

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.*



Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

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

+ † +

Sunday, August 6, 2023
10th Sunday after Pentecost

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 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

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



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[®] (Unison)

O God, we are in awe before you, for you have provided for us in rich abundance. The earth is full of your provisions. There is beauty all around us from the work of your hands. You have surrounded us with people who care about us with the love of Christ. Help us, O God, to count our blessings. Point us beyond our cries and complaints that we might realize our capacity to act in your name for the sake of others. As we wrestle with issues of faith and trust, help us to risk our false security for the venture of feeding others in the spirit of Christ. Amen.

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE

"Jesus Paid it All"
Ms. Amanda Kopp, guest flutist

Arranged by Lura Foster

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Take My Life, and Let it Be"

*♪ Red #253
Public Domain*

*INVOCATION

Leader: We worship in the name of God the Father, and of God the Son, and of God the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP[®]

Leader: Come into the presence of God to be fed.
Come to call on God, who is eager to answer.

**People: We gather to seek God's face.
Let our eyes see all that is right and true.**

Leader: Incline your ears to hear all God would teach.
Seek to experience God's steadfast love.

**People: We are here to receive God's blessing.
We want to renew our covenant with the living God.**

We Repent

This is a time to confess our wrongdoings and neglects, ask for God's mercy, admit our need for God's forgiving grace, hear the assurance of our forgiveness, and then give God our thanks and praise.

*CALL TO CONFESSION [®] (Leader)

All of us need times of wrestling with God over issues in our lives. These moments of confession offer us one such opportunity. Bring your own distress to this time of confessing the sin in which all of us have a part.

*CONFESSION OF SIN [®] (Unison)

God of justice and righteousness, whose compassion for humankind was expressed so vividly in Jesus of Nazareth, we bring to you our sorrow and anguish that we have not followed faithfully in the footsteps of Christ. Unkindness and deceit are all around us, and we have sometimes joined in their destructive ways. We waste resources you have entrusted to us. We cause others to stumble and fall. Take away our wickedness, O God, and restore your covenant among us, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY

"Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"

♪ Red #226

*John Greenleaf Whittier, Frederick C. Maker
Public Domain*

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind, In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON [®] (Leader)

God is merciful, patient, kind, and loving. All creation is subject to God's care and concern. God attends to our cries and frees our lips from deceit. In Christ, our brokenness finds healing, and relationships are mended and strengthened. God feeds us in ways beyond our knowing and prompts our generosity. Know the glory of God surrounding us here as we worship. Celebrate the refreshment God offers.
Amen.

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: O Lord, open our lips

People: **And our mouths shall show forth your praise.**

***SUNG PRAISE**

"Come, Let us Praise the Lord"

W&R #9

*Timothy Dudley-Smith; John Darwall
One License #A-728042*

**Come, let us praise the Lord, with joy our God acclaim,
His greatness tell abroad and bless his saving name.
Lift high your songs before his throne to whom alone all praise belongs.**

{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 from the Torah ("The Law" one of the Five Books of Moses):

[Genesis 32:22-31](#)

New Testament Letter: [Romans 9:1-5](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Gospel ("Good News" of Jesus Christ): [Matthew 14:13-21](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"Break Thou the Bread of Life"

Red #204
Public Domain

MINI-MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S SONG *"Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him in the Morning"*

Traditional

**Praise Him, praise Him,
Praise Him in the morning, Praise Him in 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, 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}
{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}*

OFFERTORY INVITATION [®]

Leader: God has created a world of abundance for everyone.

People: Yet many do not share in the bounty.

Leader: Christ calls us to share what we have been given and to make sure that all are fed.

People: We give as we have been blessed.

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](http://sprucc.org) option on our website at sprucc.org (Click Here), or you may mail your offering to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.

INSTRUMENTAL OFFERTORY *“Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”* *arranged by Stan Pethel*
Ms. Amanda Kopp, guest flutist

{Those who are able, please rise}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *“As Saints of Old Their First-fruits Brought”* **W&R #570**
Words: Frank von Christierson
Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams
One License #A-728042

**As saints of old their first-fruits brought of vineyard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield;
so we today our first-fruits bring: the wealth of this good land,
of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** [®] *(Leader)*

Thank you, God, for all you have given to satisfy our needs. You quench our thirst and alleviate our hungers when we turn to you. You turn scarcity into plenty and give us the opportunity to help others. May our offerings proclaim your goodness and mercy. May they be devoted to extending the beloved community of your people. Keep our words and actions attuned to your will, that we may offer to all what they need from your hand.
Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion ^{①④}

*The Sacrament of Holy Communion is the central act of Christian worship, bringing us more fully together with one another and the Triune God, through the sacrifice of the body and blood of Jesus Christ.
(Matthew 26:20-30, Mark 14:17-26, Luke 22:14-23, John 13:21-30)*

***INVITATION**

Leader: Dearly beloved in the Lord: Our blessed Saviour Jesus Christ instituted the Holy Communion of his Body and Blood, that it might be the abiding memorial of his atoning death; the seal of his perpetual presence in the Church through the Holy Spirit; the mystical representation of the sacrifice of himself on the cross; the pledge of his undying love for his people; and the bond of his living union and fellowship with them to the end of time.

