

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.*



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, April 18, 2021
Third Sunday of Easter

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 [®]

God of our ancestors, author of life, source of Easter good news, we are drawn together again by the mystery of life and death. We call on you, so far beyond our knowing, with a mixture of faith and doubt. Let your face shine on us as we put our trust in you. Draw together the fragments of our busy lives around the central core of love which you provide, that we might relate to one another as whole people. Grant us a fuller sense of what is right and good, and help us to live at our best. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Welcome, Happy Morning!"

vs 1 & 2 ♪ Red #170

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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 [®]

Leader: God has set apart those who are faithful.

Our Creator will hear us when we call.

People: God puts gladness in our hearts and minds.

We will lie down in safety and sleep in peace.

Leader: Our faith strengthens us for each day's living.

God empowers our ministries of caring.

People: We trust God whose children we are.

We look forward to what God will reveal to us.

Virtual Worship Service

Online: **Live Stream** at sprucc.org - Live or Watch & Listen on [St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel](#) Later

Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/> - Live or Watch & Listen 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

Our Lord Jesus Christ

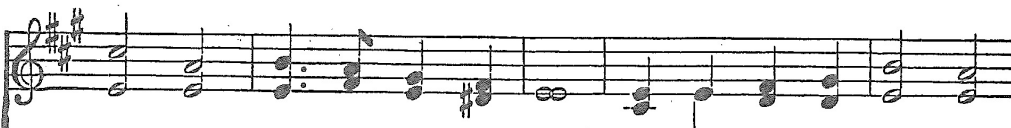
VENANTIUS FORTUNATUS, before 582
Tr. JOHN ELLERTON, 1869

HERMAS

6. 5. 6. 5. D. with Refrain FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL, 1871

With joy

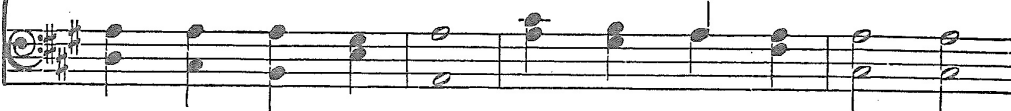
1. "Wel-come, hap-py morn-ing!" Age to age shall say: "Hell to-day is
2. Earth with joy con-fess-es, Cloth-ing her for spring, All good gifts re-
3. Thou, of life the Au-thor, Death didst un-der-go, Tread the path of



van-quished, Heaven is won to-day." Lo! the Dead is liv-ing,
turn with Her re-turn-ing King; Bloom in ev-ery mead-ow,
dark-ness, Sav-ing strength to show; Come then, True and Faith-ful,



God for-ev-er-more: Him, their true Cre-a-tor,
Leaves on ev-ery bough, Speak His sor-rows end-ed,
Now ful-fill Thy word; 'Tis Thine own third morn-ing;



REFRAIN



All His works a-dore. "Wel-come, hap-py morn-ing!" Age to age shall say:
Hail His tri-umph now.
Rise, O bur-ied Lord!



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 his preaching, the disciple Peter reminded his listeners that no one can escape the collective guilt that allows innocent people to suffer. The mob action that sent Jesus to the cross was fed by fears and anger we are reluctant to claim. Yet we, too, reject the Holy One, by our neglect if not by deliberate intent. Peter invites us to repent and turn to God that our sins may be wiped away.

*CONFESSION OF SIN[®] (Unison)

O God, we are disturbed and distressed by the evil that surrounds us. It is hard to view many people we see as your children: murderers, abusers, those who cheat others and profit at their expense. We feel like victims. Why should we confess our sins when there is so much evil beyond our influence? Yet we know we do not abide in your love. We sin by turning away from sisters and brothers who are also beloved by you, however they may differ from us. We seek the forgiveness you promise and the health you offer. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON[®] (Leader)

Forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to all who repent and seek new life in Christ. The peace of God dwells in us when we honestly examine ourselves, exposing our wounds to Love's healing and our self-deceit to Love's correction. Beloved, we are accepted by God whose will for us is a joyous freedom in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE[®]

Leader: The True Light has come into the world and has given us life.

People: **Let us sing praise to the One who forgives us and leads us out of darkness.**

*SUNG PRAISE

Text and music: Jerry Sinclair, 1972; alt.

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "1 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia," for the first system and "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!" for the second system.

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(verse 2) **You're my Savior, alleluia, you're my Savior, alleluia,
You're my Savior, alleluia, you're my Savior, alleluia!**

{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: [Acts 3:12-19](#)
Second Lesson: [1 John 3:1-7](#)
Gospel Lesson: [Luke 24:36b-48](#)

HYMN

"Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day"

vs 1 & 3

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CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR L.M.

