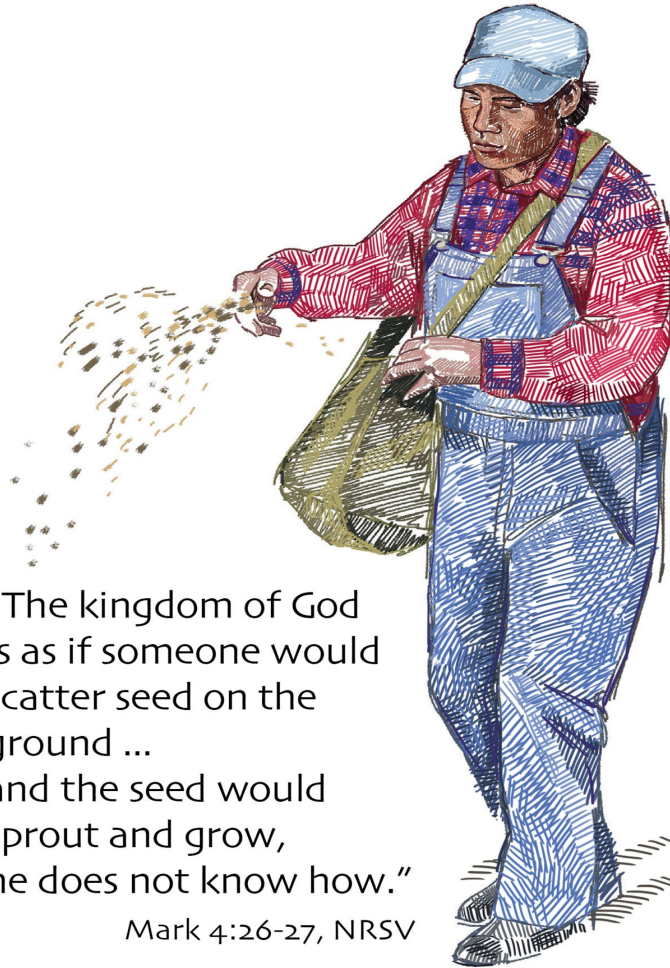


St. Paul's United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551
610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org
Worship 9:30am

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



"The kingdom of God
is as if someone would
scatter seed on the
ground ...
and the seed would
sprout and grow,
he does not know how."

Mark 4:26-27, 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, June 13, 2021
Third Sunday after Pentecost**

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

Our Lord and Our God, we turn to you knowing we can depend on you when earthly rulers stumble and fall, when other relationships are strained and broken, when we are faced with difficult challenges. It is good to sing your praises, even when we do not feel like singing. It is good to declare your faithfulness when we have been unfaithful. It is good to give thanks, for when we do, we are reminded of the multitude of blessings we so often take for granted. Lead us in this time of worship. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"How Great Thou Art"

vs 1 & 4

♩ Blue #147

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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, all who are troubled or weary,
who know the pain of the world's people.

**People: God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.**

Leader: As we gather we affirm God's presence.
Be still and know that the LORD is God.

**People: The God of hosts is with us;
The kingdom of God is here and everywhere.**

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

147 How Great Thou Art

You are great and do marvelous deeds: You alone are God. Psalm 86:10

F Gm7 $\frac{F}{A}$ B \flat $\frac{F7}{C}$ $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ E \flat E $\circ 7$

> 1. O Lord, my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
 > 2. When thro' the woods and for-est glades I wan - der And hear the
 > 3. And when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to
 > 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me

B \flat $\frac{Dm}{F}$ $\frac{Cm}{F}$ F7 B \flat $\frac{F7}{C}$ $\frac{B\flat}{D}$

all the *worlds Thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the
 birds sing sweet - ly in the trees, When I look down from loft - y
 die, I scarce can take it in; That on the cross, my bur - den
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble

E \flat E $\circ 7$ $\frac{B\flat}{F}$ $\frac{Dm}{F}$ $\frac{Cm}{F}$ F7 B \flat

*roll - ing thun - der, Thy pow'r thro' - out the u - ni - verse dis - played.
 moun - tain gran - deur, And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
 glad - ly bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin.
 ad - o - ra - tion And there pro - claim: my God, how great Thou art!

