

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.*



FIFTH SUNDAY *In Lent*

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

+ † +

Sunday, March 17, 2024
5th 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 ⑩ (Unison)

God most holy, dwell among us and with us and in us as God the Father, and God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. As we claim the sacred meaning of St. Patrick's Day, thank you for reminding us of the Trinity and the missionary servant who led many people to worship our one, true God.

This service was prepared by Pastor Mary Etta Mest.

PIANO PRELUDE

"Here I Am, Lord"

*by Dan Schutte;
arranged for piano by John Carter*

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"

*W&R #136
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 119:89-91 (CEV)*

Leader: Our Lord, you are eternal.

People: You Lord will last as long as the heavens.

Leader: You remain faithful in every generation,

People: and the earth you created will keep standing firm.

Leader: All things are your servants.

People: and the laws you made are still in effect today.

Leader: Our Lord, you are eternal.

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 (Unison) from Psalm 51 (NRSV)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses. Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY

"Kyrie"

*NCH #750
Traditional 6th Century*

Leader (*spoken*): Lord, have mercy upon us.
People (*sung*): Lord, have mercy upon us.
Leader (*spoken*): Christ, have mercy upon us.
People (*sung*): Christ, have mercy upon us.
Leader (*spoken*): Lord, have mercy upon us.
People (*sung*): Lord, have mercy upon us.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Leader) from Psalm 51

People of repentance, the joy of salvation has been restored to us. It is a good day!
God's bountiful Spirit will sustain us!

*LENTEN VERSE *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

"And I Will Raise You Up"

refrain of NCH #775

Exodus 19:4
Michael Joncas

**And God will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of God's hand.**

{please be seated}

PERSONAL TESTIMONY - *by Larry Hollahan*

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: [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)

The New Testament Letter: [Hebrews 5:5-10](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading: [John 12:20-33](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

"Hymn of Promise"

W&R #515
One License #A-728042

MINI-MESSAGE

*{Children may return to their pews and remain for the rest of worship,
or on the 2nd & 3rd Sundays of the month, elementary age children may go downstairs at this time
for the additional option of "Junior Worship"}*

CHILDREN'S SONG

"Jesus Loves Me"

NCH #327
William B. Bradbury

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

SERMON

"The Holiness of St. Patrick"

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*) *UCC Statement of Faith* ①
adapted from the Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is - both seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. 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: 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

**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 you ready to be a modern-day St. Patrick?

People: **Not sure. Are you ready?**

Leader: No. I am too old to lead snakes into the river.

People: **Do you still have a voice?**

Leader: **Yes, my voice still works.**

People: **Then, you can still share your faith in the Trinity.**

Leader: Well then! I will continue to give of myself.

People: **So will I! Here I am. Lord.**

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

"A Song of Peace"

by Andy Beck

{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 of all nations and all people, your presence is everywhere where people take you and keep you. Thank you for being so selfless with your Holy Spirit which can abide in all places, unseen but still alive. May our gifts of money and of self help to keep the flow of the Holy Spirit alive into eternity. **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: So as the seed must die so that new life can flourish a hundred-fold,

People: so is the giving of our selves necessary for other lives to be brought into this eternal flow.

Leader: Does this mean we need to physically die now?

People: It means that we need to increase the holiness in our lives and let secular leanings decrease.

Leader: May it be so!

***BENEDICTION**

***THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

***SENDING HYMN**

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

♪ *Blue #630*
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

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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 - 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.
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Staff & Leadership

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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 17, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 *or* Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Jeremiah

The book of Jeremiah (OT) is attributed to the major prophet Jeremiah and written around 600-500 B.C. (B.C.E.). A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct. Jeremiah's ministry extended over the last tragic forty years of the kingdom of Judah to the destruction of Jerusalem and the deportation of the Jewish people to Babylon.

Psalm 51

This OT song was composed by King David when the prophet Nathan confronted him concerning his sin with Bathsheba. This is a prayer for help, offered by one who is deeply aware of their sin and guilt, knowing the need for God's forgiveness.

Psalm 119

This is an OT wisdom song. This song gives praise to God's law and the teaching of it. In its original Hebrew, it has an alphabetic acrostic form, which means that every other verse begins with a successive letter of the alphabet. With 176 verses, it is also the longest psalm.

Hebrews

The Epistle (letter) to the Hebrews (NT) is attributed to the Apostle Paul, believed to be written between 60-95 A.D. (C.E.). Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and leader in the Christian church, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. He wrote more of the NT than any other person. The title of this letter "Hebrews" presumably refers to the original audience of this letter as primarily Jewish-Christian.

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 24, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the Sixth Sunday in Lent

Liturgy of the Palms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11 *or* John 12:12-16

Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-19; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1 - 15:47 *or* Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)

136 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

D Bm A7 D G $\frac{A}{G}$ G $\frac{A9}{G}$ D

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

$\frac{A}{C\#}$ D $\frac{A}{C\#}$ Bm $\frac{E7}{B}$ $\frac{A}{C\#}$ D $\frac{A}{E}$ E7 A A7

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye made blind by sin thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;

D Bm A7 D G $\frac{A}{G}$ G $\frac{A9}{G}$ D

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

Bm $\frac{D7}{F\#}$ G D $\frac{Em}{G}$ A7 D

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

WORDS: Reginald Heber (1783-1826)
 MUSIC: John B. Dykes (1823-1876)

NICAEA
 11.12.12.10.

Hymn of Promise

Unison F Gm7 F

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o -
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i -

Gm7 F C7 F F

tree; in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be
 dy; there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness bring - ing hope to you and
 ty; in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni -

F F7 Bb C7 G F A Dm Gm6 A7

free! In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to
 me. From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter -
 ty; in our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to -

Dm Bb C7 G F A Dm Gm7 C7 Bb F F

be, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 y, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 ry, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus 630

In everything present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6

F B \flat F B \flat F C

1. What a Friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
 2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3. Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?

1 2 3 4

F B \flat F B \flat F C C 7 _{sus} F C F

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our Ref - uge; Take it to the Lord in prayer.

5 6 7 8

C C $^\circ$ C F C 7 C F B \flat F A F C 7 F C

O what peace we of - ten for - feit, O what need - less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

9 10 11 12

F B \flat F B \flat F F C C 7 _{sus} F C F

All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

13 14 15 16

TEXT: Joseph M. Scriven
 MUSIC: Charles C. Converse

CONVERSE
 8.7.8.7.D.