

The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org

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



*Welcome to our
Worship Service
In-Person & Streaming Online*

† † †

January 8, 2023
First Sunday after Epiphany
Baptism of Christ
10:15am

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 welcome to participate in the entire worship service. For an additional option, we have a 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

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

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 United Church of Christ of Robesonia. For more information about our church, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our church.

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}*



www.sprucc.org



Free WiFi

Virtual Worship Service

Online: [Live Stream](#) at sprucc.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on [Our YouTube Channel](#)
[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

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

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.*

*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[®] (Unison)

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRELUDE

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"I Am the Light of the World"

*NCH #584
One License #A-728042*

*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[®]

Leader: Worship with joy and give glory to God's name.

Listen for the new thing God declares.

People: We remember that we have been baptized.

In covenant with God, we extend light to the world.

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)

As we remember today the baptism of Jesus, we rejoice that we, too, have been baptized into the family of faith. Our lives have been committed to the way of Jesus. Yet, we have wandered from that way of life. Confession allows us to turn around and rediscover the paths God intends for us.

*CONFESSION OF SIN[®] (Unison)

God of glory, we confess that our lives often have not glorified you as well as they should. God of justice, we admit we do not always treat others fairly, or as we would like to be treated. God of light, we are aware of the shadows we create that keep others from seeing you, and confess our anxieties and hesitations of sharing Christ's light with others; free us from those fears. All-inclusive God, we repent of our times of narrow vision and times when we exclude. Purge us of the idols, fears, and anxieties that keep us from full commitment to the way of Jesus and that keep others from confessing his name, joining in covenant, and following in his discipleship, in whose name we pray. 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 PARDON[®] (Leader)

The prophets testify that all who believe in God's messenger receive forgiveness of sin through his name. We believe that Jesus is that beloved messenger, with whom God is well pleased. Through this One on whom God's spirit was poured out, like a descending dove, we know ourselves to be beloved by God, forgiven and freed from the bonds of sin.
Amen.

*CALL TO PRAISE[®] (adapted from John 1)

Leader: The true light of Christ, which enlightens everyone, has come into the world.
People: We praise God, for the light shines and overcomes all darkness.

**Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
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

Old Testament Lesson from the Prophet Isaiah:

[Isaiah 42:1-9](#)

New Testament Lesson of the History of the Early Church:

[Acts 10:34-43](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Gospel (Good News) Lesson:

[Matthew 3:13-17](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"Baptized in Water" vs 1

W&R #679

One License #A-728042

MINI-MESSAGE

CONGREGATION SINGS

"Jesus Loves the Little Children"

Adapted Words of Traditional Chorus

**Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world.
Shy and quiet, glad and bright,
They are treasures in his sight.
Jesus blesses all the children of the world.**

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.*

Affirmation of Baptism^① Order for Reception Into Membership

INVITATION (Leader)

We invite those who wish to affirm their baptism by uniting together in this household of faith to please rise, as you are able.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*WELCOME (Leader)

Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. We are here, as we have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study we have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm our baptism and to claim in each other's presence our covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. We are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

*SENTENCES (Leader)

Hear the words of Jesus: I am the vine you are the branches. Anyone who abides in me, and I in that person is the one who bears much fruit. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. If you keep my commandments you will abide in my love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

*QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

Leader: Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Leader: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Leader: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Candidates: I do.

Leader: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Saviour, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

Leader: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world.

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

Leader: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

***ADDRESS (Leader)**

By our baptism we were made one in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in our pilgrimage of faith which has brought us to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been our spiritual home, and we celebrate our shared presence in this household of faith.

***MUTUAL MINISTRY**

Leader: Let us express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

Members: We welcome one another with joy in the common life of this church. We promise one another our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

***PRAYER (Leader)**

Let us pray...

Eternal God, we praise you for calling us to be your servant people and for gathering us into the body of Christ. May we work together in serving the needs of others. Confirm in us the power of your covenant that we may live in your Spirit, share regularly in worship, and so love each other that we may have among us the same mind which was in Christ Jesus, to whom be all honor and glory.

Amen.

***WELCOME AND RECEPTION**

Leader: Welcome into the United Church of Christ of Robesonia.

People: Thanks be to God.

{please be seated}

Order for Reception of a Local Church into the United Church of Christ

GREETING

Association Representative:

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth, and from the Covenant Association within the Pennsylvania Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Local Church Members:

In the name of Jesus Christ we greet you, our sisters and brothers in faith.

Association Representative:

Hear these words from the apostle Paul: Our brothers and sisters, we must thank God at all times for you. It is right for us to do so, because your faith is growing so much and the love each of you has for the others is becoming greater. That is why we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God.

