

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*

+ † +

February 26, 2023

First Sunday in Lent

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 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 ③ (Unison)

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, 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 "Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days"

NCH #211

One License #A-728042

Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper.

*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: We have entered into the season of Lent.
We are here to worship God of all creation.

**People: We have entered a wilderness time.
Yet this day of worship is an oasis in the desert.**

Leader: We worship God, who gives us choices and limits.
Are we open to God's counsel and instruction?

**People: Today we revisit the Garden of Eden and remember the temptations
Jesus faced.
We want to learn to make good choices.**

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)

Too long we have heeded the seductive voice of the serpent. How easy it is to seek the good life apart from God, to trust in our possessions and revel in beguiling attractions that focus only on our own pleasure. Then we blame God when we reap the fruits of our own unfaithfulness. Surely it is time to cry out for help!

*CONFESSION OF SIN ② (Unison)

Holy God, we confess our transgressions before you. We resent limits on our freedom to follow the impulses of the moment. We want life to revolve around us. We want other people to fit into the patterns that serve us best. Like a horse or a mule, we resent the bit and bridle that make us useful participants in the community you seek to create. We have tried to live apart from you. We sense that something is missing from our lives. Will you walk with us in this season and help us become all we are created to be? 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 ② (Leader)

God's grace comes to us as a gift. We cannot earn it, but we can reject it. When we are responsive to God's leading, when we open our lives to God in prayer, when we turn from our relentless pursuit of personal gain, when we embrace the obedience of Christ, we may recognize the abiding gifts of the Spirit. Happy are those who accept God's forgiveness! **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: [Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7](#)

Second Lesson: [Romans 5:12-19](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson: [Matthew 4:1-11](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MINI-MESSAGE

CONGREGATION SINGS

"Praise Him, Praise Him"

Anonymous

**Praise him! Praise him! Praise him in the morning; praise him at the noontime.
Praise him! Praise him! Praise him when the sun goes down.**

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) "Apostles' 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 for the Healing Rite}

ORDER FOR HEALING

{The Rite of Healing is a time when we as a Christian family of faith gather to be in love, support, and care for one another, as a prayerful community. We seek healing and wholeness in body, mind, spirit, and relationship. Our prayers may be for ourselves, someone we know, or someone we heard about in the news media, for we desire healing and wholeness for all in our world. We trust in God's will and wisdom in answering our prayers.

"Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." (James 5:17).}

Leader: Christ promises to reach out to all people with healing grace and, through the Holy Spirit, endows the church with many gifts to become instruments of healing to all who hurt in body, in mind, in spirit, and in relationships. Upon this promise and commission, the church is entrusted with the ministry of laying on of hands, that through this sign those who suffer may be in touch with the power that brings wholeness.

PRAYER FOR ANOINTING

{A prayer offered over the oil used for anointing during the rite of healing}.

Leader: O God, as the apostles anointed many who were sick and you healed them, so may your Holy Spirit come on us and on this oil, that those who receive this anointing in repentance and faith may be made well in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

ALL: Amen.

INVITATION TO A TIME OF PRAYER

Leader: Let us focus our minds and hearts on the healing love and power of the living Christ.

HEALING PRAYERS (Four Options)

{There is no one way to come to God in prayer. We offer more than one way to participate in prayers of healing in order to better meet the spiritual diversity of those gathered for worship, and our preferences and needs change throughout our spiritual lives. You may participate in more than one of the following}.

ORDER FOR LAYING ON OF HANDS (Option 1)

{“Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them....” (James 4:14).}

For those preferring this option, we invite you to come forward and sit in the first pew. One of our healing team pairs will pray for persons one at a time (or you may come forward as a couple or as a family). Let them know your name and if you have a particular healing prayer request or would just like a general prayer for healing. The prayer team will then place their hands on you (i.e. head/shoulders/back), pray for you, and then anoint your head with oil. After which you may depart.

If you are not able to come forward, allow an usher to know, as prayer teams are more than happy to come to you.