Refrain
B \flat $\frac{B\flat 9}{D}$ E \flat E $\flat 2$ E \flat B \flat $\frac{B\flat}{F}$ F7

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee; How great Thou

*Author's original words are "works" and "mighty."

TEXT: Stuart K. Hine
 MUSIC: Swedish Folk melody; adapted by Stuart K. Hine;
 Choral ending arranged by Eugene Thomas

O STORE GUD
 11.10.11.10. with Refrain

WORSHIP THE LORD

F F7 $\frac{E\flat}{F}$ F B \flat $\frac{B\flat^9}{D}$ E \flat E $\flat^{\sharp 4}$

art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior

11 12 13

E \flat B \flat $\frac{F7}{C}$ $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ E \flat 6 $\frac{G7}{D}$ C \flat F7 B \flat

God, to Thee; How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

14 15 16

Optional choral ending
N.C. G \flat rit. $\frac{G\flat}{F}$ E \flat N.C. F sus F B \flat

How great Thou art! How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

17 18 19 20

The end of SING OF HIS GREATNESS - A Worship Sequence

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)

Each of us has a mandate from God to give our best and bear fruit for God's kingdom. We who gather in God's house are called to be a faithful community in which all bow humble before God, motivated by the love of Christ. This is a time to examine ourselves and confess our sins before our Creator.

*CONFESSION OF SIN[®] (Unison)

God of all truth, who can stand before you? We judge by outward appearances, but you examine our hearts. We see what is on the surface, but you discern beauty deep within. We measure importance by paychecks, but you find value among those we deem lowly and insignificant. You offer us the deep and profound joy of living in your kingdom. We forget your promises and turn to pursuits that separate us from you and destroy community. We seek forgiveness and a new direction for our lives. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON[®] (Leader)

All of us must stand before the judgement seat of Christ, today and every day. When we come with true penitence, we can win a victory over sin. Christ died for us, that we might no longer live only for ourselves. In Christ, we no longer regard others from a human point of view. We are a new creation. The old has passed away; the new has come. We can live confidently, urged on by the love of Christ, to joyous, daring service. **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: [Ezekiel 17:22-24](#)
Second Lesson: [2 Corinthians 5:6-17](#)
Gospel Lesson: [Mark 4:26-34](#)

HYMN "For the Fruit of All Creation" vs 1 & 2

NCH 425

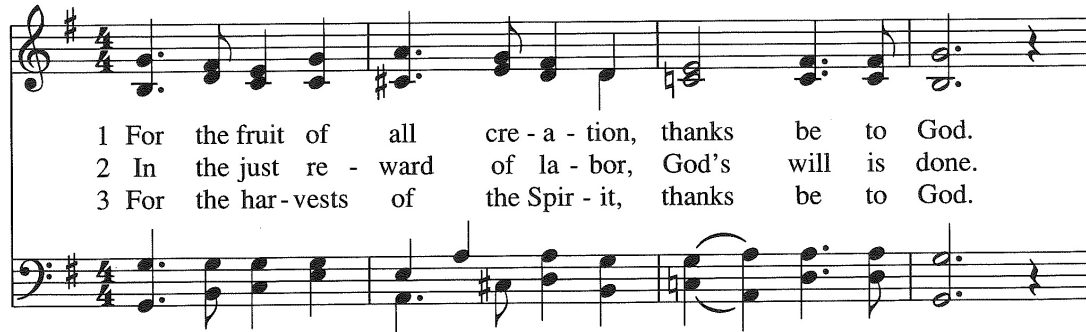
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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

