

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*

† † †

April 2, 2023
Palm/Passion Sunday
Sixth 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)

Be gracious to us, O God, in our moments of grief and fear. Be with us as we rejoice in the day you have made. Our times are in your hands, both when we mourn and when we celebrate. Guide our thoughts and actions so we may appreciate the possibilities in every day. We trust in you, O God. Let your face shine on your servants. Amen.

PRELUDE

"Fling Wide the Gates"

Sir John Stainer from "The Crucifixion"

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"The Palms"

*Jean-Baptiste Fauré; Arranged by Charles H. Gabriel
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 ②

Leader: This is a day of joyous welcome.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Jesus rides into the tumult of our times.

We welcome Christ with waving branches.

Leader: Our leader comes humbly, riding a donkey.

Give thanks for God's steadfast love endures forever.

People: Jesus rides into the tumult of our times.

Let us joyously enter into the light God offers.

***Prayer for Palm Sunday ①**

Leader: Christ is with us.

People: Christ is in our midst.

Leader: Let us pray...

People: Merciful God, as we enter Holy Week and gather at your house of prayer, turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ that united with Christ and all the faithful we may one day enter in triumph the city not made by human hands, the new Jerusalem, eternal in the heavens, where with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ lives in glory for ever.

ALL: Amen.

***Proclamation of Scripture**

Gospel Lesson (The Palms): [Matthew 21:1-11](#)

***Blessing of Palms ①**

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: Let us pray...

ALL: O God, who in Jesus Christ triumphantly entered Jerusalem, heralding a week of pain and sorrow, be with us now as we follow the way of the cross. In these events of defeat and victory, you have sealed the closeness of death and resurrection, of humiliation and exaltation. We thank you for these branches that promise to become for us symbols of martyrdom and majesty. Bless them and us that their use this day may announce in our time that Christ has come and that Christ will come again. Amen! Come, Christ Jesus!

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 ②⑩ (Leader)

In the garden, Jesus directed the disciples to watch and pray. But they failed in their support. Have we not also fallen asleep? How constant and persistent is our prayer life? How eager are we to take the risk of trusting in Christ's leading? Will we betray rather than follow? Will we be silent about our faith, as if we did not know Christ, or in the world will we boldly testify to our faith? God is waiting to hear our plea for mercy.

*CONFESSION OF SIN ② (Unison)

Holy God, we have blamed you when the hosannas die and the parade turns into a mob scene. We heap our doubts on you even though our inaction adds power to those who shout, "Crucify." We rebel against the risks of discipleship. Too often we fail to raise our voices against the evil we see. We keep silent, in fear of becoming one more victim. O God, we protest, but we know down deep that the victim of our silence is Christ, who is the way of love, the way of life. Forgive our hesitation, cowardice, and silence, and help us to stand with Christ in a world that has forgotten humility and obedience to you. O God, we want to be faithful. Help us to do so without counting the cost. 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 (<i>spoken</i>):	Lord, have mercy upon us.
People (<i>sung</i>):	Lord, have mercy upon us.
Leader (<i>spoken</i>):	Christ, have mercy upon us.
People (<i>sung</i>):	Christ, have mercy upon us.
Leader (<i>spoken</i>):	Lord, have mercy upon us.
People (<i>sung</i>):	Lord, have mercy upon us.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ② (Leader)

God does not forsake us. In time of terror and suffering we are not alone. In Christ, we are strengthened as we watch and pray. We receive courage to love in the face of ridicule and to act for truth amid the oppressive forces of deceit. Love is at the heart of creation, bringing us to new beginnings, to resurrection life in all its fullness. **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

New Testament Lesson: [Philippians 2:1-11](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Lesson: [Matthew 26:14 - 27:66](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

♫ *Blue #43*
Public Domain

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.*

{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}

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray. . .

PASTORAL PRAYER

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: For thirty pieces of silver, Jesus Christ was betrayed.

People: And still today he is denied in the way we use the resources entrusted to us.

Leader: God does not ask from us a token of support.

People: We are called to give our all, of which our offering here is but a symbol.

Leader: We are called not only to give of our treasure,

People: but also of our time and talent through Christ's church in his name.

Leader: Will our gifts shout good news to the world?

People: May our offering be fit for a king.

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

"Blessed Be the One Who Comes"

*J. Paul & Donna Williams and
James M. Stevens*

{Those who are able, please rise}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"All Things are Thine"

*♪ Red #508
Public Domain*

**All things are Thine: no gift have we,
Lord of all gifts, to offer Thee;
And hence with grateful hearts today,
Thine own before Thy feet we lay.**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER ② (Leader)

May these offerings bring life-changing good news, both to those who give and to all who are reached by the caring ministries of the church. May they help to restore relationships of trust among us and outpouring of generosity that echo your steadfast love around the world. May your saints be raised to new life that cuts through the deceptions of society to bring your new order among us, O God of all times and places, we pray in the name of the one who taught us to pray....

