

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.*



Third Sunday
in
Lent

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

+ † +

**Sunday, March 3, 2024
3rd 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](https://www.sprucc.org) at [sprucc.org](https://www.sprucc.org) - Live or Watch & Listen Later on [Our YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)
[Facebook Live](https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/) at <https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/> - Live or Watch & Listen Later
[Phone Stream](https://www.sprucc.org) 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)

O Holy God, do your ten commandments really help us today? Which one is the most important? Does everyone have the most trouble with the same commandment? What is our punishment if we break a commandment or two? We wait for your answer. In your sinless son's name, we pray. Amen.

This service was prepared by Pastor Mary Etta Mest.

HANDBELL PRELUDE

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

arranged by Lloyd Larson

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Trust and Obey"

*W&R #443
Public Domain*

*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 *from Psalm 19*

Leader: The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;

People: the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

Leader: The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;

People: the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.

Leader: More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,

People: sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

Leader: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,

People: O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

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)

O Lord, our redeemer, you set before us your commandments. You say the reward is great if we follow them. But we don't always catch our own sins. It is so much easier to see our neighbor's sin. We don't realize that when we break a commandment we are causing the fabric of our society to weaken; we are cutting relationships as though we are using a scissors or a knife. Forgive our sins and create a new spirit within us. 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;
cleanse me from every sin and set me free.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ⑩ (Leader)

People of God, we are forgiven. How long can we keep this new spirit within ourselves. How long can we keep our words sweet and our attitude one of gratitude? How long can we help our neighbors and ourselves to be as sweet as honey in the comb? Yes, God, we hear you. We can't do it by ourselves. We need to depend on you for our sweetness. May it be so!

*LENTEN VERSES *adapted from Psalm 25*

Leader: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

People: **All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness!**

*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: [Exodus 20:1-17](#)

The New Testament Letter: [1 Corinthians 1:18-25](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading: [John 2:13-22](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"Search Me, O God"

*W&R #385
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

"The Commandments and the Cross"

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: Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

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 ⑩

Leader: Are offerings included in the Ten Commandments?

People: We'll think about it.

Leader: If it is not a commandment, should we stop giving offerings?

People: We shall stop spending money on idols and other gods?

Leader: Oh, good thinking!

People: We shall think of our money as a way to increase God's kingdom on earth.

Leader: How much should we deny ourselves?

People: That is a good Lenten question!

Leader: Let us present the offerings we have brought today.

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

PIANO OFFERTORY

{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 ⑩ (Leader)

Lord God, keeper of your earthly kingdom, help us to use your money wisely and fruitfully. What are the idols and false gods in our church life? Are we worshiping and clinging to false gods? Are we meeting your approval? We thank you for guiding the Consistory members to keep you, the real God, front and center in all money matters. We thank our Consistory members. They sincerely and calmly take the use of this money to heart and they depend on your guidance. We pray in the name of the one who cleansed the temple of false money gods. **Amen.**

{Elders shall please remain in the back of the church}

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)*

***HOLY COMMUNION - Pew Communion**

One: We welcome all believers to the table of our Lord. The inner rings have white grape juice. The outer rings have purple wine.

***COMMUNION PRAYER**

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift your hearts in thanksgiving.

All: We lift them toward God.

One: Let us offer our thanks to Almighty God.

All: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

One: With all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name singing...

***SANCTUS**

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

♪ *Red #522*
Alonzo P. Howard;
Public Domain

**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:

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." *(Pastor lifts bread and breaks it.)*

After supper, Jesus took the cup and said, "This is the new covenant in my blood, which was shed for you and for all people, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me." *(Pastor pours wine from the flagon to the chalice.)*

INVITING THE HOLY SPIRIT

One: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

All: Holy Spirit, do not leave. Blow through this place; reveal yourself in this bread and this cup; make your dwelling within this congregation. Join us to one another and transform us by your presence, that we may be the sign of your life in this world. Amen

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

{This morning we will be partaking of communion in the pews.

*The Elders will first distribute the bread,
Gluten free bread is in the **center**,
and **regular bread** is in the **outer ring**.
The Pastor will then instruct the congregation
to eat the bread at the same time.*

*The Elders will distribute the wine and grape juice.
The **wine is red** in the outer rings, and
the **grape juice is white** in the inner ring.
The Pastor will then instruct the congregation
to drink of the cup at the same time.}*

*---
{We invite all 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.}*

*---
Youth & Children:*

*Children of Members who have not yet professed their Christian faith through the Rite of Confirmation
are to participate in communion and refresher classes prior to communing,
and follow the "Children & Communion Guide."*

Children of Visitors - if you commune at your home church, you are welcome to commune here.