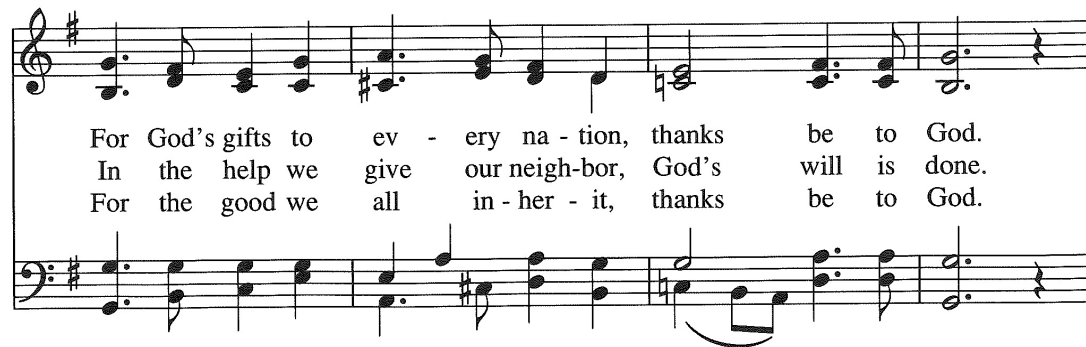
SERMON

For the Fruit of All Creation

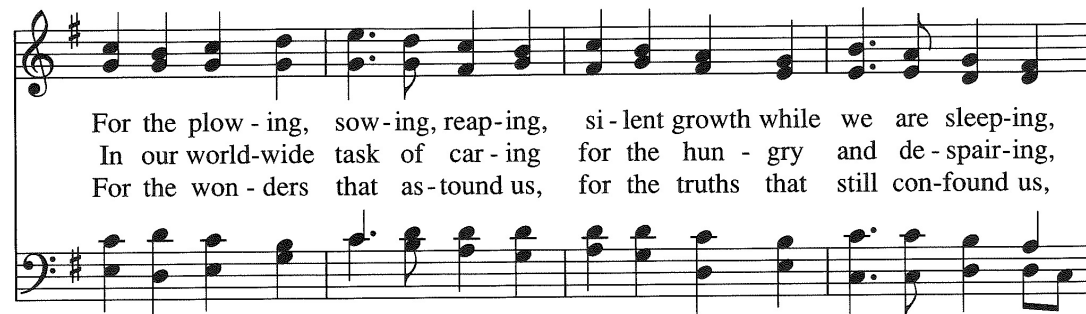
425

Fred Pratt Green, 1970


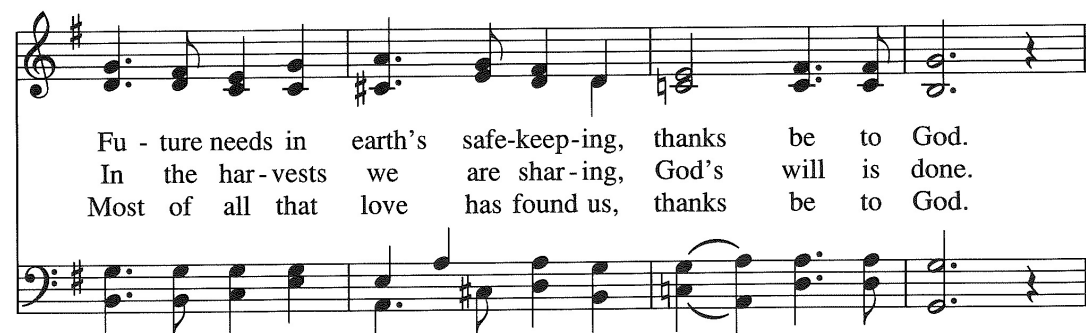
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For God's gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

This text was written in response to a request for a new harvest hymn for an existing tune. After its publication in England in 1970, it became popular in many countries and can be found set to various tunes.

