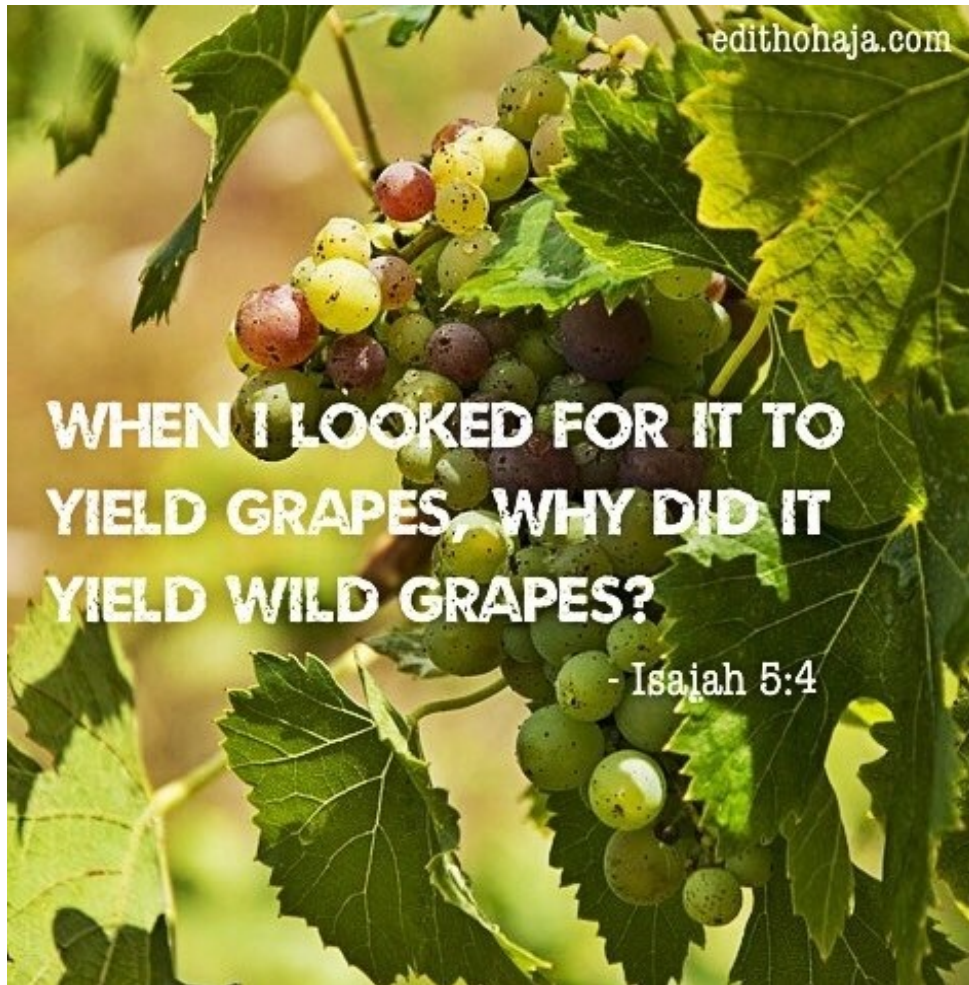


The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

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, October 8, 2023
19th 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 ⑩ (Unison)

Loving Father, Because of You, Our Church Changes Lives. Thank you for the Holy Spirit in our midst, nourishing us with excitement and wisdom. Thank you for your children of all ages! Thank you for giving us the desire to give to you. Thank you for creating the world for us. "Behold!" you exclaimed. And it was good! In the name of the Son who exclaimed, "Behold!" with you. Amen.

PIANO PRELUDE

"What a Friend We have in Jesus"

arranged by Tom Fettke

{Those who are able, please rise}

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

"This is My Father's World"

♩Blue #143

Public Domain

{please be seated}

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SKIT

"Behold"

written by Rev. Mary Etta Mest

Acted by Robin Henning and Geri Gammel
with the help of some young people

{Those who are able, please rise}

***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** *adapted from Psalm 26*

Leader: Test me, O Lord, and try me;

People: examine my heart and my mind.

Leader: For your steadfast love is before my eyes

People: I have walked faithfully with you.

Leader: I sing aloud a song of thanksgiving

People: and recount all your wonderful deeds.

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** ⑩ *(Leader)*

God of love and protection and forgiveness, hear now our confession of sins which separate us from you.

***CONFESSION OF SIN** ⑩ *(Unison)*

Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic IS your name in all the world! Or how majestic WAS your name in all the world. We have taken your lovely world into our own hands. How can you possibly love us when we have spoiled your world? How can you forgive our acceptance and our own actions which have dirtied the earth's waters, polluted the air, and made ourselves enemies of each other. What is this world coming to? Please forgive us and restore us! Amen.

***SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

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

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** ⑩ *(Leader)*

O People of God, God forgives us but does not absolve us from caring for the world he created for us. It is our work to be diligent. It is our work as good stewards to marvel at the beauty that remains; to marvel at the clean water that still exists in places. It is our work as good stewards to be passionate about restoring the good earth so we can proclaim "Behold, it is good!"

{please be seated}

PRAYER FOR THE CROP WALK PEOPLE

Please come forward, if you are going on the CROP Walk

MINI-MESSAGE *Children & Young People may leave to go to Jr. Worship
after the 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.**

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

The Old Testament Reading: [Isaiah 5:1-7](#)

The Psalm: [Psalm 80:7-15](#)

The New Testament Letter: [Philippians 3:12-14](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONY *by David Hoffman*

HYMN

"You Are The Seed"

*WOV #753
One License #A-728042*

SERMON *"What Happened to the Seed?"*

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)* *United Church of Christ Statement of Faith* ①
(Section One about God)

**All: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:
You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.
You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.
You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through
prophets and apostles.
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.**

{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

Leader: God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

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.**

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ⑩

Leader: God welcomes our offerings. God has plans for our offerings.

People: May we bring our offerings gladly to fulfill God's plans.

Leader: May it be so!

People: Yes, may it be so!

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 tithes and offerings to God through our secure [Online Giving](https://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}.

CHORAL OFFERTORY

“This is the Day”

by Terry Kirkland

{Those who are able, please rise}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“For the Life That You Have Given”

W&R #684

Daw/Leavitt

One License #A-728042

**For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER ⑩ (Leader)

Loving God, these gifts have been brought to your altar to help us to fulfill your plans for our congregation. Now we beseech you to direct us according to your plans. In the name of Jesus, who fulfilled the plans set before him, we pray. **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 ⑩

Leader: We are heading into the world now.

People: We will protect this world as much as we are able.

Leader: How will we do that?

People: Mmmmmm! Making sure all fires are completely "out."

Leader: I know! Extinguish the camp fire but light the fire in our hearts!

People: Yes, we will be passionate about keeping the GOOD NEWS alive.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"Come, All Christians, Be Committed"

W&R #459
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

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- ① United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need (NIN) 2023 Resources.
- ② *Gathered By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
- ② *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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- ⑤ scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America
- ⑥ Reprinted with permission from *Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ*. (2013).
- 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

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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, October 8, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 *and* Psalm 19 *or* Isaiah 5:1-7 *and* Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

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 80

This OT song is a petition for God to restore His people.

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, October 15, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 32:1-14 *and* Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 *or* Isaiah 25:1-9 *and* Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

This Is My Father's World 143

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1

$E\flat$ $E\flat^4_2$ $E\flat$ $\frac{G\flat}{B\flat}$ $B\flat^7$ $E\flat$ $E\flat^4_2$ $E\flat$ $\frac{A\flat}{E\flat}$ $E\flat$ $B\flat$

1. This is my Fa-ther's world, And to my lis-t'ning ears
 2. This is my Fa-ther's world, The birds their car-ols raise;
 3. This is my Fa-ther's world, O let me ne'er for-get

1 2 3 4

$B\flat^9$ $E\flat$ $\frac{G\flat}{B\flat}$ $B\flat^7$ $\frac{E\flat}{B\flat}$ $\frac{G\flat}{B\flat}$ $B\flat^7$ $E\flat$ $E\flat^4_2$ $E\flat$ $B\flat$ $B\flat^7$ $E\flat$

All na-ture sings, and round me rings The mu-sic of the spheres.
 The morn-ing light, the lil-y white De-clare their Mak-er's praise.
 That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul-er yet.

