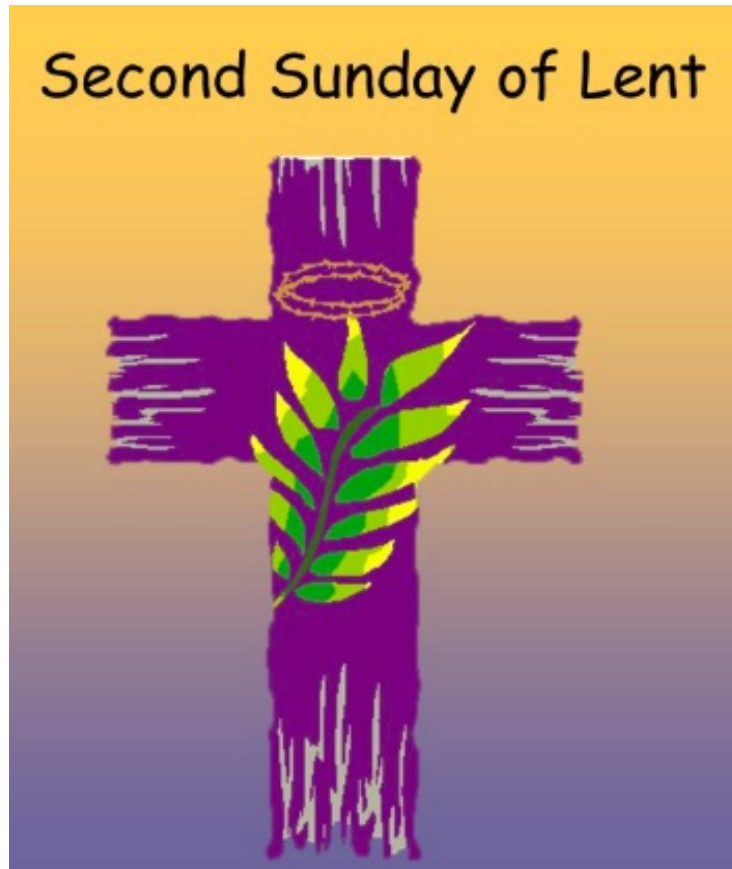


The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

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
10:15am Worship Service
In-Person & Streaming Online*

+ † +

Sunday, February 25, 2024
2nd Sunday in Lent

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. The third toilet stall in each of our four restrooms has a high toilet and handrails.

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)

Almighty God, in trust and confidence we call on your name, eager to know you more fully and serve you more faithfully. We have heard your amazing promises given to our ancestors in the faith. We seek your word for us in our day, for we want to grow strong in our faith as our ancestors did in theirs. As they gave you glory and praise, we gather to do the same. As they passed on their faith to new generations, we seek to teach and live in such a way that our children and their children will be drawn to minister in your name. Amen.

PIANO PRELUDE

"He Hideth My Soul"

William J. Kirkpatrick

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"The God of Abraham Praise"

W&R #16

*Please note on the song sheet that verse 4
is written by Rev. Mary Etta Mest
and is about Abraham's wife, Sarah.
One License - #A-728042*

*INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of God the Father, and of God the Son, and of God the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

*CALL TO WORSHIP[®]

Leader: We are invited to walk with God.

We are welcomed by God as people of the covenant.

People: How awesome to stand in the presence of our Creator!

We bring our praise to glorify God.

Leader: God calls us by name and gives us new names.

We are summoned to faithfulness.

People: God not only speaks to us but also listens.

God hears our cries and meets our need.

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)

In this season, when we reexamine our lives and find our faith tested, we often discover a barrenness within. Our relationship with God is weak, not because God has turned away, but because we have failed to trust the Almighty or spend time in prayer. We have not sought God's answers to our daily problems. Let us be honest with our Creator in this time of prayer.

