

The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

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



*Welcome to our Combined
7:00pm Worship Service
In-Person & Streaming Online*



December 24, 2022
Christmas Eve
7:00 p.m.

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 an additional option, we have supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, located on the first floor.

Junior Worship

On the 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month, following the mini message, the option of "Junior Worship" is offered downstairs for elementary age children to learn more about today's scripture lessons with fellow youth.

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}*



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

If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610-621-5770 or Office@sprucc.org

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.*

*Please Do Not move the red ribbons or sit where they are placed.
They are there for your safety and the safety of those around you to help designate social distancing.*

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*{If you have not already done so,
please sign and pass the pew welcome pad
to the person next to you.}*

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP ③ (Unison)

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HANDBELLS PRELUDE *"Echo Carol"* arranged by Sondra Tucker
"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" arranged by Anna Laura Page

{Those who are able, please rise}

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

*Red #112
Public Domain
Text: John F. Wade*

Vs 1 **O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;**

Refrain

**O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

Vs3 **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;**

Vs4 **See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;**

Vs5 **Child, for us sinners, poor and in the manger,
We would embrace thee with love and awe.
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?**

*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: Angels from the realms of glory,
proclaimed the Messiah's birth.

**People: Let all creation join in praising,
with our voices evermore raising.**

*** SUNG CALL** *"Angels from the Realms of Glory"*

*Red #104
Public Domain
Text: James Montgomery*

**Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new born King.**

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)**

What a rare gift this season brings. Families come together. Little children are heard. We claim our church family as our own link to God's love. God works miracles among us. Let us confess our need.

***CONFESSION OF SIN ② (Unison)**

O God, we almost missed your light. We confess our neglect of worship, our forgetfulness of your gifts. We have failed to see evidences of your love. We have not heard your cries for justice. We have viewed salvation as strange rhetoric rather than healing transformation. We have mouthed tired platitudes while you call for a new song of true joy and peace. Guide us to seek repentance and find forgiveness in this season. Lead us to find hope in the new life Christ brings. Amen.

***SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

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

***SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY**

"Kyrie"

*Red #518
Public Domain*

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 PARDON② (Leader)**

The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all. Do not be afraid. This is a day for good news of great joy. The Savior is born anew in our midst. Glory to God in the highest! Praise God for all we have heard and seen, as it has been told to us. **Amen.**

***CALL TO PRAISE** ⑩

Leader: We have heard angels from on high sweetly singing over the plains
People: **We join the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains**

***SUNG RESPONSE OF PRAISE** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Red #105
Traditional French Carol

Glo- - -ria, in excelsis Deo!
Glo- - -ria, in excelsis Deo!

*Music by Edward Shippen Barnes
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(Please be seated)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Light ⑪

INTRODUCTORY SENTENCES: *(Advent Reader)*

On this Christmas Eve we are gathered as God’s people to celebrate again what Christ’s coming means to the world. We join with Christians all over the world who are celebrating tonight.

READING OF SCRIPTURE: *(Advent Reader)*

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

(from Isaiah 9:6)

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

(from Luke 2:10, 14)

and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

(from Romans 5:5)

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE: *(Advent Reader)*

Tonight we relight the four Advent candles and recall that the good news means:

Hope	<i>{a blue candle is lit}</i>
Peace	<i>{a blue candle is lit}</i>
Joy	<i>{a rose/pink candle is lit}</i>
Love	<i>{a blue candle is lit}</i>

Jesus Christ is the greatest gift who makes all these other gifts possible. So, we light the Christ candle now, as we think about what Christ’s coming means to each one of us.

{The Christ Candle of the wreath is lit}

PRAYER:

Advent Reader: Let us pray...

ALL: We thank you, God, for your gift of Jesus Christ to the entire world. We thank you that Christ’s coming makes hope, peace, joy, and love possible for every person in every nation. Encourage us to do our part to bring good will and peace to our families, our churches, our neighborhoods, and the world. Now let your Spirit put us in touch with you, the living God, through the words and music we hear tonight. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

5 ADVENT WREATH HYMN

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 writing

*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 9:2-7](#)

Second Lesson: [Titus 2:11-14](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Gospel: [Luke 2:1-20](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Red #105

Traditional French Carol

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains

And the mountains in reply, Echo back their joyous strains

Glo----ria in excelsis Deo,

Glo----ria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?