5 6 7 8

$B\flat$ $E\flat$ $A\flat$ $\frac{B\flat^7}{F}$ $E\flat$ $\frac{E\flat}{G}$ $A\flat$ $A\flat^{\#4}$ $A\flat$ $E\flat$

This is my Fa-ther's world, I rest me in the thought
 This is my Fa-ther's world, He shines in all that's fair;
 This is my Fa-ther's world, The bat-tle is not done;

9 10 11 12

$B\flat^9$ $E\flat$ $\frac{G\flat}{B\flat}$ $B\flat^7$ $\frac{E\flat}{B\flat}$ $\frac{G\flat}{B\flat}$ $B\flat^7$ $E\flat$ N.C. $E\flat$ $E\flat^4_2$ $E\flat$ $B\flat$ $B\flat^7$ $E\flat$

Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas—His hand the won-ders wrought.
 In the rus-ting grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me ev-ery-where.
 Je-sus, who died, shall be sat-is-fied, And earth and heav'n be one.

13 14 15 16

TEXT: Maltbie D. Babcock
 MUSIC: Traditional English melody; adapted by Franklin L. Sheppard

TERRA BEATA
 S.M.D.

You Are the Seed

Sois la semilla

753

D A Bm D G

1 You are the seed that will grow a new sprout; you're a star that will
 2 You are the flame that will light - en the dark, so re - splen - dent with
 3 You are the life that will nur - ture the plant; you're the waves in a

A⁷ D A Bm G

shine in the night; you are the yeast and a small grain of salt, a
 hope, faith and love; you are the shep - herds to lead the whole world to
 tur - bu - lent sea; yes - ter - day's yeast is be - gin - ning to rise, a

D G A⁷ D D A

bea - con to glow in the dark. You are the dawn that will
 wa - ters and pas - tures of peace. "You are the friends that I
 new loaf of bread it will yield. There is no place for a

Bm D G A⁷

bring a new day; you're the wheat that will bear gold - en grain;
 chose for my - self, you're the word that I want to pro - claim.
 cit - y to hide, there's no moun - tain can cov - er its might;

D A Bm G D

you are a sting and a soft, gen - tle touch, to wit - ness where -
 You are the new reign of God built on rock, where jus - tice and
 let your light shine so that your lov - ing works give hon - or and

G A⁷ D Refrain A D

ev - er you go. Go, my friends, go to the world, pro -
 truth are at home." Be, my friends, a loy - al wit - ness,
 glo - ry to God. *Id, a - mi - gos, por el mun - do,*
Sed, a - mi - gos, mis tes - ti - gos

G G A⁷ D Em⁷ A⁷ Bm

claim the great love of God; mes - sengers to tell the way of life,
 from the dead Christ a - rose; "Lo, I'll be with you for - ev - er - more,
a - nun - cian - do el a - mor, men - sa - je - ros de la vi - da,
de mi re - su - rrec - ción. Id lle - van - do mi pre - sen - cia;

1 G A 2 G A⁷ D

peace and par - don for all. till the end of the world."
de la paz y el per - dón. con vo - so - tros es - toy.

459 Come, All Christians, Be Committed

F Gm F Bb Gm F Bb Bb C Bb Gm7

1 Come, all Chris-tians, be com - mit - ted to the ser - vice of the
 2 Of your time and tal - ents give now, they are gifts from God a -
 3 Come in praise and ad - o - ra - tion, all who on Christ's name be -

F C7 F F Gm Dm Dm7 Gm7 Am Bb Bb6

Lord; make your lives for him more fit - ted, tune your hearts with one ac -
 above, to be used by Chris-tians free - ly to pro - claim his won - drous
 lieve; wor - ship him with con - se - cra - tion, grace and love will you re -

F Dm C F Bb C F Dm Am Dm Gm7

cord. Come in - to his courts with glad - ness, all your sa - cred vows re -
 love. Come a - gain to serve the Sav - ior, tithes and of - ferings with you
 ceive. For his grace give Christ the glo - ry, for the Spir - it and the

Bb Dm C7 F F Dm Gm Dm Gm7 Am7 Bb Gm7 F

new, turn a - way from sin and sad - ness, be trans - formed with life a - new.
 bring; in your work, with Christ find fa - vor, and with joy his prais - es sing.
 Word, and re - peat the gos - pel sto - ry un - til all his name have heard.

WORDS: Eva B. Lloyd (1912-), alt.
 MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White (1800-1879), *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; arr. James H. Wood (1921-)
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BEACH SPRING
 8.7.8.7.D.