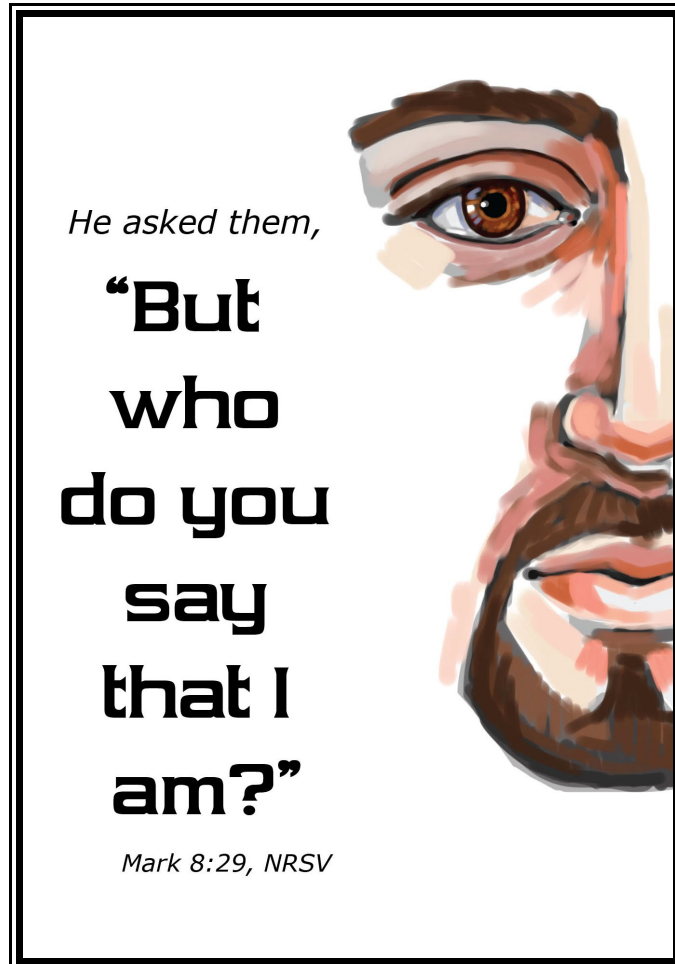


## St. Paul's United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551  
610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org  
Worship 10:15am

*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, September 12, 2021**  
**16<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup>

God of all wisdom, renew our sense of awe and wonder as we gather before you, the Source of all knowledge. Make your Word known to us, and stretch out your hand to touch us. Draw us away from our own devices that we may truly listen to the witness of all creation speaking of wonders we have ignored. Give us eyes to see beauty in all around us. Align us with truth and righteousness. Quiet our scoffing and awaken our trust. Show us the disciplines we need to stay in touch with you each day. Amen.

*{Those who are able, please rise}  
{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}*

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN**    *"I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry "*    all verses    † NCH #351  
*Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper.  
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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 <sup>2</sup>

Leader: Come away from dullness and complacency.  
Wake up! God is calling us to listen and learn.  
**People: The heavens are telling the glory of God.  
The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.**  
Leader: Our waywardness separates us from God.  
Then, when we call on God, we hear no answer.  
**People: We gather to renew our relationship with God.  
We seek enlightenment and the revival of our souls.**

---

### **Virtual Worship Service**

Online: [Live Stream](#) at [sprucc.org](http://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](mailto:Office@sprucc.org)*

---

## 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<sup>®</sup> (Leader)

People of God, the scriptures remind us that we are accountable to our Creator. Instead, in our times of panic, we put God on trial, wondering why we cannot find the help we seek. Shutting our eyes and ears to God becomes a habit we cannot break in times of desperation. That is why, together, we come to God, asking to be cleared of secret faults and to detect the error of our ways in time to turn around, letting God's Word reach our hearts. Let us confess our sinfulness and separation from God. Let us pray....

### \*CONFESSION OF SIN<sup>®</sup> (Unison)

**God of all worlds, we confess our arrogance in turning away from the knowledge you offer and the relationship with us that you desire. We make light of your commandments and scoff at discipline and boundaries as if they did not apply to us. Our tongues reveal our ignorance before the vastness of your truth. The words we speak in error spread poison that cannot be contained. Our waywardness is destroying us. Our complacency before evil, within us and all around, threatens life itself. O God, we cry out for forgiveness. Amen.**

### \*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON<sup>®</sup> (Leader)

We eat the fruits of our way and are sated with our own devices. Words of confession are not enough to break the patterns of complacency and self-justification that separate us from God. Thankfully, our Creator knows our honest intent. If we truly repent and truly turn from our insolent, undisciplined ways, a new way is opening up for us, and God welcomes us as partners in the gospel. In keeping God's ordinances, there is unexpected reward. **Amen.**

*{Please be seated}*

# The Sacrament of Holy Baptism ①

for

Brooke Lee Sell

Parents: Tina Renee Braun & Joshua William Sell

Godparents: Veronica Heffelfinger & Barry Hepner, Jr.