INTRODUCTION

Association Representative (*addressing the congregation*):

We are here to enter a covenant. The people of God known as the United Church of Christ of Robesonia and the churches of God gathered in the Covenant Association rejoice to affirm that by the grace of God we intend to be the church together.

Consistory President:

We, the people of God in the United Church of Christ of Robesonia

Local Church Members:

Acknowledge Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior, as the sole Head of the church.

We acknowledge as kindred in Christ all who share in this confession.

We look to the Word of God in the Scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world.

We claim as our own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers.

We affirm the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God.

In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, we recognize two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion.

Consistory President:

This is the story of our pilgrimage.

We recognize our historical roots to include the founding of the congregations of Zion German Reformed Church in Womelsdorf in 1792, St. Daniel's Reformed Church in Robesonia in 1876, St. Paul's Reformed Church in Robesonia in 1888, the merged St. Paul's Reformed Church in Robesonia in 1903, the merger of the Evangelical & Reformed Church denomination in 1934, and the merger founding the United Church of Christ denomination in 1957.

Association Representative:

We, the Covenant Association share your faith.

This is the story of our pilgrimage.

We too have been birthed from the German Reformed Church, shared in the merger to become the Evangelical and Reformed Church, shared in the merger to become the United Church of Christ, and shared in the merger of the Heidelberg, East Berks, and Reading Associations to become the Covenant Association of the United Church of Christ. We are in covenantal relationship with your congregation, with all the UCC congregations within our association, with the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, and with the United Church of Christ and the ministries and organizations of our denomination.

COVENANT

Consistory Vice President (*addressing the local church members*):

Sisters and brothers in the United Church of Christ of Robesonia, let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with the churches of the Covenant Association.

Will those who are able rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

{Those who are able, please rise}

***Local Church Members:**

We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to share the love of Christ with you.

***Association Representative:**

We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to share the love of Christ with you.

We promise you:

We will be concerned for your welfare;
we will be co-workers with you in your mission;
we will turn to you for assistance
in the work Christ calls us to do together.

***PRAYER**

Association Representative:

Let us pray,

ALL:

Holy God, who in Jesus Christ has made a new and eternal covenant with all who turn to you in faith, witness the covenant we make today. Confirm this relationship. Bless our intentions, hopes, and commitments with the fruit of holiness. Light our way with the lamp of your word and the fire of your Holy Spirit. Move us on the journey of faith and enable us to walk with all your people toward the day of justice and peace in all the earth; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

***DECLARATION**

Association Representative:

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Covenant Association of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare that the United Church of Christ of Robesonia is a member in good standing of the Covenant Association.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

{Please Be Seated}

PRESENTATION of Pastors

President of Consistory (*addressing the association representative*):

The United Church of Christ of Robesonia, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has called the Rev. Dr. Benjamin David Motz and the Rev. Mary Etta Mest as pastor and teacher and respectfully requests that the Covenant Association affirm their installation of them in this ministry among us, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Association Representative (*addressing the congregation*):

The Covenant Association has reviewed the request of the United Church of Christ of Robesonia. We have prayerfully examined the Rev. Mary Etta Mest and the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz, and we are pleased to install them as your pastor and teacher.

Association Representative (*addressing the pastors*):

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz and Rev. Mary Etta Mest servants of God, we invite you to come forward as a sign of your acceptance of the call to this office.

Installation is the action of an association of the United Church of Christ in cooperation with a local church. Installation confirms and celebrates the covenantal relationship among a local church, its pastor and teacher, and the United Church of Christ. Installation is a sign that these covenantal partners are committed to share mutually in the mission of the United Church of Christ and of the ecumenical church.

EXHORTATION

Association Representative (*addressing the congregation*):

Hear these words from the apostle Paul: We beg you, our brothers and sisters, to pay proper respect to those who work among you, who guide and instruct you in the Christian life. Treat them with the greatest respect and love because of the work they do. Be at peace among yourselves.

Association Representative (*addressing the pastors*):

We urge you, our sister and brother, warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all.

Association Representative (*addressing all*):

See that no one pays back wrong for wrong, but at all times make it your aim to do good to one another and to all people. Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants of you, in your life in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

COVENANT

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

Association Representative (*addressing the congregation*):

Dear friends, the United Church of Christ of Robesonia has declared that, having gathered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it has called the Rev. Mary Etta Mest and the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz to minister in this place as pastor and teacher and that it now receives them as appointed by God for this ministry.

The Covenant Association of the United Church of Christ has declared that they have met all the necessary conditions for installation to this office.

