

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Zion United Church of Christ**

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551
St. Paul's UCC: 610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org
Zion UCC: 610-659-2775 -- mestme@aol.com -- www.1Zion.org

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



*Welcome to our Combined
10:15am Worship Service
In-Person & Streaming Online*



**April 3, 2022
Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Welcome

*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.*

Children's Bulletins

Crayons and activity bulletins are available in the narthex.

The activities match today's Bible readings and are designed for 3-6 & 7-12 year olds.

Biblias en Español

Biblias Bilingües en Español y Inglés están disponible en el vestíbulo narthex en la mesa de visitantes azul.

(Bilingual Bibles in Spanish & English are available in the narthex hallway on the blue visitors' table).

Nursery

Persons of all ages (including children) are very welcome to participate in the entire worship service. For safety, during the COVID pandemic we temporarily ceased having supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, on Sunday, September 11, 2022. In the meantime, parents who would like to do so, are welcome to watch their own children in the nursery, where a closed circuit TV is located, so that you can still see and hear the worship service.

Junior Worship

For safety, during the pandemic we temporarily ceased offering Junior Worship. We will resume Junior Worship on Sunday, September 11, 2022. The option of Junior Worship is offered downstairs, on the 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month, following the children's sermon, for elementary age children to learn about today's scripture lessons.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located both on the first and second floors to the left of the elevator.

Changing Tables

All four of our restrooms have changing tables. Each restroom has two "child care protection seats" to keep toddlers safe and secure while their parents use the restroom.

Water Fountains

For the safety of all, our water fountains are disabled during the pandemic.

Sunday School & Adult Faith Formation Classes

Classes for all ages are held at 9:00am.

Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship is held at 10:15am.

Prayer and Care

If you would like to add yourself or someone else to the prayer list, or request a pastoral call, please call or email the church office. You are welcome to take home with you a copy of *Our Daily Bread* daily devotional booklet, located on a table in the narthex hallway.

Looking for a Church to Call Home

If you are looking for a new church family home, we would be happy for you to consider St. Paul's or Zion United Church of Christ. For more information about St. Paul's, Zion, and the UCC, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our churches.

More Information....

Additional literature about our missions, ministries, and fellowship opportunities is located on the **Blue Visitor Table** in the narthex hallway, or contact us using the contact information on the front page of this bulletin.

Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you or if there is any way in which we can help make your worship experience more meaningful.

*{Symbols used in this bulletin: * = if able please stand; ♯ = Red Hymnal Page; ♯ = Blue Hymnal Page}*



sprucc.org



Free WiFi

Virtual Worship Service

Online: **Live Stream** at sprucc.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on **St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel**
Facebook Live (St. Paul's) 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 1-301-715-8592) - Live Only
If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610-621-5770 or 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 ② (Leader)

How much easier is it to criticize others than to see our own faults. How quickly we bemoan our suffering and struggles instead of rehearsing all our reasons for gratitude and joy. How often we cling to the past rather than heeding God's call to new life. We are invited to confess our destructive attitudes.

*CONFESSION OF SIN ② (Unison)

O God, whose upward call in Christ Jesus we have so often chosen to ignore, we confess that we settle for lesser goals while you summon us to embrace the realm of heaven. We seldom look beyond our own interests to the well-being of our sister and brothers. We can see the wasteful acts of other people but not our own selfish habits. We exaggerate the contributions we make but ignore the sacrifices of others. We need forgiveness, O God. Do a new thing within and among us. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*PRAYER FOR MERCY

"Kyrie"

♪Red #518

Leader (*spoken*):

Lord, have mercy upon us.

People (*sung*):

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Leader (*spoken*):

Christ, have mercy upon us.

People (*sung*):

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Leader (*spoken*):

Lord, have mercy upon us.

People (*sung*):

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ② (Leader)

God summons us to return and welcomes us with joy. We are restored to full communion with the saints and are united in the heavenly call of Christ. Together, we find our horizons expanded and our priorities refined. God forgives us and sets before us once more the promise of fullness of life. Embrace God's pardon with renewed faith and joy. **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: [Isaiah 43:16-21](#)

Second Lesson: [Philippians 3:4b-14](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON: [John 12:1-8](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

HYMN *"Said Judas to Mary"* all verses

NCH #210

One License #A-728042

Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CONGREGATIONAL SONG 1. "Praise Him, Praise Him, all ye little children,

God is love, God is love.

Praise Him, Praise Him, all ye little children,

God is love, God is love.

2. "Love Him" ... 3. "Thank Him" ...