## 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

Old Testament Lesson on Wisdom:

[Proverbs 1:20-33](#)

Deuterocanonical Lesson on Wisdom:

[Wisdom of Solomon 7:22-8:2a](#)

Gospel Lesson:

[Mark 8:27-38](#)

*{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}*

### HYMN

vs 6:

"Nearer, My God, to Thee" vs 1 & 6

♪ Red #318

When I am lost in life and feel alone  
I'll put my trust in thee, to lead me home  
I'll lift my prayers to thee

Nearer, my God to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!

vs 1-5 & refrain by Sarah Flower Adams vs 6 by Benjamin Motz  
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### BLESSING OF BACKPACKS<sup>®</sup>

*{All students, teachers, school staff, and younger children are invited to come forward.  
If you have your backpack or briefcase, bring it forward with you.}*

### SCRIPTURE (Leader)

- from Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

*{Those who are able, please rise}*

**\*PRAYER OF BLESSING**

Leader: Let us pray....

Dear God, as we get ready to start another year in school,  
we ask your blessing on these backpacks,  
and especially on these students who will carry and wear them.  
As they do the very important work of being students,  
bless them with:  
eagerness to learn,  
that their world may grow large;  
respect for teachers and fellow students,  
that they may form healthy relationships;  
love for nature,  
that they may become caretakers of your creation;  
happiness when learning is easy  
and stick-to-it-iveness when learning is hard;  
faith in Jesus as their best teacher and closest friend.

**ALL: We ask that you would protect these, your own children.  
Watch over them and keep them safe  
as they travel to and from school.  
As they learn, help them also to discover the different gifts  
that you have given each one of them  
to be used in your work in the world.**

Leader: As they hear the many voices that will fill their days,  
help them to listen most carefully for your voice,  
the one that tells them you will love them always,  
no matter what.

**ALL: We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND ADMINISTRATORS ③⑩**

Leader: Let us pray for all who are beginning  
a new school year and Sunday school year,  
that both students and teachers  
will be blessed in their academic endeavors and Biblical study.

**ALL: Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge.  
Grant teachers the gift of joy and insight,  
and students the gift of diligence and openness,  
that all may grow in what is good and honest and true.  
Grant administrators wisdom and support staff a servants heart,  
that all might serve and work well in mutual support and care.  
Support all who teach and all who learn,  
that together we may know and follow your ways;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*{Please be seated}*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SERMON**

## We Respond with Thanks

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

### CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray....

### PRAYERS OF REMEMBRANCE

Leader: Loving, Holy God, as we remember the horror and tragedy of 9-11-2001...  
We pray for the innocent, whose lives were lost swiftly and in violence.

**ALL: May they forever find shelter with you.**

Leader: We pray for the faithful, whose lives were lost in service to others.

**ALL: May they forever find shelter with you.**

Leader: We pray for the wounded, whose lives are damaged in body and spirit.

**ALL: Comfort and heal them, and give them strength.**

Leader: We pray for the young, whose lives are marred by anxiety and loss.

**ALL: Comfort them, and give them peace.**

Leader: We pray for the fearful, whose lives are truncated by worry and confusion.

**ALL: Comfort them, and give them peace.**

Leader: We pray for the angry, whose lives are fueled by hatred.

**ALL: Show them your way of love.**

Leader: We pray for the peacemakers, whose lives are daily in harm's way.

**ALL: Protect them, and grant them mercy in time of trial.**

Leader: Who are we, O Lord, that you are mindful of us?

**ALL: We are the bystanders, the ones left disquieted and helpless.  
The things we have feared have come upon us;  
what we have dreaded has happened,  
And without you, we are filled with confusion.**

Leader: Who are we, O Lord, that you are mindful of us?

**ALL: We are the wounded and hurting, the ones whose groans pour out like water.  
And without you, we are filled with fear.**

Leader: Who are we, O Lord, that you are mindful of us?

**ALL: We are the survivors, the ones who seek to understand and to act.  
We are burdened by a cacophony of angry voices;  
we find no help in human wisdom,  
And without you, we are filled with despair.**

Leader: Who are we, O Lord?

**ALL: In these times of trial there is much we do not know.**

Leader: But this we know:  
**ALL: Whoever we are, whatever we do, you are mindful of us.**  
**Your everlasting arms will comfort all who come to you,**  
**And your judgment will fall down upon those who do not follow your ways of love.**

Leader: Help us, we pray,  
**ALL: to live peaceably with the things we know, and the things we cannot know.**

Leader: Grant us the grace  
**ALL: to speak hope in the midst of despair.**

Leader: Grant us the courage  
**ALL: to return love for hatred.**

Leader: Grant us the wisdom  
**ALL: to believe that vengeance is yours, not ours.**

Leader: And grant us the compassion  
**ALL: to minister to those who choose despair and hatred, rather than hope and peace.**

Leader: These things and all things we ask in the name of the One who came to offer us life, and life abundant, through the giving of his own life, Jesus the Christ our Lord and Saviour, who taught us to pray....