Words Copyright © 1970 by Hope Publishing Company

Tune: AR HYD Y NOS 8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4.
Welsh traditional melody
 Musical Relicks of the Welsh Bards, Dublin, 1784
 Harm. L. O. Emerson, 1906
 For another harmonization, see 82

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}

OFFERTORY INVITATION [®]

Leader: God remembers our offerings of genuine thankfulness and regards with favor the sacrifices we make to extend God's realm.
People: **We give, not out of compulsion, but with joy.**
Leader: Whatever our age or circumstances, we have something to give.
People: **Let us give thanks as we present our tithes and offerings.**

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**

NCH #283

**Giving, loving, holy God, receive our gifts we pray.
Giving, loving, holy God, receive our gifts we pray.
Take them, bless them, use them, grow them.
Giving, loving, holy God, receive our gifts we pray.**

*Text: Benjamin Motz
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***OFFERTORY PRAYER** ² (Leader)

O God, all that we have is yours. We are privileged to share good news in word and deed. When what we present for the church's use is of no real personal sacrifice, may we be led by your Spirit to give and offer more. May our common ministry be extended by the time and talents and treasure we invest. We would no longer live just for ourselves but for the realization of your reign among us. Let all things become new as we give our best. **Amen.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion ¹³

*The Sacrament of Holy Communion is the central act of Christian worship, bringing us more fully together with one another and the Triune God, through the sacrifice of the body and blood of Jesus Christ.
(Matthew 26:20-30, Mark 14:17-26, Luke 22:14-23, John 13:21-30)*

***INVITATION**

Leader: Dearly beloved in the Lord: Our blessed Saviour Jesus Christ instituted the Holy Communion of his Body and Blood, that it might be the abiding memorial of his atoning death; the seal of his perpetual presence in the Church through the Holy Spirit; the mystical representation of the sacrifice of himself on the cross; the pledge of his undying love for his people; and the bond of his living union and fellowship with them to the end of time.

ALL: The celebration of the Lord's Supper has ever been regarded by the Church as the innermost sanctuary of the whole Christian worship. What we do here is not merely with signs, but with the realities these signs represent. We seek to approach the Lord's Table rightly, striving to be devout and repentant, with a believing mind.

Leader: We cordially invite to partake of this Sacrament all who are truly grieved and penitent for their sins, who look to the Lord Jesus Christ for righteousness and salvation, who abide in the fellowship of his Church, and who desire to possess his Spirit and walk in his ways. To all such the compassionate Redeemer himself says: Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

***COMMUNION PRAYER**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader:

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Everlasting God, who created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, who made humankind in your own image, and whose tender mercies are over all your works.

We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none.

We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless.

We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory.

We give thanks to you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy.

{Please be seated}

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader:

Lord, we remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.

Leader: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**ALL: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Ordained Minister:

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We offer you our gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service in behalf of all people.

Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, on this Sunday of the Festival of the Christian Home, both here at this table in this sanctuary and in the homes of those who are gathered as the church even though separated by physical distance, we are one in your spirit, and bless us that as we receive them, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united in communion with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things.

ALL: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. Amen.

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.**

LAMB OF GOD

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
People: have mercy on us.
Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
People: have mercy on us.
Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
People: grant us peace.

CALL TO THE SUPPER

Leader: The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come, for all things are ready.

BREAKING THE BREAD, RAISING THE CUP, AND SHARING THE ELEMENTS

*{For those who have the pre-filled cups:
open the first seal - unleavened bread wafer}*

Pastor: The Body of Christ broken for you. Take and eat.
People: Amen.

{You may eat the bread}

*{For those who have the pre-filled cups:
open the second seal - the fruit of the vine - grape juice}*

Pastor: The Blood of Christ shed for you. Take and drink.
People: Thanks be to God.

