

## The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

610-621-5770 -- [office@sprucc.org](mailto:office@sprucc.org) -- [www.sprucc.org](http://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*

† † †

**Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Festival of the Christian Home  
Mother's Day  
Sunday, May 14, 2023  
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 & Geri Gammel if you are in need of the nursery.

## **Junior Worship**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:Office@sprucc.org)*



[www.sprucc.org](http://www.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.*

### A TIME OF GATHERING

### RINGING OF THE BELL

### WELCOME & 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<sup>®</sup> (Unison)

**O God, let the sound of praising you be heard among us today, and in all the places of your dominion. We believe you are present with us even when we cannot feel or see or hear you as we would like. We thank you for the times when you have caught our attention. We ask for one of those times today. Shake us out of our complacency and our cherished iniquities. Hold us in your steadfast love and call forth within us an awareness of all your blessings. Stimulate among us and eagerness to live as you intend. Amen.**

### PRELUDE

*"In Times Like These"*

*by Ruth Caye Jones,  
arranged for piano by Fred Bock*

*{Those who are able, please rise}*

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"*

*♩Blue #377*

*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<sup>®</sup>

Leader: The God of heaven and earth calls us together.  
We come to explore matters of the Spirit.

**People: There is so much we do not know or understand.  
So much of God is unknown to us.**

Leader: In God we live and move and have our being.  
All that we have and are comes from God.

**People: We want to worship the One who gives us breath.  
We reach for the Reality beyond our knowing.**

## 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 <sup>2</sup> (Leader)

We have been baptized and claimed in the name of Jesus Christ for a lifetime of service. Yet we are often intimidated by our fears and seduced by our fantasies. We worship autonomy and deny community. We ignore the commandments God has given us. We need to face our guilt. God demands our repentance. Let us pray....

### \*CONFESSION OF SIN <sup>2</sup> (Unison)

**O God, we confess that we have loved our own way more than we love you. The Spirit of truth does not abide in us, for our actions belie the words of praise we utter in worship. We neglect the spiritual disciplines that would draw us close to you and the caring outreach that would link us with sisters and brothers who need to know of your love. We have not witnessed to our faith in ways powerful enough to evoke opposition or cause us to suffer. O God, it is hard to follow Jesus! Forgive us, teach us, help us! Amen.**

### \*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON <sup>2</sup> (Leader)

You are not left to struggle alone. You have an Advocate who is always with you. You are not rejected. God hears your prayers and offers you steadfast love in all circumstances. Do not be afraid to hope, and to share that hope with others around you. Claim God's gifts of reverence and gentleness as you testify to the resurrection. If God is for you no one can stand against you. **Amen.**

### \*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: Let us sing praise to our risen saviour.

People: **We praise God's holy name.**

### \*SUNG PRAISE

*"Alleluia"*

*Text & Music: Jerry Sinclair*

**I will praise you, alleluia; I will praise you, alleluia;  
I will praise you, alleluia; I will praise you, alleluia!**

*{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:** [Acts 17:22-31](#)

**Second Lesson:** [1 Peter 3:13-22](#)

**Leader:** The word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Lesson:** [John 14:15-21](#)

**Leader:** This is the Good News.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

### HYMN

*"Open the Eyes of My Heart"*

*W&R #656*

*Permission granted by composer, Paul Baloche*

### MINI-MESSAGE

### MUSIC

*"This is the Day"*

*Text & Music: Les Garrett*

**This is the day, this is the day  
that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice, we will rejoice  
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.**

**This is the day that the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is the day, this is the day  
that the Lord has made.**

### 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*

*{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, died, and was 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.

### MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER<sup>®</sup>

Leader: God of all creation, pour out your blessing on all mothers

**People: and those who provide motherly care.**

Leader: You have made them in your image

**People: and given them children to love and care for in your name.**

Leader: Bless them with a heart like your heart;

**People: loving and kind, comforting and strong, nurturing and grace-filled.**

Leader: As they participate in your ongoing creativity,  
**People: give them discernment to help their children discover their unique gifts.**  
Leader: As they teach their children,  
**People: grant them wisdom to know what is truly valuable.**  
Leader: As they strive to share your unconditional love,  
**People: give them long-suffering patience and a lively sense of humor.**  
Leader: As they model your mercy,  
**People: help them extend the forgiveness that they themselves freely receive from you.**  
Leader: In all circumstances fortify their faith,  
**People: that they may love you above all.**  
Leader: We ask this in Jesus' name.  
**ALL: 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.**

#### SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE

*"God, Bless Our Homes" vs. 2*

*NCH #429  
One License #A-728042*

**May every heart receive God's loving spirit  
and know the truth that makes life truly free;  
Then, in that spirit may we live united,  
and find in God our deep security.**

#### OFFERTORY INVITATION <sup>②</sup>

Leader: Our spiritual ancestors brought sacrifices as offerings to God.  
**People: We are invited to join them in bringing our best to proclaim God's rule over all things.**  
Leader: God claims our labors and the fruit of our labors.  
**People: In response, we offer them gladly.**

#### RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

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

## CHORAL OFFERTORY

### "I Lift My Eyes to the Quiet Hills"

Text by Timothy Dudley-Smith;  
Music by Michael Baughen and Elisabeth Crocker.  
Based on Psalm 121:1 - 2

{Those who are able, please rise}

## \*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

### "Alleluia"

Text & Music: Jerry Sinclair

**You are worthy, alleluia, You are worthy, alleluia,  
You are worthy, alleluia, You are worthy, alleluia!**

## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER<sup>②</sup> (Leader)

God of all people, may all that we give today be used to express your love among us and beyond us. We are thankful for your gift to us in Christ Jesus, who was so committed to sharing your love that he risked rejection and death. We are grateful that even though his suffering resulted in death in the flesh you made him alive in the spirit. May Christ live today in us, in our caring, in our giving, in our speaking, in our doing. We rededicate ourselves to your service. **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<sup>②</sup>

Leader: God has listened to our prayers and abides with us.  
God's blessing rests on us as we scatter to serve.

