

# **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.*



***Woven Together By The Holy Spirit***

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

**+ † +**

**Sunday, October 22, 2023**  
**21<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</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



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)

**Today, Lord, we celebrate what you have done with us. We are one congregation formed from 3 strains: the former St. Paul's, the former Zion, and all the new people! You wove us together to form One Congregation. Your Holy Spirit stirred us. Continue to stir our hearts so that the weaving will stay firm and beautiful. In the holy name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

### PIANO PRELUDE

*"On Jordan's Stormy Banks"*

*traditional American folk hymn;  
arranged for piano by John Purifoy*

*{Those who are able, please rise}*

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*"God of Grace and God of Glory"*

*W&R #569  
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 *adapted from Psalm 96*

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song:

People: **Sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

Leader: Declare God's glory among the nations

People: **and God's wonders among all peoples.**

Leader: For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.

People: **Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

Leader: Tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

People: **Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad!**

## 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)

**Creator of the world, creator of light and darkness, be with us when we darken our world with our sins. We are not careful enough with our tongues. We sometimes do not help where help is needed. We think we can do things ourselves instead of asking anyone for help. Most of all, Creator God, we forget to ask you for help. Our help comes from you. You are our keeper. Forgive us, great Creator!**

### \*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

### \*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY "God of Pity, God of Grace" vs. 1 & 5

♪ Red #223  
Morris/Filitz  
Public Domain

**God of pity, God of grace, When we humbly seek Thy face,  
Bend from heaven, Thy dwelling place, Hear, forgive and save.**

**And what e'er our cry may be, When we lift our hearts to Thee,  
From our burden set us free: Heal, forgive, and save.**

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ⑩ (Leader)

We have opened ourselves in confession to our God of Creation with open hearts, minds, and souls, ready to be the persons this Creator planned for us to be. May we watch in amazement what happens when God is in charge of our own lives and in the life of our congregation.

### \*SUNG PRAISE "Come, Let us Praise the Lord" vs. 3

W&R #9  
Timothy Dudley-Smith/John Darwall  
One License #A-728042

**In worship bow the knee, our glorious God confess;  
the great Creator, he, the Lord of Righteousness.  
He reigns unseen: his flock he feeds and gently leads in pastures green.**

*{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

The Old Testament Reading: [Isaiah 45:1-7](#)  
The New Testament Letter: [1 Thessalonians 1:1-10](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson: [Matthew 22:15-22](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

### HYMN

*"Arise, Your Light Is Come!"*

W&R #231  
One License #A-728042

### MINI-MESSAGE

### CHILDREN'S SONG

*"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" vs. 1*

W&R #344  
*Anonymous; Indian Folk Tune*

**I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus - no turning back, no turning back.**

### SKIT

*"Woven Together By The Holy Spirit"*

## 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.**

**SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE**

*“O Lord, Hear My Prayer” vs. 1*

**W&R #484**

*Taize/Berthier  
One License #A-728042*

**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call answer me.  
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer, come and listen to me.**

*{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}*

**OFFERTORY INVITATION ⑩**

Leader: We bring ourselves to you, O Creator God.

**People: We want to be the persons you created us to be.**

Leader: We bring our offerings to you, O Providing God.

**People: This is our stewardship of your provision.**

Leader: May our gifts of ourselves and our gifts of stewardship please you, O God.

**People: O Creator God, we long to serve you and please you.**

**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**

*“Be Thou My Vision”*

*an ancient Irish ballad;  
arranged for piano by Gregg Sewell*

*{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)**

Receiving God, may these gifts bring honor to you and to us. May what we have kept for ourselves bring honor to you and to ourselves. In the name of the one who gave himself completely, 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: May we go in the faith that God created this congregation to be united in love and dedication.