Please hold the bread and the cup until all have received. We will eat and drink together.

Pastor: The Body of Christ given for you.

Pastor: The Blood of Christ shed for you.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: May the body and blood of Jesus Christ strengthen us until eternal life.

All: Almighty God, we give you thanks for this refreshing and healing gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would increase our faith in you and our fervent love for one another. For the sake of Jesus Christ, 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: Let us go forth and look for the joys of the kingdom.

**People: Let us be faithful to the commandments that are meant to keep ourselves,
our church, and our community well.**

Leader: May it be so!

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

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*{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) 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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 - 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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Staff & Leadership

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Bell Choir Director: Miriam Borkert

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Treasurer: Terry Pastor

Financial Secretary (Interim): Terry Pastor

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, 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

Exodus

The book of Exodus (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), and is named for the exodus (leaving/escape) of the Israelite people from Egyptian slavery through the divine saving providence of God and the leadership of Moses and his brother Aaron.

Psalm 19

In this OT song, we sing proclaim that we and the heavens give praise and glory to God for creation and the perfect law of the LORD.

The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

This NT Epistle (letter) was written by the Apostle Paul between 53-54 A.D. to a gentile congregation he had founded several years earlier in Corinth (the capital city of the Roman province of Achaia, a large and prospering urban center that was ethnically, culturally, and religiously diverse). This letter is in response to issues within the Corinthian church, in particular factions caused by one-upmanship and privatization of faith. Paul encourages humility, unity within diversity, and witnessing to God's grace. 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 John

John is the latest of the four Gospels, written around 80-90 A.D. probably in Ephesus, and attributed to John the son of Zebedee, the beloved disciple of Jesus. This Gospel was "written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and through believing you may have life in his name" (20:31).

Next Sunday, March 10, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

Trust and Obey

443

F C7 F C C7 F

1 When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word, what a
 2 Not a bur - den we bear, not a sor - row we share, but our
 3 But we nev - er can prove the de - lights of his love un - til
 4 Then in fel - low - ship sweet we will sit at his feet, or we'll

Bb F C F C7 F C C7

glo - ry he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, he a - bides with us
 toil he will rich - ly re - pay; not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a
 all on the al - tar we lay; for the fa - vor he shows and the joy he be -
 walk by his side in the way; what he says we will do, where he sends we will

F Bb F C7 F C F Refrain

still, and with all who will trust and o - bey.
 cross, but is blest if we trust and o - bey.
 stows are for them who will trust and o - bey. Trust and o - bey, for there's
 go - nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.

D Gm C7 F C7 F F A Bb6 F C7 F

no oth - er way to be hap - py in Je - sus, but to trust and o - bey.

WORDS: John H. Sammis (1846-1919)
 MUSIC: Daniel B. Towner (1850-1919)

TRUST AND OBEY
 6.6.9.D.Ref.

614 Let There Be Peace on Earth

C Am Dm7 G7 C F C G7sus G7

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me;

C B7 $\frac{Em}{B}$ B7 Em $\frac{B7}{D\#}$ $\frac{G7}{D}$ G7

let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

G7 Am Am6 Em C7 F $\frac{Em}{G}$ G7 C

With God our cre - a - tor, chil - dren all are we.

Am7 D7 G Am7 D7 G G7

Let us walk with each oth - er in per - fect har - mo - ny.

C Am Dm7 G7 C F C G7sus G7

Let peace be - gin with me; let this be the mo - ment now.

C B7 $\frac{Em}{B}$ B7 Em $\frac{B}{D\#}$ $\frac{G7}{D}$ G7

With ev - ery step I take, let this be my sol - emn vow:

G7 C C+ F D7 Fm6

to take each mo - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly.

$\frac{C}{E}$ E7 F C F Dm7 G7 $\frac{Dm7}{G}$ C

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.

WORDS: Sy Miller (1908-1971) and Jill Jackson (1913-1995), alt.
 MUSIC: Sy Miller (1908-1971) and Jill Jackson (1913-1995); harm. Charles H. Webb (1933-)
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