Adapted by Michael Praetorius, 1609

Harm. by George R. Woodward, 1904

Latin: 5th century?

Tr. John M. Neale, 1852, alt.

Unison

1. Joy dawned a - gain on Eas - ter Day, The sun shone
2. O Je - sus, King of gen - tle - ness, Do thou thy -
3. O Lord of all, with us a - bide In this our

out with fair ar - ray, When to their long - ing
self our hearts pos - sess That we may give thee
joy - ful Eas - ter - tide; From ev - ery weap - on

eyes re - stored, The a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord.
all our days The will - ing trib - ute of our praise.
death can wield Thine own re - deemed for - ev - er shield.

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, died, 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 "the universal church" and was the word used in the original version of the Creed. It does not refer here to the particular denomination of the Roman Catholic Church, but rather the whole Christian church of all denominations, 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: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

{A time of silent prayer}

Leader: Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. Heal your creation where it is in need of restoration. Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: God of all, the nations hunger and thirst for your righteousness. Many call on you for guidance and strength. Answer their hopes with the peace of Christ and give your loving kindness to national, state, and local leaders of people. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and wholeness. Be close to the hearts of the lonely. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: Loving Parent, you have given us such love that we should be called the children of God. Reveal yourself to us so that we in this community of faith will become more and more like you in our mutual love and bold witness. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: God of all times and ages, those who have died in you now see you as you are. We thank you for their lives among us. Assure us of the peace you have promised, that we may join them in everlasting life. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: In the hope of new life in Christ, O Lord, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; 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.**

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

♪ Red #191

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Bring healing where there's need.
Answer our prayers and comfort all,
To you our prayers we sing.**

*Text: Edwin Hatch & Benjamin Motz; Music: Robert Jackson
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OFFERTORY INVITATION ²

Leader: Among the first Christians, there were no needy people

People: because everyone brought their resources to be shared.

Leader: They gave up their advantages so the needs of all could be met.

People: Out of the rich legacy they have passed on to us, we bring our tithes and offerings in thanksgiving for all God's gifts.

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

{As we share in hybrid 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.

Whether worshiping 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}.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"Alleluia"

**You are worthy, alleluia, You are worthy, alleluia,
You are worthy, alleluia, You are worthy, alleluia**

*Text & Music: Jerry Sinclair
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***OFFERTORY PRAYER** ² (*Leader*)

Gracious God, we give with joy for you have been with us even when we were unfaithful. You have kept us in safety through times of grave distress. We can call on you in all times and places, in life and in death, knowing that your strength is available to sustain us. We give now that your church may be empowered in the proclamation of good news and the transformation of human life. **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: Put your trust in God as you face another week.
God affirms you and claims your faithfulness.
People: **We will open our eyes to the goodness of God.
We seek to follow faithfully where Christ leads.**
Leader: Turn away from vain words and seeking after lies.
Seek the purity of life we find in Christ Jesus.
People: **We pray for honest insight as we seek truth.
We are confident in God's will for us.**
ALL: **Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

***THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

} **Red #558**
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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}.*

***SENDING HYMN**

"The Strife Is O'er"

vs 1, 2 & 5
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¹ Reprinted with permission from *The New Century Hymnal* of the United Church of Christ. (1995). Cleveland, Ohio: The Pilgrim Press. and/or the *Book of Worship* of the United Church of Christ (1986). New York: United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership.

² *Taught By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1998). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.

³ Reprinted with permission from *Sundays and Seasons*. (2019). Augsburg Fortress.

⁴ Reprinted with permission from the *Order of Worship for the Reformed Church in the United States*. and/or *The Hymnal of the Evangelical and Reformed Church*. (1985) New York: United Church Press.

⁵ Reprinted with permission from *Sourcebook of Worship Services*

⁶ scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America

⁷ Reprinted with permission from *Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ*. (2013).

⁸ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.

⁹ 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

¹⁰ Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.

¹¹ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.

¹² The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

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Resources are edited and adapted for use in this worship service.