CANDLE LIGHTING PRAYER (Option 2)

We invite you to use the ritual of lighting a candle for your prayer. Simply come forward and use one of the match sticks to light a candle for healing and wholeness. If there are multiple persons for whom you are lifting up in prayer, you are certainly welcome to use additional candles for each person. You may wish to softly speak their name as you light the candle. You may also wish to pause and offer a silent prayer to God for them, for yourself, or for whomever you are praying.

KNEELING PRAYER (Option 3)

You are invited to come forward and kneel at the chancel rail to offer prayers of healing for yourself and/or for others.

REMAINING IN YOUR PEW (Option 4)

For those who do not come forward for any of the other three options, we invite you to pray for yourself and/or pray for those who come forward for healing and wholeness in your life and in theirs.

Picture those you bring to Jesus in prayer, with Him, whole not broken. May you know that what God sees in you first is not your illness, your mortal limitation, or your sin; God sees you first as His holy and precious child, created in His image, and He longs for you to be healed and whole - body, mind, spirit, and relationship - through this rite of healing, may you too see yourself through the eyes of the Divine.

{Congregation, please remain seated; the choir may rise for the singing of this hymn.}

HYMN

"Forty Days and Forty Nights"

♪ Red #143
Public Domain

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.**

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE "*O Thou Who Hearest Every Heartfelt Prayer*"

♪ *Red #503*
Public Domain

**O Thou who hearest every heartfelt prayer,
With Thy rich grace, Lord, all our hearts prepare;
Thou art our Life, Thou art our Love and Light,
O let this Sabbath hour with Thee be bright.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION ②

Leader: As with Adam and Eve, our greed and pretensions are exposed before God.

People: It is so tempting to want more of everything for ourselves.

Leader: Yet, it is strangely true that only in generous sharing do we finally realize that we have enough, that God has blessed us richly beyond anything we could ever deserve.

People: We give with gladness.

CHORAL 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 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](https://sprucc.org) 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** "*Because I Have Been Given Much*"

♪ *Red #259*
Public Domain

**Because I have been given much, I, too must give:
Because of Thy great bounty, Lord, each day I live,
I shall divide my gifts from Thee with every brother that I see
Who has the need of help from me.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** ② *(Leader)*

By your surprising grace, O God, our eyes are opened, our ears unstopped, our hearts attuned to the needs of others. We give so more people may know your acceptance and forgiveness. We support the ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing among us and through the outreach of the church. Expand our horizons, we pray, and tear down the limits of our caring. **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: Let the worship of God be a part of all you do.
Serve with praise and joy every day this week.

People: **God alone is the one we will worship.**
We will not put our God to the test.

Leader: Know that it is not easy to keep our focus on God.
Many distractions will vie for our attention.

People: **We pray that God will be present amid temptations.**
We seek strength and courage to be faithful.

ALL: **Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

***THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

***SENDING HYMN**

"Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"

NCH #18
One License #A-728042
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.}*

POSTLUDE

Join Us For Fellowship and Food in Miller Fellowship Hall

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

Password (for both): iamheretoserve



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



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.

- ① Reprinted with permission from *The New Century Hymnal* of the United Church of Christ. (1995). Cleveland, Ohio: The Pilgrim Press. and/or the *Book of Worship* of the United Church of Christ (1986). New York: United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership.
 - ② *Gathered By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
 - ③ Reprinted with permission from *Sundays and Seasons*. (2020). Augsburg Fortress.
 - ④ Reprinted with permission from the *Order of Worship for the Reformed Church in the United States*. and/or *The Hymnal of the Evangelical and Reformed Church*. (1985) New York: United Church Press.
 - ⑤ Reprinted with permission from *Sourcebook of Worship Services*
 - ⑥ scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America
 - ⑦ Reprinted with permission from *Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ*. (2013).
 - ⑧ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑨ Edmonds, Robert Lee (Editor). (2008). *In Our Own Way; Living a Scouting Life Through Faith; A Handbook of Prayer and Devotion*. Dallas, TX: Red Honor Press
 - ⑩ Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑪ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
 - ⑫ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
 - ⑬ The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
 - ⑭ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
- One License is our Church Copyright License# A-728042,, which is a subscription service giving us copyright permission to print the words and music found in the bulletin and to live stream music on the internet during the Worship Service.



Staff & Leadership

Pastor & Teacher: The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz - PastorMotz@sprucc.org - 610-621-5770 (O)

Pastor & Teacher: The Rev. Mary Etta Mest - mestme@aol.com - 610-659-2775 (C)

Music Minister: The Rev. Robert Masenheimer

Bell Choir Director: Miriam Borkert

Office Secretary: Geri Gammel - Office@sprucc.org - 610-621-5770 (O)

Sextons: Michael Pastor & Terry Pastor

Treasurer: Terry Pastor

Financial Secretary: Geneva Aulenbach

United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue; Robesonia, PA 19551

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

www.SPRUCC.org

Consistory President: Elsa Wertz

Consistory Vice President: George McLain

Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

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 - Symbolizing the passion (suffering) of Christ our King that led to his crucifixion.

Sunday, February 26th - Lectionary Reading for 1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

Genesis

The book of Genesis (OT) is a part of the Pentateuch (first five books of the OT or Torah or one of the five most central books in Judaism). Genesis means beginning. The book of Genesis tells about the creation of humankind and the entire universe by the will and power of God. Genesis creates a context for the reading of the entire rest of the Bible. The book is traditionally attributed to Moses, who led the Israelite people from Egyptian slavery to freedom, through the saving grace and divine providence of God.

Psalm 32

This is an OT song expressing thanksgiving to God for forgiveness. This was written by King David, and is one of his seven penitential songs (Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143). It is called a "Maskil," which is a Hebrew musical term. The term is used here most likely in reference to the artistic nature of this psalm, or perhaps because of the didactic (teaching) components of the psalm.

The Letter of Paul to the Romans

This epistle (letter) is addressed "to all God's beloved in Rome." It was dictated by the Apostle Paul to Tertius in 58 A.D. in Corinth and delivered to Rome by Phoebe (she was appointed by Paul as a deacon, teacher, and leader of the church). Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and church leader, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. Paul, a highly educated man, wrote more of the NT than any other person.

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, March 5th - Lectionary Reading for 2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17 *or* Matthew 17:1-9

Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days

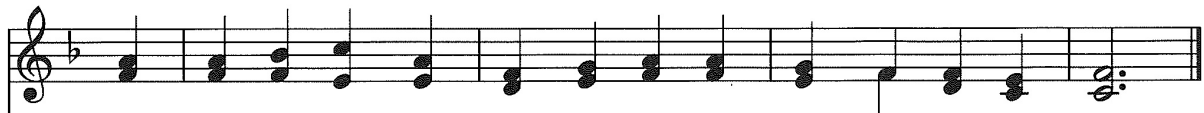
211

Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873; alt.

Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13



1 Lord Je - sus, who through for - ty days for us did fast and pray,
2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend, and did the vic-tory win,
3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion - tide,
4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be past,



Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.
O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.
Yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Christ, with us a - bide.
An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.



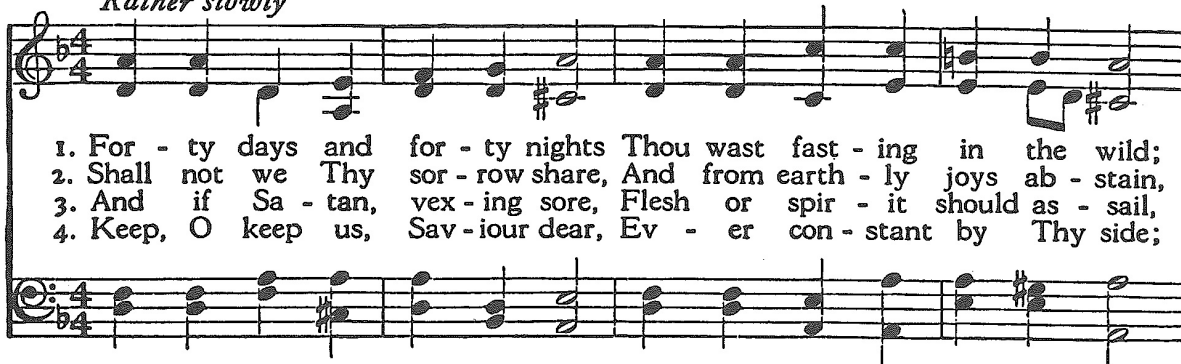
Unflagging in her zeal for religious education of children, Claudia F. I. Hernaman wrote some 150 hymns. This one appeared in her Child's Book of Praise (1873).

Tune: ST. FLAVIAN C.M.
Day's The Whole Booke of Psalms, 1562

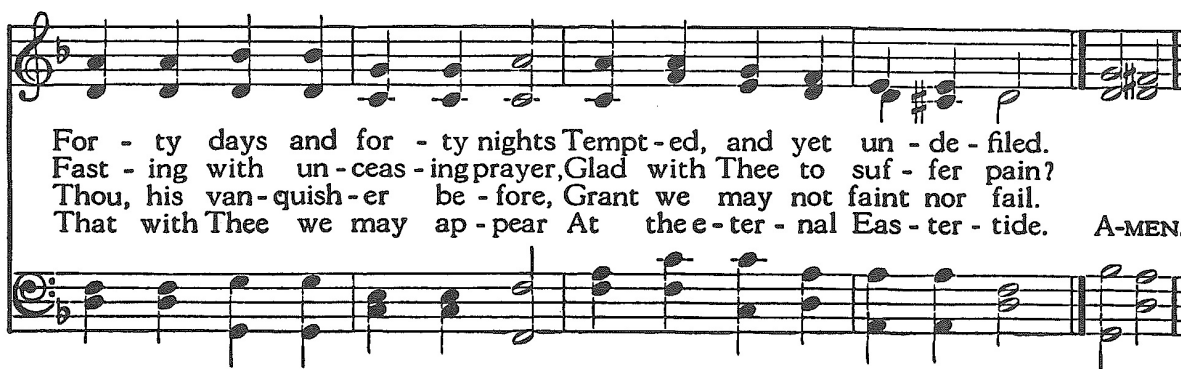
Our Lord Jesus Christ

GEORGE HUNT SMYTTAN, 1856

7.7.7.7.

AUS DER TIEFE (HEINLEIN)
Nürnbergisches Gesangbuch, 1677*Rather slowly*


1. For - ty days and for - ty nights Thou wast fast - ing in the wild;
2. Shall not we Thy sor - row share, And from earth - ly joys ab - stain,
3. And if Sa - tan, vex - ing sore, Flesh or spir - it should as - sail,
4. Keep, O keep us, Sav - iour dear, Ev - er con - stant by Thy side;



For - ty days and for - ty nights Tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.
Fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, Glad with Thee to suf - fer pain?
Thou, his van - quish - er be - fore, Grant we may not faint nor fail.
That with Thee we may ap - pear At the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide. A-MEN.

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

Exod. 13:21; 16:4; 17:6; Ps. 105:39-44; Rev. 22:1-2

William Williams, 1745

St. 1, transl. Peter Williams, 1771; alt.

St. 2-3, transl. William Williams, 1772; alt.

1 Guide me, O my great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, where the heal - ing
 3 When I reach the Riv - er Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but you are might - y;
 wa - ters flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with your power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 land me safe on heav - en's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.
 ev - er be my strength and shield, ev - er be my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er sing to you, I will ev - er sing to you.

John Hughes, a railroad official by trade, composed this tune for the 1907 anniversary of Capel Rhondda, Pontypridd, Wales. Cwm Rhondda refers to the "low valley" area surrounding the urban district of Rhondda in southern Wales.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

John Hughes, 1907

Alternate setting: ZION