*CONFESSION OF SIN [®] (Unison)

God of our ancestors, we come to you, confessing that we have set our minds on human things. We have sought to gain the world—so many things to buy, so many things to do. Yet we are not satisfied. Life's meaning eludes us. Your ways seem out of date; your promises appear as the hopes and dreams of a past generation. But in our hearts we sense an eternal design which is for all generations, a way of life more satisfying than we have allowed ourselves to explore. O God, we confess our need for you. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY

"Search Me O God"

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

**Stanza 1: 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.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON [®] (Leader)

God's face is not hidden from those who truly seek. God does not withhold love from us when we go our own way. When we open our eyes to see God's works, when we open our ears to hear God's word, when all our senses are alert to God's leading, we will realize how we have been blessed by an unseen hand, forgiven and restored to wholeness. God offers us the opportunity to live as ones in tune with the universe, filled with hope, upheld in love, dwelling in covenant. **Amen.**

*LENTEN SUNG RESPONSE

"Jesus Stand Among Us"

♪ Red #485

**Jesus, stand among us in Thy risen power;
Let this time of worship be a hallowed hour. Amen.**

{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: [Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16](#)

The New Testament Letter: [Romans 4:13-25](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading: [Mark 8:31-38](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

*W&R #61
Public Domain*

MINI-MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S SONG

**God our Father hears my prayer any time anywhere.
He will listen when I pray, hear the loving words I say.**

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 [®]

Leader: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

{silent prayer}

Leader: We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our pastors, elders, deacons, teachers, and leaders. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil. Preserve rain forests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: We turn to you for peace. We honor the saints who lived in service to others. Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts. We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us when we pray to say...

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. Amen.**

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ②

Leader: Those who want to save their life will lose it,

People: and those who lose themselves for Christ's sake and for the gospel will be saved.

Leader: We are invited to give all we have and all we are to the realization of God's will among us.

People: The first and best portion we give to God.

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}.

CHORAL OFFERTORY

"Jesus is all the World to Me"

Richard Blake

{Those who are able, please rise}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

"Doxology"

♪ *Red #551*
George Bourgeois; Public Domain

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** ② *(Leader)*

Glorious God, we dedicate these gifts as an expression of our faith. You alone know how much we share and how much we withhold. You know the extent of our trust and the depth of our commitment. May this act of giving draw us closer to you and extend a blessing to all who are helped through our sharing. **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: Dare this week to follow where Jesus leads.
Dare to love the unlovable and care about others.

**People: We want to follow in the footsteps of Christ.
We want the poor to eat and be satisfied.**

Leader: The promises of God are for you and for all.
God will make you exceedingly fruitful.

**People: We will trust the promises of God.
We go out to live as covenant people.**

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"Wherever He Leads I'll Go"

♪ *Blue #598*
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 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 *Led By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1996). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
 - ② *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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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
 - 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.
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Treasurer: Terry Pastor

Financial Secretary & Assistant Secretary: Geneva Aulenbach

Consistory President: George McLain

Consistory Vice President: Kirk Aulenbach

Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

About Today

Church Season: Lent - 40 days and six Sundays before Easter; a season of penitence as we reflect upon our personal sins, which led to the need for the sacrifice of Jesus' life for us upon the cross. The root word of "Lent" means "to lengthen", referring to the lengthening of days as we anticipate spring and the new life granted through the resurrection - moving from darkness to light.

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

Purple - Symbolizing the passion (suffering) of Christ our King that led to his crucifixion.

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 B**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Mark.

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, February 25, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38 *or* Mark 9:2-9

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 22

This OT song is attributed to King David. This song is a prayer to God, asking for help in times of distress, giving thanks and praise to God for his presence and deliverance in times of affliction, and reaffirming the vow to worship and follow in the ways of the Lord.

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 Mark

Mark's Gospel is the oldest and shortest of the four Gospels, written between 65-75 A.D. Papias, a church leader in the 2nd century, reported that this Gospel's author is Mark, a follower of Peter who wrote this Gospel after Peter's death.