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.*

(Those who are able, please rise)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

**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, dead, 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.

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER (*Unison*)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

PRAYER RESPONSE "*O Lord, Hear My Prayer*"

W&R #484

**O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer, come and listen to me.**

One License #A-728042

OFFERTORY INVITATION 2

Leader: The most lavish gifts we can bring are never enough to thank God for all we have received.

People: **Yet the finest offerings we present do not escape God's notice when presented with full commitment and devotion.**

Leader: Let us give as we are able.

People: **Let us give with extravagant generosity.**

*{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 St. Paul's UCC secure [Online Giving](#) option on our website at [sprucc.org](#). [St. Paul's UCC Click Here](#)
Offerings may also be mailed to St. Paul's UCC; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551
or Zion UCC; PO Box 97; Womelsdorf, PA 19567}.*

CHOIR OFFERTORY

Vocal Solo

sung by Terry Pastor

{Those who are able, please rise}

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

"We Give Thee but Thine Own"

Red #258

**We give Thee but Thine own,
What-e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee. Amen.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER (Leader) ②**

Leader: Benevolent God, we are glad for all the good things you have done for us. We count everything as loss before the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ. Receive our costly offerings, the first fruits of our labors, and our best efforts, here dedicated for your use. May Christ be proclaimed and the poor be saved from the terrors of suffering and neglect. Fill the hearts of all your children with laughter and joy. To that end, bless our tithes and offerings.

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 ②**

Leader: The spirit of God sends us forth, a thankful people;
God goes with us, accomplishing new things among us.

**People: We are God's chosen people, appointed for service.
May our lives proclaim our thanks and praise.**

Leader: The great things God has done for us inspire our work.
We stretch and strive to reach new goals.

**People: God's praise will continually be on our lips.
We will embrace God's future as we seek to follow Christ.**

ALL: Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

***THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

♪Red #558

***SENDING HYMN "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" all verses**

E&R # 158

Public Domain
Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper.

*{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.}*

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS, CONCERNS

POSTLUDE

TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

ALL are invited
*to share in a time of Refreshments and Fellowship
in the downstairs Miller Fellowship Hall*



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) God sends us into the world to share His love and grace with others



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.

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 - ② *Gathered By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
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 - 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 The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
 - ⑭ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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Zion United Church of Christ

PO Box 97; Womelsdorf, PA 19567

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

Password (for both): iamheretoserve



About Today

Church Season: Lent -40 days and six Sundays before Easter; a season of penitence as we reflect upon our personal sins, which led to the need for the sacrifice of Jesus' life for us upon the cross. The root word of "Lent" means to "lengthen", referring to the lengthening of days as we anticipate spring and the new life granted through the resurrection – moving from darkness to light.

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

Purple/Violet –the color of royalty (royal purple); symbolizes the passion (suffering) of Christ our King that led to his sacrifice on the cross for us; the color of penance which we will be offering this Lent for his sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins.

Black – the color of mourning, for the passion, sacrifice, and death of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins, used for the beginning (Ash Wednesday) and ending (Good Friday) of this season of penance.

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 C**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Luke.

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). The first four books of the NT are called the "Gospels," which Christians consider the most central books of the Bible; the rest of the NT takes place after his ascension into heaven.

This Sunday, April 3 -- Lectionary Reading for Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalms 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

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 the 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 126

This OT song is a community prayer for God's help for deliverance and restoration. 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 Letter of Paul to the Philippians

This NT Epistle (letter) was written by the Apostle Paul from prison in the 60s A.D. Paul and Timothy are sending this letter to the church in Philippi, thanking and rejoicing with them for their steadfast faithfulness, prayers, and support, cautioning them of missionaries who focus on physical wants and needs, and encouraging them to stay true and united to his and Timothy's teachings and example. 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 John

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

Next Sunday, April 10 -- Lectionary Reading for Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 23:1-49



March 27, 2022

One Great Hour of Sharing

The theme for the 2022 One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering is "Love Remains," based on 1 Corinthians 13:13, "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." These words were written to a church in turmoil to remind them what love looks like in community.

What does love look like today? Through our collective generosity, the United Church of Christ has worked with both domestic and international partners to provide food, water, medicines, education, disaster recovery resources and opportunities for sustainable development, bringing hope to places of despair. Gifts to OGHS allow us to put love into action to make a difference in the lives of individuals and communities in crisis in this country and around the world.

What is One Great Hour of Sharing?

One Great Hour of Sharing, part of Our Church's Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. One Great Hour of Sharing also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.



Where and how are One Great Hour of Sharing funds shared?

The United Church of Christ responds to humanitarian and development needs in the world. Specifically, the UCC supports sustainable development and refugee needs internationally and provides disaster relief and immigration assistance in the United States. The United Church of Christ responds as a member of organizations such as Church World Service and the ACT Alliance. We also support the direct mission efforts of churches and church-based organizations that the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have direct partnerships with through Global Ministries. Nearly one-fifth of the UCC's OGHS offering is shared through Church World Service to support refugee, and disaster programs worldwide.