Prayer by Rebekah Choate used with permission, and adapted for this worship service;  
 United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries and One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) resources; ucc.org.

**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.**

*{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}*

**SUNG PRAISE**                    *"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation "*                    vs 3                    *♪ Red #324*

**Here vouchsafe to all Thy servants What they ask of Thee to gain,**  
**What they gain from Thee forever With the blessed to retain,**  
**And hereafter in Thy glory Evermore with Thee to reign.**

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**OFFERTORY INVITATION** ©

Leader: What seeds are we sowing for the sake of a more righteous and just world?  
 Who will witness to God's intention that we live together as heirs to a rich, full life?

**People: It is our duty and our privilege to give our first and best to God through His church, that Christ may be revealed to all.**



## 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

*{Those who are able, please rise}  
{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}*

#### \*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 <sup>®</sup> (Leader)

O God, the source of all wisdom and truth. We offer the treasures of this world as a way of recalling all of us to a right relationship with you. Your design for life is more to be desired than the finest gold. To learn from you and to serve you is our highest joy. May our offerings and our daily lives communicate this message. **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 <sup>®</sup>

**Leader:** Let your words this week proclaim God's love.  
May your heart's meditations be acceptable to God.  
**People:** **We seek to let God guide our tongues.  
We want to speak without arrogance of false pride.**  
**Leader:** Listen for the wisdom God wants you to know.  
Seek God's counsel and reproof each day.  
**People:** **We will look for God in the midst of creation.  
We will seek God's face in the people around us.**  
**ALL:** **Amen.**

#### \*BENEDICTION

*{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}*

#### \*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

‡ Red #558

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#### \*SENDING HYMN

"Nearer, My God, to Thee" vs 2,3,4 & 5

‡ Red #318

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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.}*

## ††† Worship Participants †††

Thank you to all who have made this worship experience possible.

	<u>Today</u>	
	<b>September 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>September 19<sup>th</sup></b>
Usher Captain	Jon H.	Georgianna H.
Usher Co-Captain	Robin H.	Nevin K.
Usher/Greeter	-	-
Usher/Greeter	-	-
Acolyte	-	-
Welcome	Terry P.	Brian K.
Layreader/Lector #1	Terry P.	Brian K.
Layreader/Lector #2	-	-
Children's Message	Pastor Ben	Elsa W.
Cantor	-	-
AV Tech	Kirk A.	Kirk A.



## Worship Service Resource Credits

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.

<sup>①</sup> 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.

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

<sup>③</sup> Reprinted with permission from *Sundays and Seasons*. (2020). Augsburg Fortress.

<sup>④</sup> 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.

<sup>⑤</sup> Reprinted with permission from *Sourcebook of Worship Services*

<sup>⑥</sup> scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America

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

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

<sup>⑨</sup> 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

<sup>⑩</sup> Reprinted with permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.

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

<sup>⑫</sup> The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

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

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\*The Love Feast liturgy was primarily designed and written by United Methodist pastor, the Rev. Dr. Cynthia A. Wilson (2018) at umdiscipleship.org, with adaptations from: the Rev. Tamie Scalise, Richard Stowe (author of *The Love Feast*), moravianmusic.org, moravian.org, and the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz.

*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:**

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

### **Medical Concerns & Healing:**

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

### **Mourning:**

Family & Friends of Sandra B.  
Family & Friends of Robert G. Jr.  
Family & Friends of R. Lynn H.  
Family & Friends of Joyce R.  
Family & Friends of Jason R.  
Family & Friends of Sharon R.  
Family & Friends of Ron S  
Family & Friends of Sarah S.

### **Social Concerns:**

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

### **Celebration:**

Birth of Jenkins Ellis H.

*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](mailto: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](mailto:CareTeam@sprucc.org). For more information, go to our “[Visitation Care Ministries](#)” page at [www.sprucc.org](http://www.sprucc.org) under the “ministries” tab.

**Free WiFi:** StPaulsUCC-Guest & StPaulsUCC-5G-Guest

**Password (for both):** iamheretoserve



Link to Website's  
Upcoming Events

## ††† 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. 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](#).

### Worship Service

Beginning today the time of Sunday worship has changed to 10:15am. Please note this new time. Today we will have our annual Blessing of the Backpacks, prayers of remembrance for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11, and celebrate in the Sacrament of Baptism.

After worship, there will be a fellowship time outside (if the weather permits) and in the Miller Fellowship Hall with Zion UCC.