{You may drink the wine or grape juice}

{Those who are able, please rise}

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
Leader: Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
ALL: 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 [®]

Leader: Share your mustard-seed faith with the world.
God will make of it more than you can imagine.
People: **We will dare to speak of God's love.**
We will seek to live out the love of Christ.
Leader: Walk by faith, not by sight.
God will add to your understanding day by day.
People: **We will seek to view others as God sees them.**
We will claim them as sisters and brothers.
ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♩ Red #558

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*SENDING HYMN

"Blessed Assurance" vs 1 & 3

♩ Blue #572

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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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[®] 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

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

[®] The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

[®] *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.

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 worshiping 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) We experience greater oneness with God and each another through Communion
- (9) God sends us into the world to share His love and grace with others

572 Blessed Assurance

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith. Hebrews 10:22

1. Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! O what a fore-taste of
 2. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light! Vi-sions of rap-ture now
 3. Per-fect sub-mis-sion- all is at rest, I in my Sav-ior am

glo-ry di-vine! Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God,
 burst on my sight; An-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove
 hap-py and blest; Watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove,

Optional descant

This is my sto-ry,
 Born of His Spir-it, washed in His blood.
 Ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love. This is my sto-ry,
 Filled with His good-ness, lost in His love.

Refrain

this is my song, Prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long; This is my
 this is my song, Prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long; This is my

TEXT: Fanny J. Crosby
 MUSIC: Phoebe P. Knapp; Descant by James C. Gibson

ASSURANCE
 9.10.9.9. with Refrain

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ASSURANCE AND TRUST

sto - ry, this is my song, Prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

sto - ry, this is my song, Prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

13 14 15 16



† 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:

Sam B.
 Lori & Ryan B.
 Rich D.
 Jacob E.
 Jaden G.
 Ann H.
 Leigh H.
 Rev. David K.
 Jim & Donna K.
 Janice L.
 Ella L.
 Amy M.
 Diane M.
 George M.
 Starr M.
 Steve M.
 Terry O.
 Paul P.

Medical Concerns & Healing:

Fred R.
 Julie R.
 Joyce R.
 Jim S.
 Rob & Jodi S.
 Martha W.

Mourning:

Family & Friends of Ron S.
 Family & Friends of Barb B.
 Family & Friends of Marilyn W.

Social Concerns:

Those impacted by COVID-19
 Those working on a vaccine for COVID-19

Celebration:

Class of 2021 Graduates

*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](http://www.sprucc.org)" page at www.sprucc.org under the "ministries" tab.

For the week of June 13 the Primary VCT is Jon Henning, the Secondary VCT is Rob Seifrit.
 For the week of June 20 the Primary VCT is Robin Henning, the Secondary VCT is Phleane Kissling.

††† 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.

Sunday School

Sunday school has ended for the summer months. It will resume on September 12. However, Sunday school music, videos, and an assortment of other materials are available for downloading over the summer. Click on this link for [Sunday school for youth](#).

Devotional Music

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

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](#).

Summer Schedule

During the months of June, July & August, we switch to our summer worship schedule with worship beginning at 9:30am. Please make note of the change.

Community Blood Drive

The Community Blood Drive took place yesterday at St. Paul's Church. Thank you to Terry Pastor for setting it up. Thank you to all of our donors. The next blood drive will be on Tuesday, September 21 at St. Daniel's Church from 2:00-7:00pm. Please call 1-800-223-6667 or go online at www.giveapint.org to donate.

Community Vacation Bible School (VBS) - June 14 to June 17

In-person VBS will take place starting tomorrow, Monday, June 14, from 6:00-8:00pm at St. Daniel's Lutheran Church. The theme is "*Christmas in June*". VBS is open to children 3 years old and up to and including Grade 6. This event is sponsored by St. Daniel's, St. Paul's and Zion churches. Online registration is required. Go to the church's website, www.sprucc.org, to register. If you do not have access to a computer, please contact the church office.

Strengthen the Church Offering

Next Sunday, June 20, during worship, we will receive the Strengthen the Church Offering. The Strengthen the Church Offering furthers the work of local UCC Conference, as well as the National UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.

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.

About Today

Church Season: Pentecost -which is the season of the church in mission. It is the time between the ascension of Christ and his second coming, which is the time we are presently living in today, and as such is the longest season of the church year. The day of Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian church.

