturgy was primarily designed and written by United Methodist pastor, the Rev. Dr. Cynthia A. Wilson (2018) at umdiscipleship.org, with adaptations from: the Rev. Tamie Scalise, Richard Stowe (author of *The Love Feast*), moravianmusic.org, moravian.org, and the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz. One License is our Church Copyright License# A-728042., which is a subscription service giving us copyright permission to print the words and music found in the bulletin and to live stream music on the internet during the Worship Service.
- Resources are edited and adapted for use in this worship service.*



The Flow of the Worship Service

Our worship service has an intentional order to it. The flow of worship is called the liturgical movement. The movement reminds us weekly of our journey in faith of moving from being separated from God by sin, to being restored by God's grace as disciples of Christ. It is based on the sixth chapter of the Biblical book of Isaiah.

- (1) God welcomes us and invites us
- (2) We respond to God's call by worshipping Him
- (3) We confess our need for God's forgiveness and grace
- (4) We are assured of God's forgiveness and grace
- (5) We learn more about God's will through scripture, song, and sermon
- (6) We grow closer to God and one another through prayer
- (7) We give God thanks by offering our time, talent, and treasure
- (8) God sends us into the world to share His love and grace with others

† Prayer List †

Please lift up those listed here in your prayers this week.

“Pray for one another, so that you may be healed.

The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” ~ James 5:16b

Barb & Sam B.	Robin L.
Rich D.	Alex
Deb D.	Lori & Ryan B.
Linda L.	Ann H.
Rob & Jodi S.	Lenna H.
Jim S.	Mildred U.
George M.	Julie R.
Starr M.	Veterans
Paul P.	Family & Friends of Elaine R. (mother of Barb D.)
Marianne M.	Those impacted by the frigid weather in the US
Family & Friends of Rev. Bill W.	Those impacted by COVID-19
Congregation of Trinity ELCA in Robesonia	Those working on a vaccine for COVID-19

Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you.

All are welcome to add names to the prayer list.

Names are generally left on the list for about four weeks.

Please let us know if you would like a name to remain longer or shorter.

*If you would like someone's name added to the prayer list,
please contact the church office at 610-621-5770 or office@sprucc.org.*

††† General Announcements †††

Welcome!

We are glad that you are here to worship with us virtually. May you find the worship and message meaningful and satisfying to your soul. May your week be blessed.

In Person AND Virtual Sunday School Options

Due to the increase in the number of people affected by COVID, *in-person Sunday school* for children and adults has been suspended until further notice.

However, [The Wired Word](#) is still available for adults. This is a virtual option which you may join via Zoom. For Zoom you can join either with a computer or smart device (if you do not yet have the Zoom app, click on this [Zoom](#) link), or call 1-301-715-8592 with a landline or cell phone. Meeting ID: 860 8980 7220; Passcode: 195152.

Although not in-person, the youth can still continue to learn about God's Word through the information available on our website. We have Sunday school music, videos, and an assortment of other materials that are available for downloading. Click on this link for [Sunday school for youth](#).

We also have devotional music for all ages on our website, courtesy of Pastor Bob. Click on this link for [Devotional Music](#).

For our Sunday school [COVID-19 Safety Precautions](#) click on the following link:

<http://www.sprucc.org/news-a-events.html#COVID19Precautions>

To have a copy of the precautions mailed to you, please call 610-621-5770.

Telephone Live Streaming & Playback Worship

This service is being offered to those who do not have internet access. You may call us at our toll free number **1-888-649-5770** and listen to the worship service live using a landline or cell phone. (No internet, smartphone, tablet, or computer is necessary - this works with a standard corded phone, cell phone, or even with a rotary phone). You also have the option for the church to automatically call you when the live stream worship begins (rather than you calling the church); which you can sign up for at the above toll free number, or you can call the church office, and we can add you to the call list. If you have any questions, difficulties, or issues, please let us know by calling the office at 610-621-5770. There is no charge to you for this service. If you know of someone who does not have internet access, please let them know of this feature, especially as they cannot log onto the website and find out about this themselves.

Visitation Care Team

Our Visitation Care Team (VCT) is composed of lay members who have been trained for visitation. If you are in need of prayer, a visit, or just a listening ear, they are here to be of support to you. To contact the Visitation Care Team with a visitation request or to share information about a potential care need, call the church office at 610-621-5770 or email the office at office@sprucc.org. For more information, go to our "[Visitation Care Ministries](#)" page at www.sprucc.org under the "ministries" tab.

Lenten Bible Study Series

This year, St. Paul's UCC in Robesonia and Zion UCC in Womelsdorf, will be having a combined study series during the Sundays in Lent. The topic is "*Making Sense of the Bible*". It will be held via Zoom on Sunday evenings (Feb. 21, 28, March 7, 14, & 21) at 6:30pm. There is no cost, no minimum number of sessions that you must attend, and you need not be a member of either church. All are welcome. Detailed information may be found on our [website](#).

About Today

Church Season: Lent - 40 days and six Sundays before Easter; a season of penitence as we reflect upon our personal sins, which led to the need for the sacrifice of Jesus' life for us upon the cross. The root word of "Lent" means "to lengthen", referring to the lengthening of days as we anticipate spring and the new life granted through the resurrection - moving from darkness to light.

Color of the Paraments (cloths on the altar and pulpit):

Purple - Symbolizing the passion (suffering) of Christ our King that led to his crucifixion.

The suggested scripture lessons are from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), which selects passages throughout the Bible over a three year cycle. The RCL is the most common lectionary used by Christian churches. We are in **Year B**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Mark.

The Bible is in two sections: Old Testament - OT (scripture prior to Christ's birth), located in the first 2/3 of the Bible; and New Testament - NT (about Christ & early church).

This Sunday, February 21, 2021, Lectionary Reading for the First Sunday in Lent.

Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15.

Genesis

The book of Genesis (OT) is a part of the Pentateuch (first five books of the OT or Torah or one of the five most central books in Judaism). Genesis means beginning. The book of Genesis tells about the creation of humankind and the entire universe by the will and power of God. Genesis creates a context for the reading of the entire rest of the Bible. The book is traditionally attributed to Moses, who led the Israelite people from Egyptian slavery to freedom, through the saving grace and divine providence of God.

The First Letter of Peter

This NT Epistle (letter) is attributed to the Apostle Peter, who's name means "rock." Jesus appointed Simon Peter to lead the church after his ascension. Peter was a fisherman at the time Jesus called him to be a disciple. This letter is believed to be written pseudonymously in Rome around 70-90 A.D. This letter particularly addresses social tensions being felt within the Greco-Roman culture that are being attributed to the spread of the Christian faith.

The Gospel According to Mark

Mark's Gospel is the oldest and shortest of the four Gospels, written between 65-75 A.D. Papias, a church leader in the 2nd century, reported that this Gospel's author is Mark, a follower of Peter who wrote this Gospel after Peter's death.

Next Sunday, February 28, 2021, Lectionary Reading for the Second Sunday in Lent.

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38 *or* Mark 9:2-9.