### Sunday School

Sunday school for adults and youth will resume on Sunday, October 3 at 9:00am.

### Weekly Morning Bible Study

Starting this Tuesday morning, September 14 at 9:00am, Zion UCC will offer a Zoom Bible Study based on the scripture passages for this coming Sunday. The study goes from 9:00-9:45am. All are invited! The same Zoom numbers are used each week.

To join the Zoom meeting use the following:

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

Meeting ID: 874 5212 4156

Passcode: 783249

For people joining with telephone, choose one of these numbers:

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

### Neighborhood Mission Work

Our stay-near-home Mission trip with Zion UCC (Womelsdorf) is scheduled for this coming Saturday, September 18. We are still looking for local projects to consider and people to help on that day. **Please let us know ASAP so that the projects and the availability of help may be firmed up.** Please contact the church office either by calling or emailing. Information and a form may be found on our [website](#). Please mark your calendars for Saturday, September 18, with a rain date of Saturday, September 25. We will be meeting at the church at 1:00pm.

### 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, September 12, 2021, Lectionary Reading for 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Proverbs 1:20-33 *and* Psalm 19; Isaiah 50:4-9a *and* Psalm 116:1-9 *or* Wisdom of Solomon 7:26 - 8:1; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

#### **Proverbs**

The final version of the Book of Proverbs (OT) was edited in the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C. and later. Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon are traditionally attributed to King Solomon, who ruled from about 967-927 B.C. Although perhaps some of these sayings originated with Solomon, Proverbs is a collection of mostly two-line sayings of the sages (a social class of those who served as counselors, teachers, and bureaucrats).

#### **Psalm 19**

In this OT song, we sing proclaim that we and the heavens give praise and glory to God for creation and the perfect law of the LORD.

#### **Isaiah**

The book of Isaiah (OT) is attributed to three prophets. The first of whom is from where the book gets its name, and is about Isaiah's call to become a prophet and his prophecy that Jerusalem will face God's judgement regarding its immorality in order to be God's Holy City (chaps. 1-39, written 738-688 B.C.), the second is about living in exile in Babylon (chaps. 40-55, written 597-539 B.C.), and the third is about the return from exile to Judah and the rebuilding of the Temple (chaps. 56-66, written 520-515 B.C.). A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct.

#### **Psalm 116**

This is an OT song of thanksgiving, where the individual saying/singing it is giving praise to God for deliverance from past troubles and giving assurance of that they will keep their vows to God.

#### **James**

This NT Epistle (letter) is commonly attributed to James, the brother of Jesus, who was a leader in the Christian church from 36AD until his martyrdom in 62AD. This letter is written not to one particular church in a particular area but a number of Christian churches in general. James addresses a number of topics in his letter including: being faithful in times of trial, that real faithfulness involves putting words into practice, the importance of helping the poor and not seeking earthly riches, speaking appropriately, choosing God's wisdom over Earthly wisdom, and the importance of actively being in a Christian community of faith in support of one another.

#### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> century, reported that this Gospel's author is Mark, a follower of Peter who wrote this Gospel after Peter's death.

### **Next Sunday, September 19, 2021, Lectionary Reading for 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Proverbs 31:10-31 *and* Psalm 1; Wisdom of Solomon 1:16 - 2:1, 12-22 *or* Jeremiah 11:18-20 *and* Psalm 54; James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

CONFIRMATION

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I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

John Ylvisaker, 1985; alt

Unison

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

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

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*

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.

**HYMN**  
vs 6:

“Nearer, My God, to Thee” vs 1 & 6  
When I am lost in life and feel alone  
I'll put my trust in thee, to lead me home  
I'll lift my prayers to thee

Nearer, my God to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!

♩ Red #318

vs 1-5 & refrain by Sarah Flower Adams vs 6 by Benjamin Motz  
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## The Christian Life

SARAH F. ADAMS, 1841

6. 4. 6. 4. 6. 6. 6. 4.

BETHANY  
LOWELL MASON, 1856

*In moderate time*

1. Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee! E'en though it  
2. Though like the wan - der - er, The sun gone down; Dark - ness be  
3. There let the way ap - pear Steps un - to heaven; All that Thou  
4. Then, with my wak - ing thoughts Bright with Thy praise, Out of my  
5. Or if on joy - ful wing Cleav - ing the sky, Sun, moon, and

be a cross That rais - eth me; Still all my song shall be,  
o - ver me, My rest a stone; Yet in my dreams I'd be  
send - est me In mer - cy given; An - gels to beck - on me  
ston - y griefs Beth - el I'll raise; So by my woes to be  
stars for - got, Up - wards I fly, Still all my song shall be,

Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee! A-MEN.



# 318

# The Christian Life

SARAH F. ADAMS, 1841

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LOWELL MASON, 1856

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Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee! A-MEN.