

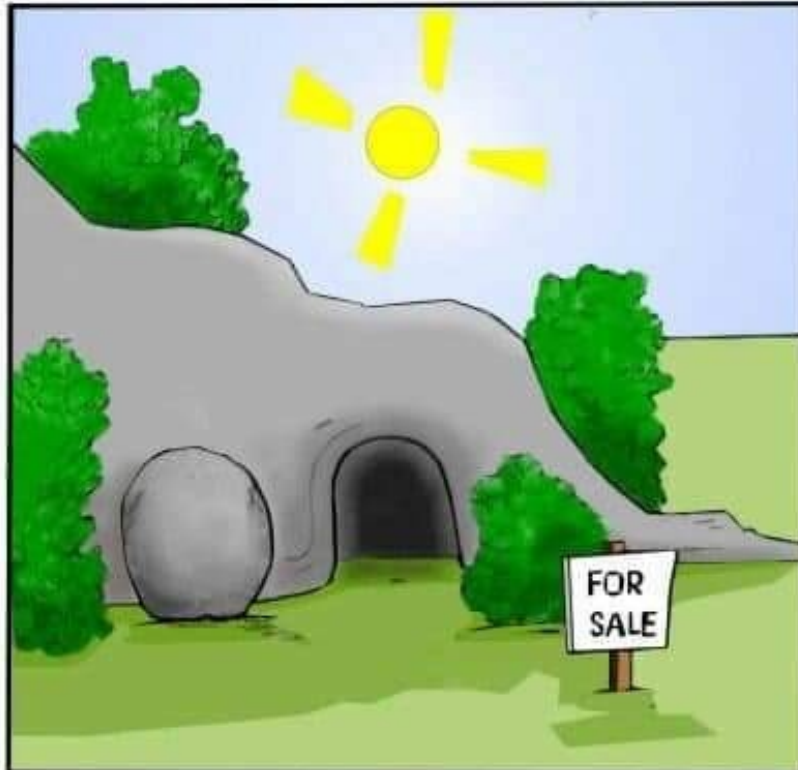
The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

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.*

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



FOR SALE – Single owner tomb. Only used three days, and still has that new tomb smell. Reason for sale.. resident was resurrected.

Holy Humor Sunday
Second Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 7, 2024
10:15am

In-Person & Streaming Online

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

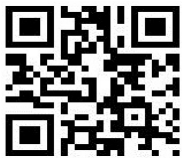
If you are looking for a new church family home, we would be happy for you to consider United Church of Christ of Robesonia. For more information about our church, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our church.

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}*



www.sprucc.org

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



Free WiFi

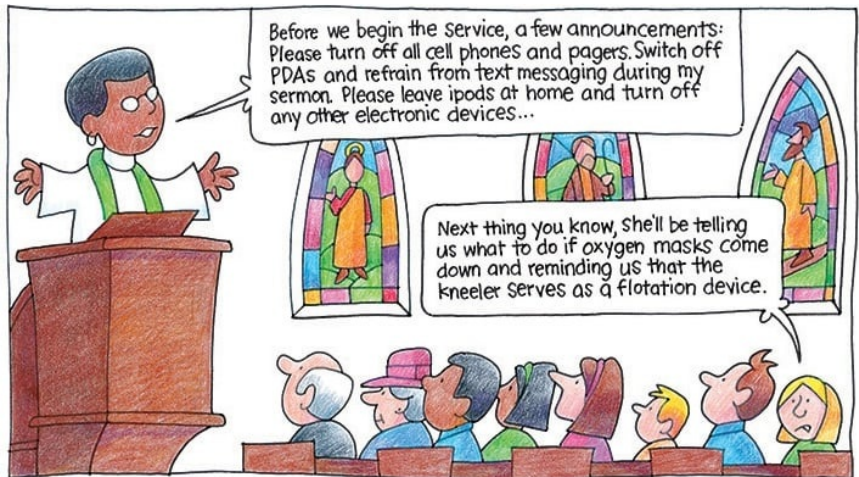
If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610-621-5770 or Office@sprucc.org