Association Representative (*addressing the pastors*):

The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz and the Rev. Mary Etta Mest seeing that you are called to ordained ministry by the grace of God and that the United Church of Christ of Robesonia has been led to call you as pastor and teacher, are you willing to enter this covenant with its members who are one in Christ with us in the Covenant Association?

Pastors:

I am willing, and I promise to serve this church faithfully, preaching and teaching the word of God, administering the sacraments, and fulfilling the pastoral office, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Association Representative (*addressing the congregation*):

Members of the United Church of Christ of Robesonia, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with your pastor and teacher?

{Those who are able, please rise}

***Local Church Members**

We, the members of the United Church of Christ of Robesonia, receive the Rev. Mary Etta Mest and the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz as our pastor and teacher, promising to labor with them in the ministry of the gospel and to give her/him due honor and support.

We gather with them and with the United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

***PRAYER OF INSTALLATION**

Association Representative:

Let us pray....

Almighty God, you have called your servants to make promises before you; now enable us to keep our vows that we may remain steadfast in faith and fruitful in every good work. Bless, we pray, your servants, the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz and the Rev. Mary Etta Mest to whom the care of your people in this church is now committed. Pour out your Holy Spirit on them, on the people of the United Church of Christ of Robesonia, and on all the churches of the Covenant Association that our mutual ministry may be served with all faithfulness, diligence, and courage.

Amen.

***DECLARATION**

Association Representative:

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Covenant Association of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare the Rev. Mary Etta Mest and the Rev. Dr. Benjamin David Motz duly installed as pastor and teacher of the United Church of Christ of Robesonia.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

{Please Be Seated}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ²

Leader: How can we share the message that God is impartial, that justice and peace are God's intention for all humankind?

People: **We combine our individual efforts through the church, joining in programs, projects, evangelism, and outreach that reflect God's light into the world.**

Leader: Let us give joyfully.

People: **Let us give generously.**

MUSICAL OFFERTORY

RETURNING GOD’S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

*{As we share in hybrid worship, there is no passing of the plate in person.
A plate is placed in the rear of the sanctuary for offerings to be placed
when arriving or departing from the sanctuary.*

*Whether worshiping in person or online,
the safest way to offer your tithe and offering to God through his church
is through our secure [Online Giving](#) option on our website at [sprucc.org](#). [Click Here](#)
Offerings may also be mailed to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.*

{Those who are able, please rise}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Doxology

♪ *Red #551*

OneLicense #A-728042

Genevan Psalter, Thomas Ken, Louis Bourgeois

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER [®] (Leader)

We pray, O God, that our tithes and offerings delight you. We bring them to encourage all who work for justice and peace on our behalf, that they may not grow faint or be crushed by opposition. May the oppressed find healing, the discouraged receive hope, and those who are bound discover freedom, through and beyond our efforts. **Amen.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion ^{①④}

*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)

This table is open to all who confess Jesus as the Christ and seek to follow Christ’s way. Come to this sacred table not because you must, but because you may. Come not because you are fulfilled, but because in your emptiness you stand in need of God’s mercy and assurance. Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and to pray for a spirit. Come to this table, then, sisters and brothers, as you are. Partake and share. It is spread for you and me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join the people of God’s new age.

*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:

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

*SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Seraphic Hymn

One License #A-728042

{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!**

{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.

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, 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 for ever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD AND RAISING THE CUP

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.**

CALL TO THE SUPPER

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

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

{This morning we will be partaking of communion in the pews.

*The Elders will first distribute the bread,
Gluten free bread is in the **center**,
and **regular bread** is in the **outer ring**.
The Pastor will then instruct the congregation
to eat the bread at the same time.*

*The Elders will distribute the wine and grape juice.
The **wine** is **red** in the outer rings, and
the **grape juice** is **white** in the inner ring.
The Pastor will then instruct the congregation
to drink of the cup at the same time.}*

*{We invite all baptized Christians who
profess a belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour
to participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion.
You do not need to be a member of this congregation
or of the UCC to participate in Communion.}*

{Those who are able, please rise}

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

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

We Are Sent Out

*In response to God's love and grace,
we go out into the world to share God's Good News
through our words and actions.*

***COMMISSION** ²¹⁰

Leader: Together, we are the Body of Christ.
Take his light from here into the world testifying in word and action to the love of God.
**People: We are witnesses from the baptized community.
God sends us out to embrace others in Christ's name.
We will go, serve, and love; we will return to grow, pray, worship, and love.**
ALL: Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

***SENDING HYMN**

"They'll Know We Are Christians"

♪ *Blue #429*
One License #A-728042

*{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

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



Link to Website's
**Upcoming
Events**



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



Worship Service Resource Credits

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About Today

Church Season: Epiphany - Season of the manifestation of God incarnate to the world. In Greek “phan” is “shine” or “manifest,” and “epi” is “upon.” The season of Epiphany continues from January 6 until Ash Wednesday.

