

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.*



My Father is glorified by this, that you
BEAR MUCH FRUIT
and become my disciples.

John 15:8, 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, May 2, 2021
Fifth 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 ^②

Almighty God, open our senses to your direction, so we may be alert to opportunities you give us. Fill us with good news to share with those who seek meaning for their lives. We are here because we need the good news ourselves. There is much in life that we do not understand. We seek to know your Word and to be led by it. Recall us to the vows of our baptism, reconfirming in us the covenant promises that link us to you and to one another. As we meet you here, our hearts are lifted up in praise. May our worship glorify your name and be pleasing to you. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”* vs 1 & 2 *♩ Red #21*
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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: Come to worship God whose love was revealed in Jesus.
Let all the ends of the earth turn to our God.

**People: We will worship the Almighty and sing praises.
We will proclaim good news to others.**

Leader: Beloved, we are called to love as God loves us.
We are to love one another as sisters and brothers.

**People: Christ is the vine; we are the branches.
We will bear fruit when we abide in the vine.**

***SUNG PRAISE** *“This Is the Day”* (based on Psalm 118:24) *♩ Blue #209*
This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

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Virtual Worship Service

Online: [Live Stream](https://www.sprucc.org) at [sprucc.org](https://www.sprucc.org) - Live or Watch & Listen on [St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCStPaulsUCC) Later
[Facebook Live](https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/) at <https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/> - Live or Watch & Listen Later
[Phone Stream](https://www.sprucc.org/) at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later
[Zoom](https://www.sprucc.org/): 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

Adoration and Praise

HENRY VAN DYKE, 1907
With exultation

8. 7. 8. 7. D.

HYMN TO JOY
LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN, 1824

1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
4. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us, Broth - er love binds man to man.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er, All who live in love are Thine;
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the Joy di - vine.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us Sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life. A - MEN

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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)

Sense the love of God that seeks to live in us. Remember the times you have felt connected to the true vine, Jesus Christ. Listen again to the promise and challenge: If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish and it will be done for you... bear much fruit and become my disciples. Let us confess our sins, beseech God's forgiveness, and seek to follow Christ more fully.

*CONFESSION OF SIN[®] (Unison)

O God, we have ignored our origin in you and denied your rule over the nations. We have pursued illusions of self-interest rather than abiding in your love. We have turned away from brothers and sisters as if they were enemies to be hated. We are afraid to love those who differ from us or who have the power to harm us. We hesitate to take the risk of caring for fear that we may be hurt. Discipleship seems too demanding. O God, release us from the fears and failures to trust your love and live with bold generosity. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON[®] (Leader)

There is good news for all who sincerely repent and seek a living, growing relationship with God. Those who are open to the gift of God's love are blessed with the capacity to extend love to others and thus experience the depth and riches of life that God intends for us. When we love one another, God's love is perfected in us. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: Let us sing praise to our risen saviour.

People: **We praise God's holy name.**

*SUNG PRAISE

"Alleluia"

♩ Blue #189

**I will praise you, alleluia; I will praise you, alleluia;
I will praise you, alleluia; I will praise you, alleluia!**

*Music & Text: Jerry Sinclair
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{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 8:26-40](#)
 Second Lesson: [1 John 4:7-21](#)
 Gospel Lesson: [John 15:1-8](#)

HYMN "Abide with Me" vs 1 & 3 Red #51
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CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

51 Times of Worship

HENRY FRANCIS LYTE, 1847 10. 10. 10. 10. EVENTIDE
WILLIAM H. MONK, 1861

In moderate time

1. A - bid with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide; The dark - ness
 2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day; Earth's joys grow
 3. I need Thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour; What but Thy
 4. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless: Ills have no
 5. Hold Thou Thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes; Shine through the

deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bid: When oth - er help - ers
 dim, its glo - ries pass a - way; Change and de - cay in
 grace can foil the Tempt - er's power? Who like Thy - self my
 weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness. Where is death's sting? Where,
 gloom, and point me to the skies: Heaven's morn - ing breaks, and

fail, and com - forts flee, Help of the help - less, O a - bid with me.
 all a - round I see; O Thou who chang - est not, a - bid with me.
 guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bid with me.
 grave, thy vic - to - ry? I tri - umph still, if Thou a - bid with me.
 earth's vain shadows flee: In life, in death, O Lord, a - bid with me. A - MEN.

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.

Dedication of Newly Renovated Floor & Plaque[®]

***INTRODUCTION TO DEDICATION**

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ: Today we seek God's blessing as we gather with thankfulness to bless and dedicate the new floor of the Miller Fellowship Hall to the glory of God. We give thanks for the ministry and Christian friendship and love of the Rev. George Miller, we give thanks to all who donated in his memory to make possible this renovation, and we pray that we may grow that much more faithful in the way of Christ and the will of the Spirit to which Rev. Miller revealed and taught to us through scripture and example..

People: **We give thanks to the Lord.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Pastor: All your works praise you, Lord,
People: and your faithful servants bless you.
Pastor: Let us pray....

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. Your gifts are many, and in wisdom you have made all things to give you glory. Be with us now, bless us, and accept and bless the gift of this renovation and the plaque placed in memory and honor, which we offer in thanksgiving for the life and ministry of the Rev. George Miller. Give us joy in all your works, and grant that the Miller Fellowship Hall may always be a place where your will is done and your name is glorified; may it serve to enhance our fellowship with one another; to remind us of our fellowship with Christ; to further our outreach in ministry and service to our community, in both word and deed; to better equip us as the Body of Christ; and to better enable our witness to the way, the truth, and life of Christ.