Say what may the tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song?

Glo----ria in excelsis Deo,

Glo----ria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;

Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Glo----ria in excelsis Deo,

Glo----ria in excelsis Deo.

See within a manger laid Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth!

Mary Joseph, lend your aid, With us sing our Saviors' birth.

Glo----ria in excelsis Deo,

Glo----ria in excelsis Deo.

MESSAGE

Marta and the Manger Straw

by Virginia Kroll

HYMN

"Away in a Manger"

Red #109

Public Domain

Text: Martin Luther

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed

The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.

The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,

The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

**The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.**

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: *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, 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.**

(Please be seated)

OFFERTORY INVITATION ②

Leader: We are called by the Spirit

People: to live and share in the love of God through joyful service and fellowship in Christ.

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord the glory that is due;

People: we bring an offering in response to God's mighty acts.

Leader: Come with thanksgiving to the place where new birth occurs.

People: We worship God with our gifts.

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

{Those who are able, please rise}

CHORAL OFFERTORY

"Still, Still, Still"

a traditional Austrian Carol

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"What Child is This"

*W&R #184
Public Domain*

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King;
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

*Words: William C. Dix
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*Whether worshiping 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}*

***OFFERTORY PRAYER ② (Leader)**

Thank you, God, for coming to us in a human life so expressive of love that two thousand years have not extinguished the flame. May that love burn so brightly in our lives that its fires will spread. Use our offerings to ignite in the world such caring and compassion that all your children may know hope, peace, love and joy, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion ①

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 Savior 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 9 places and times, we praise you with joy and sing...

{Sanctus is Latin for “Holy.” Seraphic Hymn refers to the song of the Seraphim Angels. Sabaoth is a Hebrew name for God, referring to God as both creator and ruler of the world}.

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of thy glory,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!**

Written by Alonzo P. Howard
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{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 these 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, here within the sanctuary and within our homes, and bless us that as we receive them at this table, 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 forever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD AND RAISING THE CUP *(Leader)*

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.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

{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.

{Please be seated}

Candlelight Service ①

PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Gospel Lesson [John 1:1-14](#)

(NT – pg 91)

THE PROCLAMATION *(Leader)*

The God who said, “Let there be light,” has caused light to shine in our hearts. That light is the glory of God reflected in the face of Jesus Christ. As our candles are a sea of light lit from the one light of Christ, so may the church reflect Christ’s light and love in the world. Let us share the Light of Christ.

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

{We will receive the light from the Christ candle.

As the ushers bring the light to you, please pass the light to the person next to you.

Keep your lighted candle upright and

Let the person with the unlighted candle tilt their candle to receive the light.

We will then stand and sing “Silent Night”.}

{For those who are able, please rise}

Vs1 **Silent night! Holy night!**
All is calm, All is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Vs2 **Silent night! Holy Night!**
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia!"
Christ, the Savior, is born,
Christ, the Savior, is born.

Vs6 **Silent night! Holy night!**
Son of God, love's pure light!
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the Dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

*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.

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: Sing a new song to the God of our salvation.
Declare God's glory by the way we live.
People: **We want our lives to be songs of praise.**
We want to communicate the joy we have found.
Leader: God's truth and righteousness will prevail.
The child of Bethlehem will lead us.
People: **Then we will follow where Christ leads.**
Glory to God and peace on earth!
ALL: **Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

{Please Extinguish Candles}

***THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

Red #558
Public Domain

***SENDING HYMN** *“Joy to the World!”*

Red #120
Public Domain
Text: Isaac Watts

**Vs1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.**

**Vs2 Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**Vs3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**Vs4 He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, and wonders of His love.**

*Words: Issac Watts; Music: Arr. from G.F. Handel by Lowell Mason;
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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.}*

POSTLUDE



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



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 - ⑩ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
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PO Box 97; Womelsdorf, PA 19567

www.1Zion.org

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Website's Link to **Upcoming Eve**

