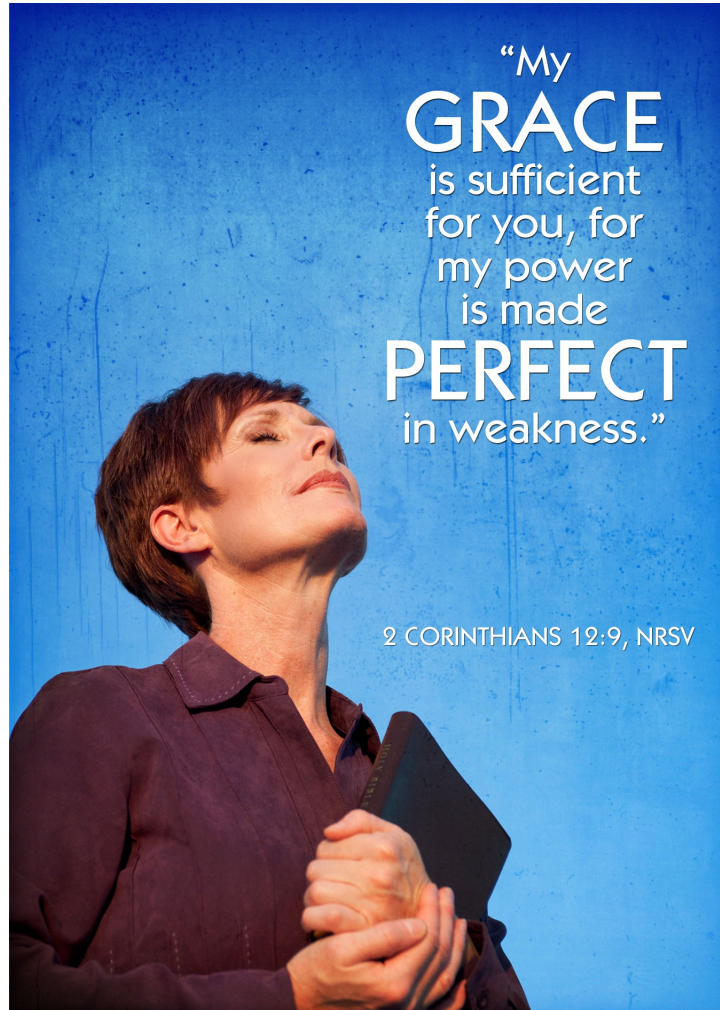


St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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.*



*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, July 4, 2021
Sixth 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

God of faithful elders and lowly followers, our sure defense and faithful guide, we invoke your presence among us in this time of praise. Your name is proclaimed through all the earth, and by your hand we are made victorious over the unclean spirits and unbeliefs that stalk our paths. When we ponder your greatness, we are filled with awe. When we come to your holy mountain, we are amazed. Who are we to approach your majesty? How can we fulfill the covenant you offer us? Come, Spirit of truth, to show us the way. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"

‡ NCH #351

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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: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.
Worship the One whose grace covers all our needs.

**People: The Lord of hosts is with us here.
We praise, with joy, God's holy name.**

Leader: Ponder God's steadfast love in the temple.
Seek to share the love we are receiving.

**People: We are here to be equipped for the journey of life.
We have gathered that our daily witness might be empowered.**

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

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

John Ylvisaker, 1985; alt

Unison

D7 G D G D G D

1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
 2 When you found the won - der of the Word, I was
 3 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too
 4 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be

G D G D7 G D

there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
 there to cheer you on; You were raised to praise the
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you
 there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you

G D G C D7 G

were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.
 liv - ing God, to whom you now be - long.
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.
 were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold. *St. 4, end*

G/B C G

I was there when you were but a child, with a
 Should you find some-one to share your time and you
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you

John Ylvisaker is the composer of a number of collections of music in the "contemporary" or "folk" idiom, as well as soundtracks for various media productions. This is perhaps his best-known song.