ALL: **The celebration of the Lord's Supper has ever been regarded by the Church as the innermost sanctuary of the whole Christian worship. What we do here is not merely with signs, but with the realities these signs represent. We seek to approach the Lord's Table rightly, striving to be devout and repentant, with a believing mind.**

Leader: We cordially invite to partake of this Sacrament all who are truly grieved and penitent for their sins, who look to the Lord Jesus Christ for righteousness and salvation, who abide in the fellowship of his Church, and who desire to possess his Spirit and walk in his ways. To all such the compassionate Redeemer himself says: Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

***COMMUNION PRAYER**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Leader:

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Everlasting God, who created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, who made humankind in your own image, and whose tender mercies are over all your works.

We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none.

We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless.

We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory.

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

***SANCTUS**

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

*Seraphic Hymn ♪ Red #522
Public Domain*

{Sanctus is Latin for “Holy.” Seraphic Hymn refers to the song of the Seraphim Angels. Sabaoth is a Hebrew name for God, referring to God as both creator and ruler of the world}.

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of thy glory,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!**

{Please be seated}

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader:

Lord, we remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: “This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes again.

Leader: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**ALL: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Ordained Minister:

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We offer you our gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service in behalf of all people.

Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, both here at this table in this sanctuary and in the homes of those who are gathered as the church; even though separated by physical distance, we are one in your spirit, and bless us that as we receive them, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united in communion with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things.

ALL: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. Amen.

BREAKING BREAD AND RAISING CUP

LORD'S PRAYER *(Unison)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
People: have mercy on us.
Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
People: have mercy on us.
Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
People: grant us peace.

CALL TO THE SUPPER

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

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

*{This morning we will be partaking of communion in small groups
in front of the Chancel Rail.*

*The choir will come forward as the first group.
The ushers will then guide persons a few pews at a time down the center aisle.
You may stand or kneel at the rail.*

*The Pastor will distribute the bread, then instruct to consume at the same time.
For those preferring **gluten free bread**, please pick up a piece as you approach the Chancel Rail.*

*The Elders will distribute the **red wine** and **white grape juice**
and the Pastor will then instruct people to consume at the same time.*

*The Pastor will dismiss persons to return to their pews using the side aisles,
and you can place your empty cup in the tray as you depart.*

*The Pastor and Elders will bring communion to the pews
for those who cannot come forward.}*

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

*Children who are not yet communing may come forward to receive a blessing.
To indicate that you prefer a blessing, simply keep your hands by your side.}*

*---
{As you receive the elements, you may say the following...}*

Pastor: The Body of Christ broken for you.

Individual: Amen.

Elder: The Blood of Christ shed for you.

Individual: Amen. or Thanks be to God.

{Those who are able, please rise}

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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

ALL: Amen.

We Are Sent Out

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

***COMMISSION** ^②

Leader: Go out to wrestle with God and the world this week.
Know that God intends that you will feel blessed.

People: We believe that God preserves our lives.

All we have is a gift to us from our Creator.

Leader: God bids us to welcome others into the faith community.
Christ commands: Give them something to eat.

People: As God has fed us, we want to share God's bounty.

We want to pass on God's steadfast love.

ALL: Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

***SENDING HYMN**

"Take My Gifts"

NCH #562
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 worshiping Him
- (3) We confess our need for God's forgiveness and grace
- (4) We are assured of God's forgiveness and grace
- (5) We learn more about God's will through scripture, song, and sermon
- (6) We grow closer to God and one another through prayer
- (7) We give God thanks by offering our time, talent, and treasure
- (8) We experience greater oneness with God and each another through Communion
- (9) 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.
 - ⑧ 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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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

Consistory President: Elsa Wertz

Consistory Vice President: George McLain

Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

About Today

Church Season: Pentecost -which is the season of the church in mission. It is the time between the ascension of Christ and his second coming, which is the time we are presently living in today, and as such is the longest season of the church year. The day of Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian church.

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

Green - symbolizing the life God brings, especially through our mission work.

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, August 6, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 32:22-31 *and* Psalm 17:1-7, 15 *or* Isaiah 55:1-5 *and* Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

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.

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.