His Resurrection

Latin; tr. FRANCIS POTT, 1861

8. 8. 8. 4. with Alleluias

VICTORY
PALESTRINA, 1591
Adapted by W. H. MONK

Jubilantly. With majesty

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

1. The strife is o'er, the battle done;
2. The powers of death have done their worst,
3. The three sad days have quickly sped;
4. He closed the yawning gates of hell,
5. Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed Thee,

The vic - to - ry of life is won; The song of
But Christ their le - gions hath dis - persed: Let shouts of
He ris - es glo - rious from the dead: All glo - ry
The bars from heaven's high por - tals fell: Let hymns of
From death's dread sting Thy serv - ants free, That we may

tri - umph has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
to our ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!
praise His tri - umphs tell! Al - le - lu - ia!
live and sing to Thee. Al - le - lu - ia! A - MEN.



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

Medical Concerns & Healing:

Alex
 Sam B.
 Lori & Ryan B.
 Rich D.
 Jacob E.
 Jaden G.
 Lenna H.
 Ann H.
 Rev. David K.
 Jim & Donna K.
 Janice L.
 Robin L.
 Ella L.
 Diane M.
 George M.
 Starr M.
 Terry O.

Medical Concerns & Healing:

Paul P.
 Fred R.
 Julie R.
 Jim S.
 Rob & Jodi S.
 Mildred U.
 Martha W.

Mourning:

Family & Friends of Barb B.
 Family & Friends of Elaine R.
 Family & Friends of Rev. Bill W.
 Family & Friends of Marilyn W.

Social Concerns:

Those impacted by COVID-19
 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.

Post-Quarantine Church Book Study

Tonight at 6:30pm via Zoom, begins a 6-week study series of the book, *The Post-Quarantine Church* by Thom S. Rainer. This will be a combined study with Zion UCC of Womelsdorf. If you would like to participate in the book discussion, please join tonight using the following Zoom log in information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87452124156?pwd=RzI3dTI4Uy8vWGpBQnRzOGV2bnlrdz09>

Meeting ID: 874 5212 4156

Passcode: 783249

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Weekly Lectionary Bible Study

Every Tuesday morning Zion UCC of Womelsdorf offers a Zoom Bible Study based on the scripture passages for the coming Sunday. You may use any version of the Bible. The study goes from 9:00 to 9:45am most of the time. They would be happy to have you join them! Zoom login information may be found on our [website](#).

Reservoir Hike

On Saturday, April 24, the Youth Group, friends and family members, will be meeting at 1:00pm at the Robeson Reservoir to walk the trails there. Mike Pastor will be our guide. The weather at that time should be warmer, making for a pleasant day to take a hike. Bring water and snacks for yourself. **ALL are invited.** Please join us.

In-Person Worship (Next Sunday)

On April 25, Good Shepherd Sunday, we will return to a hybrid worship service. Worship will be offered both virtually and as an outside in-person worship in the church parking lot at 10:30am.

In-Person Sunday School

Beginning Sunday, May 2, 2021, the church will be returning to in-person Sunday school for children and adults. Classes will begin at 9:00am and finish at 10:00am.

Although currently we are still not meeting in-person, the youth can 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 precautions click on this link: [COVID-19 Safety Precautions](#).

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 email the VCT at CareTeam@sprucc.org. For more information, go to our "[Visitation Care Ministries](#)" page at www.sprucc.org under the "ministries" tab.

For the week of April 18 the Primary VCT is Robin Henning, the Secondary VCT is Elsa Wertz.

For the week of April 25 the Primary VCT is Kirk Aulenbach, the Secondary VCT is Terry Pastor.

About Today

Church Season: Easter - Easter is the 50 days from the Saturday of Holy Week to Pentecost. Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and is the most joyful season of the church year. The first Sunday of Easter, Resurrection Sunday, is the highest and holiest day of the Christian Church.

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

White - symbolizing the defeat of death and the darkness of sin with the resurrection to eternal life.

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, April 18, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

The Acts of the Apostles

The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of the Apostles (NT) are attributed to Luke "the beloved physician" written around 59-90 A.D. This is essentially volume 2 of the Gospel of Luke. The Book of Acts records the ministry of the early church after the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven, and guides us how we are to live, act, work, and be the church.

Psalm 4

This OT song is a prayer for God's help and deliverance in times of trouble. The authorship is attributed to King David.

The First Letter of John

This epistle (letter) is a homily attributed to the apostle John, as is the Gospel of John. Of the core 12, John is believed to be the "beloved disciple" (John 19:26). This epistle is believed to be written in Ephesus around 100 A.D.

The Gospel According to Luke

The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles is attributed to Luke "the beloved physician," written around 59-90 A.D. (C.E.). Not having met Jesus personally, Luke undertook the task of "investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account" of Jesus Christ, "so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed."

Next Sunday, April 25, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18



Link to Website's
Upcoming Events