**People: The Spirit lives within us and among us.  
We seek to live as resurrection people.**

Leader: Daily God will add to your understanding if you ask.  
Do not fear to seek after the truth God will reveal.

**People: Together we will seek to know God more fully.  
We will remember one another in prayer.**

**ALL: Amen.**

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ Red #558  
Public Domain

## \*SENDING HYMN

### "Blessed Assurance"

W&R #426  
Public Domain

*{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 *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
  - ⑦ 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
  - ⑧ Reprinted with permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
  - ⑨ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
  - ⑩ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
  - ⑩ The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
  - ⑩ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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## **Staff & Leadership**

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*Sextons:* Michael Pastor & Terry Pastor

*Treasurer:* Terry Pastor

*Financial Secretary & Assistant Secretary:* Geneva Aulenbach

*Consistory President:* Elsa Wertz

*Consistory Vice President:* George McLain

*Consistory Secretary:* Geri Gammel

## About Today

**Church Season: Easter** - The Easter Season begins on Easter Sunday, and continues for seven weeks until Pentecost. 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):

**White** - symbolizing the defeat of death and the darkness of sin with the resurrection to eternal life, and the light of the resurrected Christ.

The suggested scripture lessons are from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), which selects passages throughout the Bible over a three year cycle. The RCL is the most common lectionary used by Christian churches. We are in **Year A**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Matthew.

The Bible is in two sections: Old Testament - OT (scripture prior to Christ's birth), located in the first 2/3 of the Bible; and New Testament - NT (about Christ & early church).

### **This Sunday, May 14, 2023, Lectionary Reading for Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

#### **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.

#### **Psalm 66**

This OT song of praise and thanksgiving affirms God's providential deliverance of God's people.

#### **The First Letter of Peter**

This NT Epistle (letter) is attributed to the Apostle Peter, who's name means "rock." Jesus appointed Simon Peter to lead the church after his ascension. Peter was a fisherman at the time Jesus called him to be a disciple. This letter is believed to be written pseudonymously in Rome around 70-90 A.D. This letter particularly addresses social tensions being felt within the Greco-Roman culture that are being attributed to the spread of the Christian faith.

#### **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, May 21, 2023, Lectionary Reading for Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

# Alleluia! Sing to Jesus 377

*There was a great multitude from every nation standing in front of the Lamb. Revelation 7:9*

F F<sup>4</sup> F F<sup>4</sup> F C<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup> F C C<sup>4</sup> C F A C<sup>7</sup> F F A G<sup>m</sup> F C<sup>7</sup> F

1. Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! His the scep - ter, His the throne.  
 2. Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans Are we left in sor - row now.  
 3. Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of Heav - en, You on earth our food and stay!

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

F F<sup>4</sup> F F<sup>4</sup> F C<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup> F C C<sup>4</sup> C F A C<sup>7</sup> F F A G<sup>m</sup> F C<sup>7</sup> F

Al - le - lu - ia! His the tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! He is near us; Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful Flee to You from day to day.

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

F C<sup>7</sup> F C<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup> F E C F C<sup>7</sup> F C<sup>7</sup> F C

Hark! the songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der like a might - y flood:  
 Tho' the clouds from sight re - ceived Him When the for - ty days were o'er,  
 In - ter - ces - sor, Friend of sin - ners, Earth's Re - deem - er, plead for me,

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

F F F C<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup> F F F C C<sup>7</sup> C F A C<sup>7</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> F A B<sup>b</sup> F C<sup>7</sup> F

"Je - sus out of ev - ery na - tion Has re - deem - ed us by His blood."  
 Shall our hearts for - get His prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"  
 Where the songs of all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

TEXT: William C. Dix  
 MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard; arranged by Robert Harkness  
 A lower setting may be found at No. 309

HYFRYDOL  
 8.7.8.7.D.

## Open the Eyes of My Heart

Alto 

O - pen the eyes of my heart, — Lord, O - pen the eyes of my heart.

A 

I want to see you, I want to see you.

A 

see you. To see you high and lift - ed up —

A 

shin - ing in the light of your glo - ry; pour out — your power and love

A 

— as we sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly." —

A 

O - pen the eyes of my heart, — Lord, o - pen the eyes of my heart;

A 

I want to see you, I want to see you.

A 

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. — Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly;

A 

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, — I want to see you. —

## Blessed Assurance

426

D G/D D A/E

1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! O what a fore-taste of  
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now  
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest, I in my Sav-ior am

E7 A D G/D D

glo-ry di-vine! Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God,  
 burst on my sight; an-gels de-scend-ing, bring from a-bove  
 hap-py and blest, watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove,

D G Em/D A7 D Refrain

born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
 ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love. This is my sto-ry,  
 filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

G D G D/A E A A7

this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long; this is my

D G/D D D7 Em/D A7 D

sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915)  
 MUSIC: Phoebe P. Knapp (1839-1908)

ASSURANCE  
 9.10.9.9.Ref.