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

White - symbolizing the purity - the blood of Christ washing away our sins, as acknowledged and professed through baptism.

Green- symbolizing this season of mission - the incarnate Christ has been made manifest to us on Epiphany and we are to go into the world and share his Good News.

Sunday, January 8th- Lectionary Reading for The Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

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 29

This OT song of praise is attributed to King David, sung in honor of God's power and glory as revealed in a great thunderstorm.

The Acts of the Apostles

The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of the Apostles (NT) are attributed to Luke “the beloved physician” written around 59-90 A.D. This is essentially volume 2 of the Gospel of Luke. The Book of Acts records the ministry of the early church after the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven, and guides us how we are to live, act, work, and be the church.

The Gospel According to Matthew

Matthew's Gospel was written around 80-90 A.D. in Antioch, Syria by a Greek-speaking Jewish Christian.

The first writing was probably by a Christian scribe who wrote in the name of Matthew. Matthew was a disciple who knew Jesus personally.

Next Sunday, January 15th- Lectionary Reading for the Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

I Am the Light of the World

John 8:12

Jim Strathdee, 1969; rev. 1981

In response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman

Unison Introduction *Refrain*

F B \flat C F

“I am the light of the world!

B \flat C F Gm Dm C

You peo-ple come and fol-low me!”

If you fol-low and love you’ll

F Gm7 C B \flat F B \flat F *Last time, end*

learn the mys-ter-y of what you were meant to do and be.

F B \flat /D C F

- | | | | | |
|---|---------------|--------------------------------|----------|----------|
| 1 | When the | song of the an-gels is | stilled, | when the |
| 2 | 7 | To find the lost and lone-ly | one, | 7 to |
| 3 | 7 | To free the pris-oner from all | chains, | 7 to |
| 4 | To bring hope | to ev-ery task you | do, | 7 to |

This text is based on a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman, a prolific twentieth-century writer, theologian, and teacher. The song grew out of Jim Strathdee’s music ministry at an intercultural, bilingual congregation in Los Angeles.

Tune: LIGHT OF THE WORLD Irr. Jim Strathdee, 1969

Gm Dm C

star in the sky is gone, When the
 heal the bro - ken soul with love, 7 To
 make the pow - er - ful care, To re -
 dance at a ba - by's new birth, 7 To

F Bb C F

sag - es and the shep - herds have found their way home, the
 feed the hun - gry chil - dren with warmth and good food, To
 build the na - tions with strength of good will, to
 make mu - sic in an old per - son's heart, and

Dm Bb Gm7 C *Return to*

work of Christ-mas is be - gun:
 feel the earth be - low, the sky a - bove!
 see all God's chil - dren ev - ery - where!
 sing to the col - ors of the earth!

Baptized in Water

679

Unison

1 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it,
 2 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it,
 3 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it,

cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
 dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;
 marked with the sign of Christ, our King;

heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his prom - ise,
 one with his ris - ing, freed and for - giv - en,
 born of one Fa - ther, we are his chil - dren,

faith - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 thank - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

WORDS: Michael Saward (1932-)
 MUSIC: Gaelic melody; harm. David Evans (1874-1948)
 Words © 1982 Jubilate Hymns (Admin. Hope Publishing Company)
 Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

BUNESSAN
 5.5.5.4.D.

429 They'll Know We Are Christians

By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another. John 13:35

Unison

Fm Eb2/F Eb/F Fm Cm7 Fm Eb2/F Eb/F Fm

1. We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
 2. We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
 3. We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
 4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come.

Fm Bbm Ab2/Bb Ab/Bb Bbm Bbm7 Bbm6 Eb7/Bb Fm Eb2/F Eb/F Fm

We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
 And all praise to Christ Je - sus, His on - ly Son.

Fm Bbm Ab2/Bb Ab/Bb Bbm Bbm7 Bbm6 Eb7/Bb Fm Eb2/F Eb/F Fm

And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.
 And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
 And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride.
 And all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one.

Refrain N.C. Db Ab Db Fm/C Cm Fm Bbm

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love.

Bbm7 Em/Ab Bbm Bbm7 Csus Cm Fm

Yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

TEXT: Peter Scholtes; based on John 13:35
 MUSIC: Peter Scholtes

ST. BRENDAN'S
 Irregular meter