Babysitters needed for Spring Annual Meeting

We are looking for babysitters for our upcoming Spring Annual Meeting taking place June 3-4 at West Chester University.

Anyone interested must be over the age of 18 and must have their PA clearances. Time slots being sought are as follows:

Friday, June 3: 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

1:15 pm – 4:00 pm

6:15 pm – 8:30pm

Saturday, June 4: 8:45 am – 12:00 noon

1:15 pm – 5:30 pm

Sitters may work one shift, an entire day or both days. Sitters will receive free lunch and/or dinner if covering both shifts on either side of those meal times. Compensation will be \$20/hour. Please share this opportunity with childcare/ nursery attendants you know. Anyone interested should contact Susan at the Conference office at susan@psec.org.

From the Addiction & Recovery Taskforce: Giving something up for Lent

Many of us come from traditions that ask us to give something up for Lent. The Addiction and Recovery task force would like to suggest that we remind everyone that any prescription medication we have in the house that is not being used should be given up. Our own medicine cabinets can be a source of drug abuse for teens. Statistics have shown that up to 1 in 4 teens who use drugs have taken some from a medicine cabinet.

I recently had a total knee replacement. I was sent home with a bottle of 42 Tramadol for pain. I used one. As soon as I am able, I will get the rest to my local police station to turn them in to a secure drug destruction box. We all have these locations to turn in drugs in a number of places in our communities. Please post a list of these places for your congregation and remind people to clean out their medicine cabinets.

This is one thing we can all give up for Lent that can save lives.

Before the Cross of Jesus

1 Be - fore the cross of Je - sus our lives are judged to - day;
 2 The hopes that lead us on - ward, the fears that hold us back,
 3 Yet hum-bly, in our striv - ing, O God, we face its test;

the mean-ing of our ea - ger strife is test - ed by his Way.
 our will to dare great things for God, the cour - age that we lack,
 we crave the power to do your will, with him who did it best;

A - cross our rest-less liv - ing the light streams from his cross,
 the faith we keep in good - ness, our love, as low or pure—
 on us let now the heal - ing of his great Spi - rit fall,

and by its clear re - veal - ing beams we meas-ure gain and loss.
 on all, the judg-ment of the cross falls stead - y, clear and sure.
 and make us brave and full of joy to an - swer to his call.

Text: Ferdinand Q. Blanchard, 1929; alt.

Tune: ST. CHRISTOPHER 7.6.8.6.8.6.8.6.
 Frederick C. Maker, 1881

LENT

210

John 12:1-8

Said Judas to Mary

Sydney Carter, 1964; alt.

1 Said Ju - das to Mar - y, "Now
 2 "O Mar - y, O Mar - y, O
 3 "To - mor - row, to - mor - row, I'll
 4 Said Je - sus to Mar - y, "Your

what will you do with your oint - ment so rich and so rare?" "I'll
 think of the poor. This oint - ment, it could have been sold; And
 think of the poor; to - mor - row," she said, "not to - day; For
 love is so deep, to - day you may do as you will. To -

pour it all o - ver the feet of the Christ, and I'll wipe it a - way with my
 think of the blan - kets and think of the bread you could buy with the sil - ver and
 dear - er than all of the poor in the world is my love who is go - ing a -
 mor - row, you say, I am go - ing a - way, but my bod - y I leave with you

Sydney Carter has enjoyed a varied career as a schoolteacher, journalist, and songwriter, and was a leader of the folk-song renaissance in English church music in the early 1960s. This hymn imagines the dialogue between Mary of Bethany, Judas Iscariot, and Jesus.

Tune: JUDAS AND MARY Irr.
 Sydney Carter, 1964

LENT

hair," she said, "I'll wipe it a-way with my hair." (2 "O
gold," he said, "you could buy with the sil - ver and gold." (3 "To-
way," she said, "my love who is go - ing a - way." (4 Said
still," he said, "my bo - dy I leave with you still." (5 "The
(6 -way.")

5 "The poor of the world are my bod-y,"
he said,
"to the end of the world they shall be.
The bread and the blan-kets you give
to the poor
you will know you have giv-en to me,"
he said,
"you'll know you have giv-en to me."

6 "My bod-y will hang on the cross
of the world
to-mor-row," he said, "not to-day.
And Mar-tha and Mar-y will find me
a-gain
and wash all my sor-row a-way,"
he said,
"and wash all my sor-row a-way."

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Tune: Hamburg L.M.
Lowell Mason, 1792-1872