

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*

+ † +

March 26, 2023
Fifth 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. Please see Nursery Coordinators, Laurie Ostimchuk & Beth Miller if you are in need of the nursery.

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.

Youth Group

Our Youth Group, for those in grades 5-12 (or ages 12-20 years old), meets on the 2nd and Last Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:00pm. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

Young Children & Family Ministries

This ministry's focus is on children younger than youth group and their families, and most of the monthly activities are welcoming of children of all ages. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

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}*

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



www.sprucc.org

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



Free WiFi

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 ② (Unison)

God of steadfast love, bring new life to this community of your people. We are eager to hear your voice and be filled with your Spirit. Come from the four winds, O Breath, and bring vitality and purpose to our gathering, that we might be energized and encouraged. Hear our voices, lifted in praise and crying out from our need. Be attentive to our supplications, lest we die apart from you. Only you can unbind us and set us free. Amen.

PRELUDE

"There is a Balm in Gilead"

arr. by Victor Labenske

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Abide with Me"

*♪ Red #51
Public Domain*

*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 ⑦

Leader: God calls us from the valley of dry bones.
Come, listen for a word from our God.

**People: We hear God calling us in a far distant voice.
Our spirits are filled with great expectation.**

Leader: Christ came as a light to all the world.
Christ comes among us today to light our way.

**People: We hear the teacher calling for us.
Christ unbinds us that we may see and believe.**

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)

To set the mind on the flesh is death. Focused only on our own interests, we cannot see God. The law of God is foreign to us, and we are hostile to its demands. To live in sin—separation from God—is death. Come now to the promise of life as we confess our sin.

*CONFESSION OF SIN ② (Unison)

Out of the depths we cry to you, O God. Hear our prayers, the confession of our neglect, the admission of our desire to rule in your place. Like the house of Israel in Ezekiel's time, we are cut off from communion with you. Without you, we become like dead people, going through the motions of living. We cry out for forgiveness and a new start. We long to know you and to live in reverence before you. By your steadfast love, redeem us from our iniquities and raise us up to serve you, in Jesus' name. 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)

Jesus says to us, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" Arise, in faith and trust, knowing that God will give life to our mortal bodies through the spirit who dwells in us and among us. We are not slaves to the flesh. God has made us to be instruments of self-giving love, who find life by giving it away. As God has invested in us, we are free to invest ourselves in ministry to others. Praise God! 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 Prophet:

[Ezekiel 37:1-14](#)

New Testament Letter:

[Romans 8:6-11](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Gospel (Good News): [John 11:1-45](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"Just as I Am"

♪ *Red #214*
One License #A-728042

MINI-MESSAGE

CONGREGATION SINGS

"God Hears My Prayer"

**God, our Father, hears my prayer anytime and anywhere.
He will listen when I pray, hear the loving words I say.**

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.*

In Memory of

Priscilla A. Graeff

January 14, 1941 -- March 5, 2023

&

Julie L. Reber

October 15, 1936 -- March 14, 2023

Disciples of Christ
and
Members of the Family of the
United Church of Christ of Robesonia

*{We share in this memorial rite today to offer prayers
and show our love, support, and care
for these members of our family of UCC of Robesonia}.*

GREETING

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

SENTENCES (Leader)

God is near to all who call, who call from their hearts. The desires of those who fear God are fulfilled, their cries are heard; they are saved.

When we were baptized into Christ Jesus, we were baptized into Christ's death. By our baptism, then, we were buried with Christ and shared Christ's death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of God, so too we might live a new life. For if we have been united with Christ in a death like Christ's, we shall certainly be united with Christ in a resurrection like Christ's.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) *{From Paul's letter to the Romans}*

**We believe that there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus,
and we know that in everything God works for good
with those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.**

**We are sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities,
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height,
nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING (*Leader*)

O God, our strength and our redeemer, giver of life and conqueror of death, we praise you with humble hearts....

....Keep us all in communion with your faithful people in every time and place, that at last we may rejoice together in the heavenly family where Jesus Christ reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever. **Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Leader: Let us offer our silent prayers....