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

Green - symbolizing the life God brings, especially through our mission work.

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, June 13, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Third Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13 *and* Psalm 20; Ezekiel 17:22-24 *and* Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 4:26-34

The First Book of Samuel

The First Book of Samuel describes the transition of the nation of Israel from their time of being ruled by the judges to that of being ruled by their first king, Saul. The end of First Samuel and the beginning of Second Samuel describe the transition to Israel's second king, David. First Samuel begins with the birth of the prophet Samuel, who is a priest, judge, seer, military leader, and the one who anointed both Saul and David as king. First Samuel covers the time span of about 1100 BC to 1000 BC, and Second Samuel covers the time from about 1000 BC to 960 BC.

Psalm 20

This OT song, is attributed to King David. The psalmist prays for God's help during a time of trouble. This "royal psalm" may have been used as a prayer sung before the army and the king, before the army went to war, in which God is beseeched to give victory to the king.

Ezekiel

The book of Ezekiel (OT), is attributed to the priest and prophet Ezekiel, who was born of the priestly family of Zadokite, married, then widowed, and prophesied from 593 to 571 B.C. Ezekiel proclaimed that the Israelites were defeated and exiled by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar in 587 B.C. as a just punishment from God for their idolatrous behavior (i.e. not putting God first in their lives); they need to repent (change direction heart and mind towards God), for only God can breathe life back into their dry bones. A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct.

The Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

This NT Epistle (letter) was written by the Apostle Paul between 50-56 A.D. to a gentile congregation he had founded several years earlier in Corinth (the capital city of the Roman province of Achaia, a large and prospering urban center that was ethnically, culturally, and religiously diverse). This letter is believed to be a compilation of fragments of multiple letters. This letter is in response to Titus' glowing reports and other negative reports Paul has received about this church. Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and church leader, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. Paul wrote more of the NT than any other person.

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, June 20, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49 *and* Psalm 9:9-20 *or* 1 Samuel 17:57 - 18:5, 18:10-16 *and* Psalm 133; Job 38:1-11 *and* Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41



Link to Website's
Upcoming Events



Reset for Renewal

Part of the Strengthen the Church Offering supports youth and young adult ministry. 2020 scabbled many plans for such ministries, including the delay of the much-appreciated National Youth Event. Youth and Young Adult Ministers wondered how to effectively reach out during the pandemic and sought peers' support.

In part supported by Strengthen the Church funds, the Rev. Trayce Potter organized a "Reset for Renewal" event for people working with youth and young adults. "Reset for Renewal" was a virtual gathering to foster relationships that provided space for leaders to reclaim their resilience and ministerial gifts and reconnect with young people's pulse amid today's world. Throughout three days, participants had the opportunity to meet and gather with like-minded individuals who are doing youth ministry in various contexts within the United Church of Christ and beyond. A diverse group of keynote speakers brought thoughtful and timely messages to help participants as leaders called to disciple young people in difficult times.

"Reset for Renewal" occurred during this unique time of a global pandemic, the uprising of white supremacy, a chaotic election season, and a general dis-ease across the country. Participants openly wept as they processed the weight of their calls and position, shared the challenges in their personal lives, and looked forward to a time when life returned to a routine that allowed face to face interaction with the youth in their lives.

A few quotes highlight the joy and experiences shared.

"Best conference EVER! Genuine and so full of the Holy Spirit Thank you all!" - Dorine DeCarli

"It's been such a blessing to be with everyone. Just what I needed, right when I needed it"

- Kim Looney

"This was what so many in our churches and other ministry settings were desperately in need of during this extraordinary time." - Lisa Hart

Gifts to the Strengthen the Church Offering make meaningful events like [Reset for Renewal](#) possible.



[Gifts to the Strengthen the Church Offering,](#)
Renew the United Church of Christ.

Please give to the 2021 Strengthen the Church campaign.