Tune: BORNING CRY 9.7.9.6.D.
 John Ylvisaker, 1985

Am D G G/B C

faith to suit you well; I'll be there in case you
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
 shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have

G A7 D *to beginning*

wan - der off and find where de - mons dwell.
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

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)

Let us give voice to our anxiety before God. Let us bring to God the panic we feel when we measure our inner resources against the outward challenges of our frantic lives. Let us dare to confess the ways we fall short of God's expectations. God already knows them, but we need to face them.

*CONFESSION OF SIN[®] (Unison)

O God, when we ponder the vast universe at your command, we are astounded. We are nothing, except that you have given us life. How often we have squandered that gift in meaningless pursuits, killing time we might have invested in honoring you! Instead we have belittled your prophets and made light of your commands. We alternate between boasting over our personal accomplishments and near-panic at our inability to cope with life's challenges. O God, we confess our desperate need for healing, forgiveness and a new perspective on life. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON[®] (Leader)

Rejoice in the judgments of God that are ever tempered with mercy. God understands our weaknesses and is acquainted with our needs. The grace of God is sufficient to cover our sin, for power is made perfect in weakness. When we recognize our weakness, God can strengthen us. When we accept the reign of love among us, we are empowered to be the church, reaching out to a sick and troubled world. **Amen.**

{Please be seated}

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism ①

for

Nevaeh Dixon

Parents: Jerome Jerry Dixon & Tiffany Elizabeth Readinger

Sponsor: Christine M. Kofroth

INVITATION

{Child, Parent, Sponsors, & Elder are invited to come forward to the Baptismal font}

WELCOME

ADDRESS

QUESTIONS OF THE PARENT AND SPONSORS

{Those who are able please rise}

*CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support, and care.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Pastor: Do you believe in God, the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His Son?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, His Son.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

{Please be seated}

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

Pastor: Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray...

ACT OF BAPTISM AND NAMING OF CHILD

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

LIGHTING OF THE BAPTISMAL CANDLE

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go in the peace of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

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

Epistle Lesson: [2 Corinthians 12:1-10](#)
Gospel Lesson: [Mark 6:1-13](#)

HYMN "God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand" vs 1, 2, & 4 ♪ Red #440
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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

440 The Nation

DANIEL C. ROBERTS, 1876 10. 10. 10. 10. NATIONAL HYMN
In march rhythm GEORGE WILLIAM WARREN, 1892

Trumpets, before each stanza

1. God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y hand
2. Thy love di - vine hath led us in the past;
3. From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti - lence,
4. Re - fresh Thy peo - ple on their toil - some way,

Leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;
Be Thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense;
Lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;

Of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,
Be Thou our Rul - er, Guard - ian, Guide, and Stay;
Thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease,
Fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,

Our grate - ful songs be - fore Thy throne a - rise.
Thy word our law, Thy paths our cho - sen way.
Thy boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
And glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er Thine. 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.*

In Memory of

Sarah A. (Leiss) Morris-Starr

Disciple of Christ

and

Member of the Family of St. Paul's UCC

December 17, 1927 to June 11, 2021

*{We share in this memorial rite today to offer prayers
and show our love, support, and care
for this member of our family of St. Paul's United Church of Christ}.*

GREETING

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

SENTENCES *(Leader)*

God is near to all who call, who call from their hearts. The desires of those who fear God are fulfilled, their cries are heard; they are saved.

When we were baptized into Christ Jesus, we were baptized into Christ's death. By our baptism, then, we were buried with Christ and shared Christ's death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of God, so too we might live a new life. For if we have been united with Christ in a death like Christ's, we shall certainly be united with Christ in a resurrection like Christ's.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(Unison)* *{From Paul's letter to the Romans}*

**We believe that there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus,
and we know that in everything God works for good
with those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.**

**We are sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities,
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height,
nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING *(Leader)*

O God, our strength and our redeemer, giver of life and conqueror of death, we praise you with humble hearts....