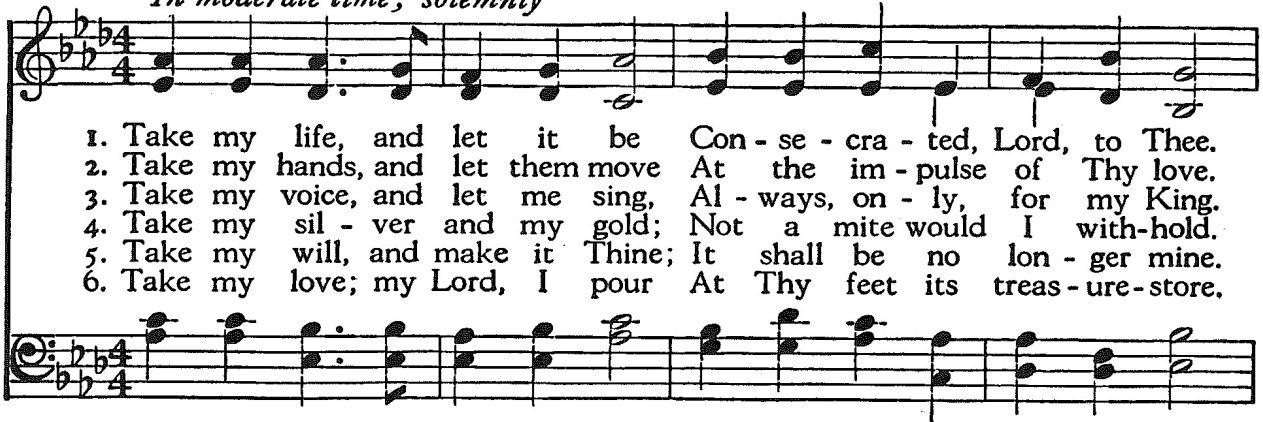
Next Sunday, August 13, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 *and* Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b *or* 1 Kings 19:9-18 *and* Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

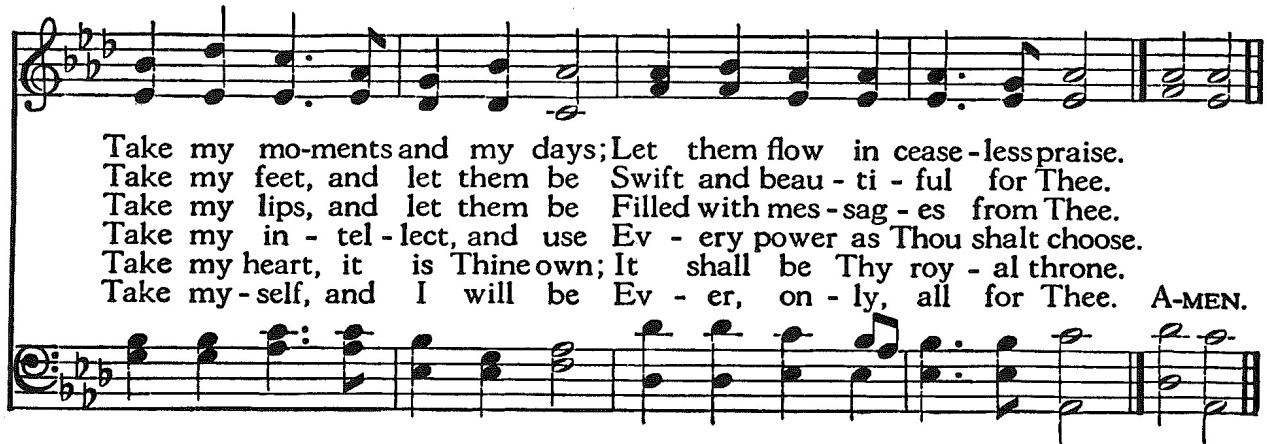
The Christian Life

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL, 1874

7.7.7.7.

ST. BEES
JOHN B. DYKES, 1862*In moderate time; solemnly*


1. Take my life, and let it be Con - se - cra - ted, Lord, to Thee.
 2. Take my hands, and let them move At the im - pulse of Thy love.
 3. Take my voice, and let me sing, Al - ways, on - ly, for my King.
 4. Take my sil - ver and my gold; Not a mite would I with - hold.
 5. Take my will, and make it Thine; It shall be no lon - ger mine.
 6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treas - ure - store.



Take my mo - ments and my days; Let them flow in cease - less praise.
 Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
 Take my lips, and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
 Take my in - tel - lect, and use Ev - ery power as Thou shalt choose.
 Take my heart, it is Thine own; It shall be Thy roy - al throne.
 Take my - self, and I will be Ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee. A - MEN.

MARY A. LATHBURY, 1877

6. 4. 6. 4. D.

BREAD OF LIFE
WILLIAM F. SHERWIN, 1877*Rather slowly, in flowing rhythm*

1. Break Thou the bread of life, Dear Lord, to me, As Thou didst
2. Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord, To me—to me, As Thou didst

break the loaves Be - side the sea; Be - yond the sa - cred page
bless the bread By Gal - i - lee; Then shall all bond - age cease,

I seek Thee, Lord; My spir - it pants for Thee, O liv - ing Word.
All fet - ters fall; And I shall find my peace, My All in all. A-MEN.

Take My Gifts

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Shirley Erena Murray, 1991

1 Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
 2 Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
 3 Take whatever I can offer— gifts that I have yet to find,

gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,
 harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,
 skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind,

now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
 spiced with humor, laced with laughter— flavor of the Jesus life,
 things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be:

now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!
 tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.
 take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

Shirley Erena Murray recounted that Colin Gibson composed this tune for her stewardship text "almost instantaneously." Gibson has served as professor at the University of Otago, as well as organist and choir director in Dunedin, New Zealand.

Tune: TALAVERA TERRACE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Colin Gibson, 1991
 Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA