

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*

+ † +

Sunday, September 17, 2023
16th 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 and 3rd 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)

Majestic God, who led our spiritual ancestors with a pillar of cloud that hid them by day and protected them by night, lead us through the threatening times in which we live. Save us from the floods of our own misplaced trust, as you saved them from the waters of the sea and the weapons of their pursuers. On this day, grant strength to those who are weak and support for all who are stumbling. Let every tongue praise you as we give account to you of our deeds. Amen.

PIANO PRELUDE

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling"

Arranged for piano by Tom Fettke

{Those who are able, please rise}

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

*W&R #23
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** ②

Leader: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of God.
Let us remember God's marvelous works.

**People: Surely God has saved us in difficult times.
How can we forget God's guiding hand?**

Leader: When evil surrounds us and we have been wronged,
God helps us turn the evil to good.

**People: We need not be afraid whatever happens.
We are in God's care wherever we go.**

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)*

Why do we pass judgment on our brothers and sisters? Why do we quarrel with those whose ways are different from our own? How can we despise another who is also a child of God? How can we ignore the suffering of other human beings? Surely we have much to confess to our God. Let us humbly confess our sins before God and before one another. Let us pray...

***CONFESSION OF SIN** ② *(Unison)*

Saving God, we confess that we often fail to remember your saving action in how we live our daily lives. Through that failing, our faith is weakened, we experience more darkness, and have succumbed to temptation. We have failed to do what we ought to do and say what we ought to say. We have done what we ought not to have done, and have spoken in ways we should not. We confess our failure to pass on to the next generation our testimony to your faithfulness and your power. We fail to model through both our words and actions our Christian discipleship as fully as Christ has taught. Forgive us O Lord, we pray.

***SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

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

***SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY**

*“Search Me O God”
Stanzas 1 & 3*

*W&R #385
Orr, Hopkins
Public Domain*

**Search me, O God, and know my heart today;
try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.
See if there be some wicked way in me;
cleans me from every sin and set me free.**

**Lord, take my life and make it wholly thine;
fill my poor heart with thy great love divine.
Take all my will, my passion, self, and pride;
I now surrender, Lord - in me abide.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** [®] *(Leader)*

God has pity on us and releases us from the debts we have accumulated. In the great design of the universe, we are equipped to receive this forgiveness only when we extend it to others. Jesus points us to unlimited willingness to forgive—seventy times seven. How amazing is God's love for us, and God's expectation of us! **Amen.**

***CALL TO PRAISE**

Leader: O Lord, open our lips

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

***SUNG PRAISE**

*“Sing Praise to God who Reigns Above”
Stanza 1*

*♫ Blue #97
Johann J. Schutz
One License #A-728042*

**Sing praise to God who reigns above, The God of all creation,
The God of pow’r, the God of love, The God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul He fills, And every faithless murmur stills:
To God all praise and glory!**

{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 (One of the Five Books of Law): [Genesis 50:15-21](#)

New Testament Letter: [Romans 14:1-12, 13-23](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Gospel: [Matthew 18:21-35](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

"Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive"

W&R #382
One License #A-728042

MINI-MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S SONG

"This Is the Day"

W&R #652
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 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}

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray...

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ³

Leader: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

{A time of silent prayer}

Leader: We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially, for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ, 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.

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE

“Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”

♪ *Red #501*
George Whelpton
Public Domain

**Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord;
Hear our prayer, O Lord, And grant us Thy peace.**

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION [®]

Leader: We are indebted to the Creator

People: for all we have and for the precious gift of life itself.

Leader: Nothing we can do will ever begin to repay this debt.

People: Although we cannot repay God, we can give to show our thanks and faith in God and to support ministries that share God's Good News with others.

Leader: Through our gifts given in gratitude, we extend to others the gracious acceptance and generosity we have experienced.

People: Let us grow in the spiritual discipline of tithing, may we give regularly of our first and best, and when we fall behind, may we catch-up in faithful support of the ministries of Jesus Christ.

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](#) 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}.

CHORAL OFFERTORY

“I Lift My Eyes to the Quiet Hills”

*words by Timothy Smith,
music by Michael Baughen*

{Those who are able, please rise}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

We Praise Thee, O God”

Stanza 1

♪ *Red #19*
Julia Cory
One License #A-728042

**We praise Thee, O God, our Redeemer, Creator,
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.**

**We lay it before Thee, we kneel and adore Thee,
We bless Thy holy Name, glad praises we sing.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** [®] *(Leader)*

God of Life, you have forgiven us and set us free. We respond with our whole lives, to follow your lead in forgiving others. May these gifts we offer of our time, talent, and treasure extend your beloved community to help bring forth the day when all your children everywhere know they are forgiven and free. We pray in Christ's name. **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 have observed this day to honor God.
God's promises go with us as we depart.

**People: From Christ, we have learned to forgive.
We have been taught to value every person.**

Leader: Let every knee bow daily before our God.
Let every tongue give praise to the Almighty.

**People: Every day we can know God's loving presence.
We are grateful that God strengthens our faith.**

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

W&R #719
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 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) God sends us into the world to share His love and grace with others



Worship Service Resource Credits

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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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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, September 17, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14:19-31 *and* Psalm 114 *or* Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 *or* Genesis 50:15-21 *and* Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

Genesis

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

Psalm 103

This is an OT song of thanksgiving and praise for the ways in which God has helped.

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, September 24, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15 *and* Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 *or* Jonah 3:10 - 4:11 *and* Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

23 All Creatures of Our God and King

D Bm Em7 Asus A $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{A7}{E}$ D Bm Em7

1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us
 2 O rush-ing wind that art so strong, you clouds that sail in heaven a -
 3 O flow-ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to
 4 All you who are of ten-der heart, for - giv-ing oth-ers, take your
 5 Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, and wor-ship him in hum-ble-

Asus A $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G D Bm $\frac{A}{C\#}$ D E A $\frac{D}{F\#}$ D Bm7 $\frac{A7}{E}$ D $\frac{G}{B}$

sing Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! O burn-ing sun with gold-en
 long, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! O ris - ing morn in praise re-
 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! O fire so mas-ter - ful and
 part, sing prais - es, Al - le - lu - ia! All you who pain and sor-row
 ness, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa-ther, praise the

Asus A $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{A7}{E}$ D $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{Dmaj7}{A}$ G $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{D}{A}$ G6 $\frac{A}{G}$ $\frac{D}{F\#}$ Em7 $\frac{D}{F\#}$

beam, and sil-ver moon with soft - er gleam, O praise him, O
 joice, O lights of eve-ning, find a voice, O praise him, O
 bright, pro - vid - ing us with warmth and light, O praise him, O
 bear, praise God and on him cast your care, O praise him, O
 Son, and praise the Spir - it, Three in One, O praise him, O

G6 A7 Bm $\frac{A}{C\#}$ D6 E A Bm7 $\frac{F\#m}{C\#}$ D Em $\frac{A}{C\#}$ $\frac{B7}{D\#}$ Em $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{Em7}{G}$ A A7 D

praise him, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226); tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt.
 MUSIC: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Cologne, 1623; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
 L.M. Alleluias

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" 382

Dm B \flat Gm F Dm Gm Am Dm $\frac{Gm}{B\mathbb{b}}$

1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and

F/A C F $\frac{C}{E}$ Dsus Dm $\frac{Am}{C}$ B \flat $\frac{C7}{G}$ F/A $\frac{Am}{C}$

taught us, Lord, to pray, but you a - lone can
 un - for - giv - ing heart that broods on wrongs and
 truth we dim - ly knew: what triv - ial debts are
 bid re - sent - ment cease. Then, bound to all in

Dm B \flat maj7 $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{Am}{C}$ $\frac{Gm}{B\mathbb{b}}$ Am7 Gm Am Dm

grant us grace to live the words we say.
 will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 owed to us, how great our debt to you.
 bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

WORDS: Rosamond E. Herklots (1905-1987)
 MUSIC: Supplement to the *Kentucky Harmony*, 1820
 Words © 1969 Oxford University Press

DETROIT
 C.M.

719 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

F $\frac{F}{A}$ B \flat $\frac{F}{A}$ Gm $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ C $\frac{F}{A}$ B \flat B \flat $\frac{Am}{C}$ C7 F

1 Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev-er a-lone.
 2 Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.
 3 Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me;
 4 I, the Lord, will bless and keep you and give you peace;

F $\frac{F}{A}$ B \flat $\frac{F}{A}$ Gm $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ C $\frac{F}{A}$ B \flat B \flat $\frac{Am}{C}$ C7 F

Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you; you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.
 I, the Lord, will smile up-on you and give you peace:

$\frac{B\flat}{D}$ F $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ $\frac{F}{A}$ B \flat Cm $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ F Gm $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ Dm Gm9 $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$

In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry; here you touched him, saw his
 Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you; here his ten-der com-fort
 I, the Lord, will be your Fa-ther, Sav-ior, Com-fort-er, and

$\frac{F}{C}$ C $\frac{F}{A}$ B \flat $\frac{F}{A}$ Gm $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ C $\frac{F}{A}$ B \flat B \flat $\frac{Am}{C}$ C7 F

ev-er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing— you are my own.
 glo-ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.
 stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free.
 Broth-er. Go, my chil-dren, I will keep you and give you peace.