{Silent Prayers}

SENTENCES (*Leader*)

We would not have you be ignorant brothers and sisters, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*Unison*)

**O God, whose days are without end
and whose mercies cannot be counted,
awaken us to the shortness and uncertainty of human life.**

**By your Holy Spirit,
lead us in faithfulness all our days.**

**When we have served you in our generation,
may we be gathered with those who have gone before,
having the testimony of a good conscience,
in the communion of your holy church,
in the confidence of a certain faith,
in the comfort of a saving hope,
in favor with you, our God,
and at perfect peace with the world;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer we pray. Amen.**

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.**

BLESSING

Leader: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of Christ Jesus our risen Savior. And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

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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.**

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ①

Leader: Let everyone give, not grudgingly or of necessity,

People: but from the fullness of our gratitude in God.

Leader: Let us give, as God has enabled,

People: according to the blessings God has given each of us.

RETURNING GOD’S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

*{Today, for the first time since the outbreak of COVID, we will be passing the offering plate in person.
You may also offer your tithe and offering to God
through our secure Online Giving option on our website at sprucc.org (Click Here), or
mail your offering to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.*

CHORAL OFFERTORY

“I Love to Tell the Story”

arr. by Donald Moore

{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)*

Lift us up, O God, from the graves of our self-interest as we invest ourselves in sharing the good news with the world. Increase our gifts of time and treasure, that all who are drained of hope might have their minds set on the Spirit. May the Spirit raise them to new life as we celebrate the resurrection Jesus promised to Lazarus and to all who trust and follow where God leads. **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: We are freed from all that has bound us.
The Spirit sends us out in trust and joy.

**People: The Spirit dwells in us and empowers us.
The light of Christ will show us the way.**

Leader: Go out to proclaim God's freeing love.
Spread the word of hope to all who are in distress.

**People: With God, there is great power to redeem.
We eagerly share God's steadfast love.**

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

NCH #286
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

Join Us For Fellowship and Food in Miller Fellowship Hall

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



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.

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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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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 & Assistant 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, March 26th - Lectionary Reading for 5th Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

Ezekiel

The book of Ezekiel (OT), is attributed to the priest and prophet Ezekiel, who was born of the priestly family of Zadokite, married, then widowed, and prophesied from 593 to 571 B.C. Ezekiel proclaimed that the Israelites were defeated and exiled by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar in 587 B.C. as a just punishment from God for their idolatrous behavior (i.e. not putting God first in their lives); they need to repent (change direction heart and mind towards God), for only God can breathe life back into their dry bones. A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct.

Psalm 130

This is an OT sung prayer of humility and trust in God. 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 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 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 2nd - Lectionary Readings for Palm/Passion Sunday, the 6th Sunday in Lent

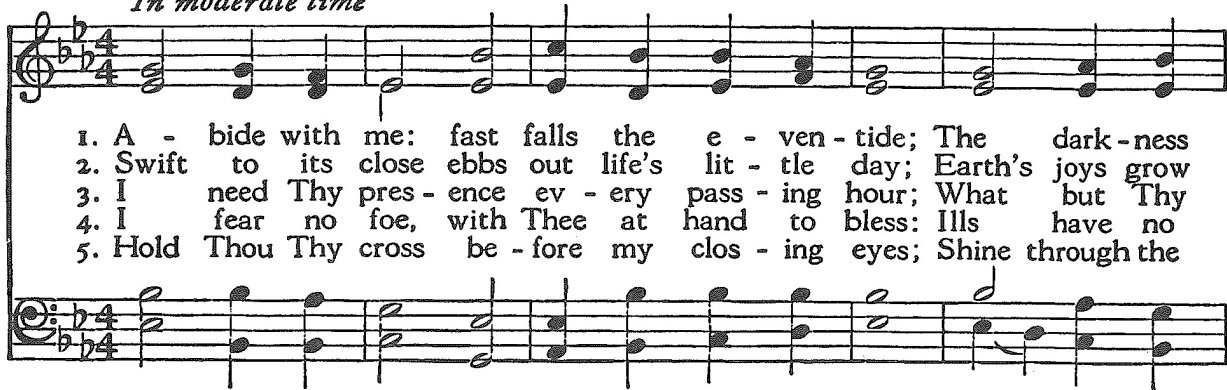
Liturgy of the Palms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11

Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-10;
Matthew 26:14-27 *or* Matthew 27:11-54