....Keep us all in communion with your faithful people in every time and place, that at last we may rejoice together in the heavenly family where Jesus Christ reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever. **Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Leader: Let us offer our silent prayers....

{Silent Prayers}

SENTENCES (Leader)

We would not have you be ignorant brothers and sisters, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Unison)

**O God, whose days are without end
and whose mercies cannot be counted,
awaken us to the shortness and uncertainty of human life.**

**By your Holy Spirit,
lead us in faithfulness all our days.**

**When we have served you in our generation,
may we be gathered with those who have gone before,
having the testimony of a good conscience,
in the communion of your holy church,
in the confidence of a certain faith,
in the comfort of a saving hope,
in favor with you, our God,
and at perfect peace with the world;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer we pray. 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.**

BLESSING

Leader: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of Christ Jesus our risen Savior. And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

The above is reprinted with permission from the Order for Thanksgiving for One Who Has Died and the Order for Committal from the United Church of Christ Book of Worship (1986) United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray....

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

“The Nation”

♪ Red #10 pg 538-539

Leader: Almighty God, the Father of humankind, who hast commanded us to make intercession for all people, hear us while we pray.

{A time of silent prayer}

Leader: That it may please thee to bless the whole family of humankind from one end of the earth to the other; to destroy every form of tyranny and superstition; to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death; to remember for good all rulers, and to bind all nations in unity, peace and concord,

People: we beseech thee to hear us, O God.

Leader: That it may please thee to look with favor upon our country; to preserve to us the blessings of an equal and impartial freedom; to bring in upon us the righteousness of the kingdom of God, and so to control us by thy good Spirit that we may use our liberties only for thy glory and the welfare and progress of mankind,

People: we beseech thee to hear us, O God.

Leader: That it may please thee to prosper the community in which we live and all its institutions; to bless every effort made in our midst to remove the causes of ignorance and crime; to raise the general level of comfort, and to give a higher standard to public and private life,

People: we beseech thee to hear us, O God.

Leader: O God of our forebearers, who from generation to generation hast watched over us in love, hear us now in hours of perplexity and need. Revive in all hearts a spirit of devotion to the public good, that strife and tumult may cease, and justice and truth be exalted. Enable the people of this nation and every nation to live in righteousness and good will, so that the coming of the kingdom of brotherhood and peace may be hastened, and thy will be done upon the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

SUNG PRAISE

“My Country, ‘Tis of Thee”

♪ Red #441

**Our fathers’ God, to Thee, Author of liberty, To thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright With freedom’s holy light;
Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King.**

*Text: Samuel F. Smith
Reproduced with permission One License #A-728042*

OFFERTORY INVITATION ②

Leader: Some take offense when asked to give,

People: but all of us are eager to receive.

Leader: Jesus Christ turned these priorities around,
giving thanks for the generosity of God’s covenant with humanity,

People: but finding greatest joy in the opportunity to share.

Leader: In gratitude and joy

People: we bring our 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 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}.*

OFFERTORY

“The Gift of Love”
Soloist - Terry Pastor

Hal H. Hopson

{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
Used with Permission One License #A-728042*

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** [®] *(Leader)*

Thank you, God, for your steadfast love. We offer our praise; may it reach to the ends of the earth. We ask that our gifts empower ministry in this place and wherever our influence can reach. Let unbelief be turned to faith, ignorance to knowledge, sickness to health, brokenness to wholeness, both in us and in our neighbors near and far. Guide us, as we seek to invest our best for the sake of Christ. **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: Go out into the world in the name of the carpenter.
In humility, reach out to help and to be helped.
People: **We will trust God in our preparations and on the journey.
We will give our best, relying on God's grace.**
Leader: As disciples of Jesus Christ, you are blessed and empowered.
God's steadfast love surrounds you wherever you go.
People: **Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!
God will be our guide today and forever.**
ALL: **Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

***THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

‡ Red #558
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***SENDING HYMN**

“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

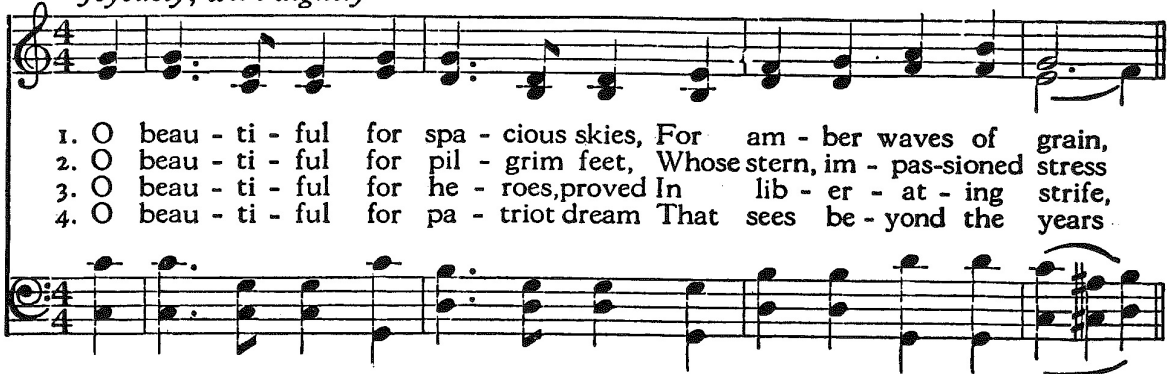
vs 1, 2, & 4 ‡ Red #443
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*{Acolyte carries the light back into the world, leading us,
as we now go to carry God's light and love back into the world.}*

KATHARINE LEE BATES, 1895
Joyously, with dignity

C. M. D.

MATERNA
 S. A. WARD, 1882



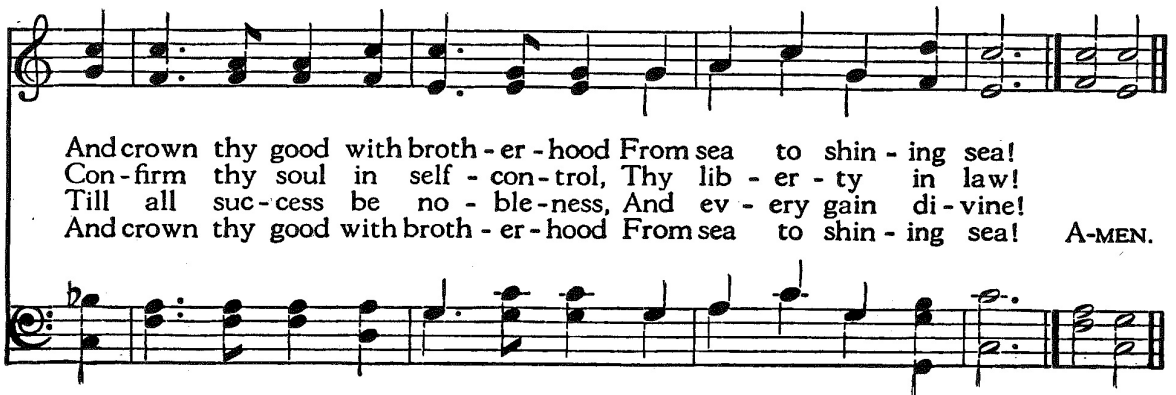
1. O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, For am - ber waves of grain,
 2. O beau - ti - ful for pil - grim feet, Whose stern, im - pas - sioned stress
 3. O beau - ti - ful for he - roes, proved In lib - er - at - ing strife,
 4. O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream That sees be - yond the years



For pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties A - bove the fruit - ed plain!
 A thor - ough - fare for free - dom beat A - cross the wil - der - ness!
 Who more than self their coun - try loved, And mer - cy more than life!
 Thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam Un - dimmed by hu - mar: tears!



A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed His grace on thee,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed His grace on thee,



And crown thy good with broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea!
 Con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, Thy lib - er - ty in law!
 Till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, And ev - ery gain di - vine!
 And crown thy good with broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea! A - MEN.



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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*. (2020). 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.



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:

Sam B.
Norman B.
Lori & Ryan B.
Deb D.
Rich D.
Jacob E.
Jaden G.
Ann H.
Leigh H.
Rev. David K.
Jim & Donna K.
Janice L.
Ella L.

Medical Concerns & Healing:

Fred R.
Julie R.
Jim S.
Rob & Jodi S.
Spencer Family
Martha W.
Amy M.
Diane M.
George M.
Starr M.
Steve M.
Gary N.
Terry O.
Paul P.

Mourning:

Family & Friends of Barb B.
Family & Friends of Sandra B.
Family & Friends of Joyce R.
Family & Friends of Ron S.
Family & Friends of Sarah S.
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](#)” page at www.sprucc.org under the “ministries” tab.

For the week of July 4 the Primary VCT is Beth Miller, the Secondary VCT is Sheri Rowe.

For the week of July 11 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.

Sunday School Materials

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](#).

UCC Musicians Association Conference - July 8-10

The UCC Musicians Association will be hosting an online conference this summer, just prior to General Synod. On July 8-10, musicians, pastors and lay leaders are invited to attend a very special conference filled with workshops, worship, networking and a concert. Please consider taking advantage of this online format (and lack of travel expenses). All conference content will be accessible for one month after the event. For info about the UCCMA, including registration for the conference go to: <https://uccma.wildapricot.org/>.

St. John's (Hain's) Picnic - July 10

There will be a picnic in the grove at St. John's (Hain's) Church this coming Saturday, July 10 (rain or shine). The kitchen will open at 4:00pm. There will be burgers, hotdogs, pork BBQ sandwiches, soups, french fries, beverages and ice cream. Activities for children will begin at 4:00pm. The Ringgold Band will entertain from 5:00-8:00pm. For more information go to www.stjhains.org.

General Synod - July 11-18

Every two years, General Synod brings together thousands of faithful members of the United Church of Christ for formal church witness, inspirational worship, and fellowship with friends (new and old). The dates for the United Church of Christ's first virtual General Synod has been set. The 33rd biennial gathering will take place online **July 11-18, 2021**. The Sunday to Sunday schedule is the first in a series of changes planned for this event, themed "*Rooted in Love, Special Edition.*"

To register or to learn about the programs and business of General Synod 33 go to generalsynod.org

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.

Free WiFi: StPaulsUCC-Guest & StPaulsUCC-5G-Guest
Password (for both): iamheretoserve



Link to Website's
Upcoming Events

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, July 4, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 *and* Psalm 48; Ezekiel 2:1-5 *and* Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

The Second Book of Samuel

This OT book, bears the name of the prophet Samuel. This book takes place during the rule of the second king of Israel, David (ruling from 1000-961 B.C.). Two important themes within this book are that of the a nation's relationship with God and good rule of people; and secondly, the complexity of individual relationships with God. Samuel was the prophet anointed King David. In Hebrew, the word prophet literally means "spokesperson." A prophet is one who acts as an intermediary, called by God to speak to God's people, usually to bring those people back in line with God's will.

Psalm 48

This communal OT song celebrates God's connection and guidance with His people. It is one of the 11 psalms attributed to the Korahites, who were singers and who are one of four divisions of the priestly Levite tribe of Israel.

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.

Psalm 123

This OT song is a prayer asking God to have mercy upon us. Psalms 120-134 are a part of the collection known as "A Song of Ascents." These songs were most likely sung by people on religious pilgrimages.

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, July 11, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 *and* Psalm 24; Amos 7:7-15 *and* Psalm 85:8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29