*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: Lift high the branches that honor Jesus Christ.
Lift high the cross that proclaims love's sacrifice.

**People: We will wave our greeting with joyous praise.
We will risk the commitment that led to a cross.**

Leader: We are under oath before the living God.
May we have no reason to weep when the cock crows.

**People: The promises we have made excite and challenge us.
We seek to be loyal and courageous in Christ's service.**

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

♪ *Red #135*
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): 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.

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 - 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).
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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

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

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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, 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

Liturgy of the Palms:

Psalm 118

This is an OT song of thanksgiving, used by an individual within the temple to give praise and thanks to God for God's deliverance in times of distress. This is one of the "Egyptian Hallel" praise psalms (Psalms 113-114 commonly sung before the Passover meal, and Psalms 115-118 sung afterwards). This psalm lifts up images of the Holy City of God and the gates by which the righteous will enter. "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD."

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.

Liturgy of the Passion:

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 31

This is an OT song, which offers a prayer to God for deliverance from enemies and then gives praise for that deliverance. This was written by King David.

The Letter of Paul to the Philippians

This epistle (letter) (NT) was written by the Apostle Paul from prison in the 60s A.D. Paul and Timothy are sending this letter to the church in Philippi, thanking and rejoicing with them for their steadfast faithfulness, prayers, and support, cautioning them of missionaries who focus on physical wants and needs, and encouraging them to stay true and united to his and Timothy's teachings and example. Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and church leader, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. Paul wrote more of the NT than any other person.

The Gospel According to 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, April 9th- Lectionary Readings for Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43 *or* Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4 *or* Acts 10:34-43;
John 20:1-18 *or* Matthew 28:1-10

The Palms

1 O'er all the way green palms and blos-soms gay are strewn this
 2 God's word goes forth, and peo - ple by its might once more their
 3 Sing and re-joice, O blest Je - ru - sa - lem, of all your

day in fes - tal prep - a - ra - tion, where Je - sus comes, to
 free - dom gain from deg - ra - da - tion; hu - man - i - ty does
 songs sing the e - man - ci - pa - tion; through bound-less love, the

wipe our tears a - way; e'en now the throng to wel-come him pre-pare.
 give to all their right, while those in dark-ness find re - stored the light.
 Christ of Beth - le - hem brings forth the hope to you for - ev - er - more.

Refrain

Join, sing his name di-vine, let ev - ery voice re-sond with u -
 Join all, and sing Ho - san - nal

nit - ed ac - cla - ma - tion, Ho - san - na!
 Praised be the Lord! Ho -

Praised be the Lord! Bless the one who comes to bring us sal - va - tion.
 san - nal

Text: Charles H. Gabriel, 1856-1932

Tune: The Palms 10.11.10.10 with refrain
 J. Baptiste Faure, 1830-1914
 Arr. Charles H. Gabriel, 1856-1932

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name 43

God gave Him the name that is above every name. Jesus Christ is Lord. Philippians 2:9-11

N.C. $\frac{G}{B}$ G D Em D G D7 Em $\frac{G}{D}$ D

1. All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate
 2. Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, Ye ran - somed from the
 3. Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe On this ter - res - trial
 4. O that with yon - der sa - cred throng We at His feet may

G D (no 3rd) G D (no 3rd) $\frac{G}{B}$ G N.C. D G $\frac{D}{F\#}$

fall; Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown Him
 fall, Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him
 ball, To Him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, And crown Him
 fall! We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, And crown Him

Em $\frac{D}{A}$ A D $\frac{G}{B}$ G D Em

Lord of all; Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And
 Lord of all; Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And
 Lord of all; To Him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, And
 Lord of all; We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, And

Optional transition to "Crown Him King of Kings"
 $\frac{G}{B}$ C $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 D D7 G $\frac{G}{F}$ Eb $\frac{D\flat}{Eb}$ Eb7

12 crown Him Lord of all!
 13 crown Him Lord of all!
 14 crown Him Lord of all!
 15 crown Him Lord of all!

rit.


His Triumphal Entry

THEODULPH OF ORLEANS, 820
Tr. JOHN MASON NEALE, 1854



VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN (ST. THEODULPH)

7. 6. 7. 6. D.



MELCHIOR TESCHNER, 1615

With well defined rhythm




1. All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To Thee, Re - deem - er, King,
2. Thou art the King of Is - rael, Thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
3. Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; Ac - cept the prayers we bring,

To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring!
Who in the Lord's name com - est, The King and bless - ed One!
Who in all good de - light - est, Thou good and gra - cious King!

The peo - ple of the He - brews With palms be - fore Thee went;
To Thee, be - fore Thy pas - sion, They sang their hymns of praise;
All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To Thee, Re - deem - er, King,

Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore Thee we pre - sent.
To Thee, now high ex - alt - ed Our mel - o - dy we raise.
To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring! A-MEN.