Times of Worship

HENRY FRANCIS LYTE, 1847

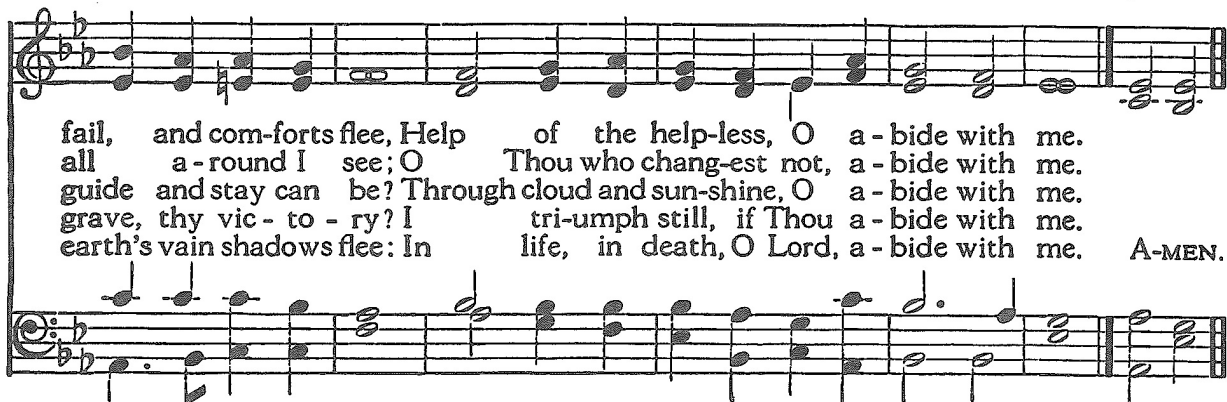
10. 10. 10. 10.

EVENTIDE
WILLIAM H. MONK, 1861*In moderate time*


1. A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide; The dark - ness
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day; Earth's joys grow
3. I need Thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour; What but Thy
4. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless: Ills have no
5. Hold Thou Thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes; Shine through the



deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide: When oth - er help - ers
dim, its glo - ries pass a - way; Change and de - cay in
grace can foil the Tempt - er's power? Who like Thy - self my
weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness. Where is death's sting? Where,
gloom, and point me to the skies: Heaven's morn - ing breaks, and



fail, and com - forts flee, Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
all a - round I see; O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
grave, thy vic - to - ry? I triumph still, if Thou a - bide with me.
earth's vain shadows flee: In life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me. A - MEN.

The Christian Life

CHARLOTTE ELLIOTT, 1836

L. M.

WOODWORTH
WILLIAM B. BRADBURY, 1849

In moderate time

1. Just as I am, with - out one plea But
 2. Just as I am, and wait - ing not To
 3. Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With
 4. Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind, Sight,
 5. Just as I am, Thou wilt re - ceive, Wilt
 6. Just as I am, Thy love un - known Has

that Thy blood was shed for me, And that Thou bidd'st me
 rid my soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can
 many a con - flict, many a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with -
 rich - es, heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need in
 wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause Thy prom - ise
 bro - ken ev - ery bar - rier down; Now to be Thine, yea,

come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 Thine a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come! A-MEN.

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Unison, brightly
Refrain

James K. Manley, 1978; alt.

D G A Dsus4 D

Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle-ness, blow through the

Bm E7 Asus7 A7

wil - der-ness, call - ing and free,

D G A Dsus4 D

Spir - it, spir - it of rest - less-ness, stir me from

Bm G A7 D G D *Last time, end*

plac - id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.

D G A G

1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the
 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the
 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a
 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient

**Reduced-size notes may be played with organ pedals in lieu of or in combination with the other notes.*

HYMNS OF THE SPIRIT

D A7 D Bm

deep, then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the
 sand, and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a
 hill, then you whis - pered in si - lence when the
 schemes, from the bond - age of sor - row the

E7 Asus7 A7 D G A

val - leys of sleep; And o - ver the e - ons you
 law and a land; When they were con - found - ed by their
 whole world was still; And down in the cit - y you
 cap - tives dream dreams; Our wom - en see vi - sions, our

G D A7 D Bm

called to each thing, "A - wake from your slum -
 i - dols and lies, then you spoke through your proph -
 called once a - gain, when you blew through your peo -
 men clear their eyes. With bold new de - ci -

G A7 D G D A7 *to Refrain*

bers and rise on your wings."
 ets to o - pen their eyes.
 ple on the rush of the wind.
 sions your peo - ple a - rise.

This popular hymn by songwriter James K. Manley grew out of a sabbatical leave at the School of Theology at Claremont, California. It was first sung at Waikeola Congregational Church in Honolulu, after which Manley added the fourth stanza at the suggestion of a church member.

Tune: SPIRIT Irr.
 James K. Manley, 1978
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1993