We pray in the name of your son, Jesus the Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you; who prayed that we might all be one with you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and who taught us when we pray to say....

***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 OF BLESSING**

Pastor: Bring us all at length to your perfect kingdom, where you live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
ALL: Amen.

***SUNG PRAISE**

"Alleluia"

♩ Blue #189

**I will praise you, alleluia; I will praise you, alleluia;
I will praise you, alleluia; I will praise you, alleluia!**

*Music & Text: Jerry Sinclair
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{Please be seated}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ^②

Leader: God loves us so much that Jesus was sent to be the atoning sacrifice for our sin.
People: The balm of love was offered for our healing so we might be reconciled to God and one another.
Leader: What will we offer in thanksgiving for so great a gift?
People: We offer the fruits of our labors, our time, talent and treasure.

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](https://sprucc.org) 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”

♩ Blue #189

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

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***OFFERTORY PRAYER** ² (Leader)

Gracious God, we give because we are grateful. Your love has sustained us through many trials and temptations. We are thankful for those who have guided our attempts to understand the scriptures. Your loving judgment has provided the pruning our lives require in order to bear fruit. We give in order to extend to others the blessings we have received and to continue the ministry we need as we seek to abide together in your love. **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: You have been equipped and empowered by love.
God is filling your life with purpose and energy.

People: **We seek to live as people who know God.
Because we are loved, we dare to love others.**

Leader: Do not be afraid to witness to your growing faith.
Do not hesitate to show the fruits of abiding in Christ.

People: **We love because God first loved us.
We go out to serve as apostles of Jesus Christ.**

ALL: **Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

***THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

♩ Red #558

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***SENDING HYMN**

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

vs 1 & 2

♩ Red #35

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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.}*



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Biblical quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible (1989) by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

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

¹³ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).

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

Close of Worship

JOHN FAWCETT, 1773

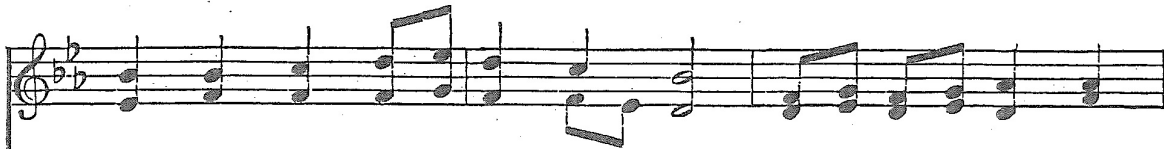
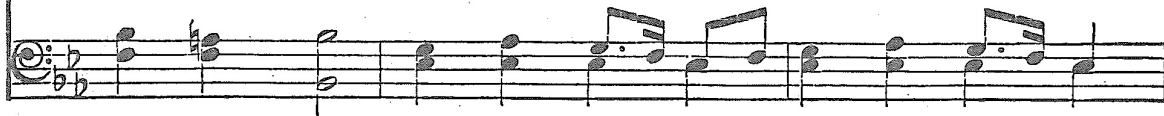
8. 7. 8. 7. 8. 7.

SICILIAN MARINERS
Sicilian Melody, 1794*In moderate time*

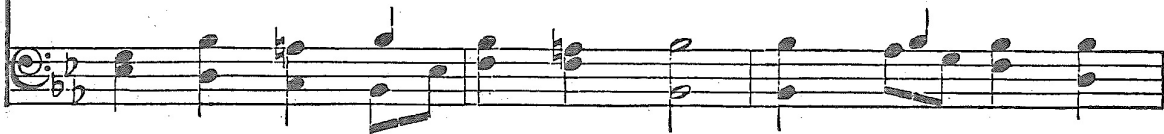
1. Lord, dis - miss us with Thy bless - ing; Fill our hearts with
 2. Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Thy gos - pel's



joy and peace; Let us each, Thy love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound; May the fruits of Thy sal - va - tion



Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: O re - fresh us,
 In our hearts and lives a - bound: Ev - er faith - ful,



O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful To the truth may we be found; 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.

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 May 2 the Primary VCT is Beth Miller, the Secondary VCT is Sheri Rowe.

For the week of May 9 the Primary VCT is Rob Seifrit, the Secondary VCT is Geri Gammel.

††† General Announcements †††

Welcome!

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

Post-Quarantine Church Book Study: April 18 - May 23

Tonight from 6:30-7:30pm via Zoom, continues the 6-week study series of the book, *The Post-Quarantine Church* by Thom S. Rainer. This is 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. We would be happy to have you join us! Zoom login information may be found on our [website](#).

In-Person Sunday School

Today the church returned to in-person Sunday school for children and adults. Sunday school will continue in-person until May 23. Classes will begin at 9:00am and finish at 10:00am.

As always, the youth may continue to learn about God's Word through the information available on our website. Sunday school music, videos, and an assortment of other materials are available for downloading. Click on this link for [Sunday school for youth](#).

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

For our Sunday school COVID precautions click on this link: [COVID-19 Safety Precautions](#).

Summer Schedule

On May 30 we will switch to our Summer schedule. There will be no Sunday school classes and worship service will begin at 9:30am. Please make note of the upcoming changes.

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.

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, May 2, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

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 22

This OT song is attributed to King David. This song is a prayer to God, asking for help in times of distress, giving thanks and praise to God for his presence and deliverance in times of affliction, and reaffirming the vow to worship and follow in the ways of the Lord.

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 John

John is the latest of the four Gospels, written around 80-90 A.D. probably in Ephesus, and attributed to John the son of Zebedee, the beloved disciple of Jesus. This Gospel was "written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and through believing you may have life in his name" (20:31).

Next Sunday, May 9, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17



Link to Website's
Upcoming Events