**People: Not only for ourselves, but for the next-door neighbor and the nations.**

Leader: May God bestow his grace upon us so that we may be renewed

**People: and bring glory to God!**

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*  
*Public Domain*

### \*SENDING HYMN

*"O Christians, Haste"*

*W&R #565*  
*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.
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  - 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
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## Staff & Leadership

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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 22, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 33:12-23 *and* Psalm 99 *or* Isaiah 45:1-7 *and* Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13); 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

### **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 96**

This OT hymn is a song of praise to God, who with righteousness is both ruler and judge. Glory is given to God who is above everything else in the universe.

### **The First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians**

This epistle (letter) is the oldest book in the NT. It was written by the Apostle Paul in Corinth around 51 A.D. to the church in Thessalonica, which is the Roman capital of the Macedonian province, a port city on the northern shore of the Aegean Sea. Timothy, Paul, and Silvanus founded this church. Timothy went back to Thessalonica and reported to Paul that the people there were anxious because Paul had not returned, and in response Paul wrote this pastoral letter. 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 29, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 *and* Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 *or* Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 *and* Psalm 1;  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

# 569 God of Grace and God of Glory

G C  $\frac{G}{B}$   $\frac{G}{A}$  G  $\frac{D}{A}$   $\frac{G}{B}$  C6  $\frac{G}{D}$  D G  $\frac{C}{E}$  C Am7

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn your Christ, as -  
 3 Heal your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

$\frac{G}{D}$  D7 G C  $\frac{G}{B}$   $\frac{G}{A}$  G  $\frac{D}{A}$   $\frac{G}{B}$  C6  $\frac{G}{D}$  D G  $\frac{C}{E}$

pour your power; crown your an - cient Church's sto - ry, bring its  
 sail his ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us—free our  
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in  
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion be our

$\frac{G}{B}$  C  $\frac{G}{D}$  D G D  $\frac{G}{D}$  D7  $\frac{D}{F\#}$  G D7 G  $\frac{G}{B}$

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 hearts to work and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

$\frac{G}{B}$   $\frac{D7}{A}$  G  $\frac{D}{F\#}$  Em7 D  $\frac{G}{B}$   $\frac{D7}{A}$  G C  $\frac{G}{D}$  D7 G

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.



# O Christians, Haste

B $\flat$  Cm7 B $\flat$ / $\bar{D}$  F7/C B $\flat$  F7 Gm

1 O Chris-tians, haste, your mis-sion high ful-fill-ing,  
 2 Pro-claim to ev-ery peo-ple, tongue, and na-tion,  
 3 Give of your sons to bear the mes-sage glo-rious;

E $\flat$  F/E $\flat$  E $\flat$ /G B $\flat$  F7 E $\flat$ /F F F7 B $\flat$

to tell the world that God is one who cares,  
 that God, in whom we live and move, is love.  
 give of your daugh-ters, speed them on their way.

B $\flat$  F7sus/C F7/C B $\flat$ / $\bar{D}$  B $\flat$  D Gm Gm/B $\flat$  Cm6 D7 Gm

that God who made all na-tions is not will-ing  
 Tell how God stooped to save a lost cre-a-tion,  
 Pour out your soul for them in prayer vic-to-rious,

C7 F/C C7/B $\flat$  F/A Dm Gm9/B $\flat$  Gm/B $\flat$  F/C C F

one life should per-ish, lost in deep de-spair.  
 and died on earth that we might live a-bove.  
 till God shall bring a new and joy-ful day.

MINISTRY & SERVICE

*Refrain*

The musical score consists of two systems. The first system has a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The lyrics are: "Pub - lish glad tid - ings, tid - ings of peace,". The second system continues the melody and lyrics: "tid - ings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion and re - lease." The bass line provides a simple accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

Chords for the first system: F7, Eb/F, F7, Bb, Bb/D, F7, Eb/F, F7, Bb, Bb/Ab.

Chords for the second system: G7, Cm, Eb, Bb/F, F7, Bb.

Lyrics: Pub - lish glad tid - ings, tid - ings of peace, tid - ings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion and re - lease.