Next Sunday, March 3, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

The God of Abraham Praise

Em B/D# Em Am/C B G/B Am/C E/B Am D G

1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove;
 2 Your Spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will;
 3 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;

B Em D G C/E G/B D7 Em C G/D D7 G

the an - cient of e - ter - nal days, the God of love!
 in proph - et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
 your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.

G B7/D# Em G/B D B7/D# Em C G F#m7(b5)/A B

The Lord, the great I Am, by earth and heaven con - fessed,
 Es - tab - lished is your law, and change - less it shall stand,
 We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name;

B Em/G B Em D G Am/C E/B Am Am6 Em/B B7 Em

we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, on sea or land.
 who was, and is, and is to be, for - e'er the same!

WORDS: Hebrew *Yigdal*, Daniel ben Judah, ca. 1400;
 tr. Newton Mann (1836-1926) and Max Landsberg (1845-1928)
 MUSIC: Hebrew melody; adapt. Thomas Olivers (1725-1799) and Meyer Lyon (1751-1797)

LEONI
 6.6.8.4.D.

Verse 4 (M.E. Mest):

The God of Sarah praise, who planned and chose this one.
 This one who waited and then laughed, "O my, a son!"
 Her faith had disappeared. God's promise would not be
 But now her faith has been restored. Praise God with glee!

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy 61

B \flat $\frac{F7sus}{C}$ $\frac{F7}{C}$ $\frac{F7}{A}$ F7 B \flat 2 B \flat E \flat $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ $\frac{F7}{C}$ B \flat G7 C C7 F

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2 There is wel-come for the sin-ner and more grac-es for the good;
 3 For the love of God is broad-er than the meas-ure of our mind;
 4 If our love were but more sim-ple, we would take him at his word,

F7 B \flat $\frac{F7}{A}$ F7 B \flat Gm $\frac{E\flat m}{G\flat}$ $\frac{B\flat}{F}$ $\frac{D}{F\sharp}$ Gm E \flat F \sharp F7 B \flat

there's a kind-ness in his jus-tice which is more than lib-er-ty.
 there is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in his blood.
 and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
 and our lives would be il-lu-mined by the pres-ence of our Lord.

WORDS: Frederick W. Faber (1814-1863)
 MUSIC: Lizzie S. Tourjée (1858-1913)

WELLESLEY
 8.7.8.7.

598 Wherever He Leads I'll Go

Those who would come after Me must deny themselves and follow Me. Matthew 16:24

F C7 G A Bb Bb6 F G9 G7 G7 C

1. "Take up thy cross and fol - low Me," I heard my Mas - ter say:
 2. He drew me clos - er to His side, I sought His will to know,
 3. It may be thro' the shad - ows dim, Or o'er the storm - y sea,
 4. My heart, my life, my all I bring To Christ who loves me so;

C7 F F Eb Bb D Db7 F F7 Dm Bb6 F C7 F

5 "I gave My life to ran - som thee, Sur - ren - der your all to - day."
 And in that will I now a - bide, Wher - ev - er He leads I'll go.
 I take the cross and fol - low Him, Wher - ev - er He lead - eth me.
 He is my Mas - ter, Lord, and King, Wher - ev - er He leads I'll go.

Refrain F Am C7 F Bb F F A C G7 C7

9 Wher - ev - er He leads I'll go, Wher - ev - er He leads I'll go;

C7 F F Eb Bb D Db7 F A C# Dm Bb6 F C7 F

13 I'll fol - low my Christ who loves me so, Wher - ev - er He leads I'll go.

TEXT: B. B. McKinney
 MUSIC: B. B. McKinney; Choral ending by Ken Barker
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FALLS CREEK
8.6.8.7 with Refrain

Optional choral ending

F Bb2 Bb BbM7 Bbm6 F Dm G F Bb C7 F sus F

decresc. rit.

17 I'll fol - low my Christ who loves me so, Wher - ev - er He leads I'll go.