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.}*

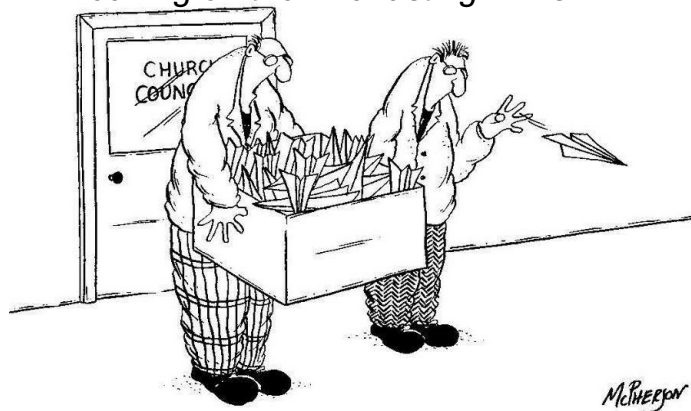
PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP[®] (Unison)

Amazing God, your Easter people gather to praise you. Continue to make your ways known to us. Fill us with your presence. We cannot live apart from you. Your counsel and instruction are with us day and night. We have only to open ourselves to your direction. Inspire in us fullness of joy, we pray, as we respond in faith to the risen Christ and embrace the tasks you set before us. Build up our sense of community that we may truly care for one another through all life's trials. Amen.

PIANO PRELUDE

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

arranged by Robert Thygerson



**"Remind me never to ask the Youth Group
to help fold the church bulletins again."**

{Those who are able, please rise}

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** **“On the Beach, the Waves of Waters”**

W&R #59

Tune: Hymn to Joy by Ludwig van Beethoven

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Public Domain

vs1 **On the beach, the waves of waters
Crash upon the sparkling sand.
Parents with their sons and daughters
Stroll and chatter, hand in hand.
Several people, watching, gazing,
Spot some dolphins swimming free.
God, your world is so amazing!
Thank you for the wondrous sea.**

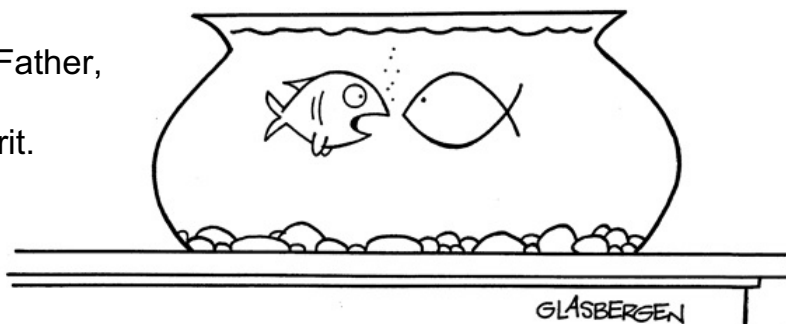
vs2 **Later on, the storm clouds gather,
Rolling in upon the shore.
Lightning crashes, people scatter
As the rains begin to pour.
There is music in the thunder!
Soon the storms will pass on by.
God, we thank you for the wonder
Of the ever-changing sky.**

vs3 **In our homes and on vacation,
God, your love is every place.
You have made this good creation;
You have filled your world with grace.
Sea and land reflect your glory;
Beauty lights your sky above.
God, creation sings the story
Of your ever-constant love.**

***INVOCATION**

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

ALL: **Amen.**



**“Can’t we talk about something
besides religion for a change?”**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** ①

Leader: Sing praises to God, O you saints of God.
Give thanks to God's holy name.

People: **Praise God for the joyous gift of a new day.
Praise God who hears our cries and answers our prayers.**

***SUNG INVITATION**

"This is the Day"

Unison

Chord symbols: Eb, F2, Fm, F2, Fm, Bb7, Fm7/C, Bb7/D, Eb2, Eb, Ab6/Bb, Eb, Db/F, Eb7/G, Ab, Bb9, Eb, G7/D, Cm, Ab, Bb9, Eb, Eb/Bb, Bb7sus, Bb7, Eb, Cm, Gm/Bb, Abmaj7, Bb7, Eb, Ab/Eb, Eb.

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made; we will re-joice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

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^① (Leader)

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Leader: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.



"Which weather app are you using? Mine is forecasting a plague of locusts and scattered showers of fire and brimstone."

*CONFESSION OF SIN^① (Unison)

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON^①

Leader: God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life.

ALL: We believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*CALL TO PRAISE^②

Leader: He is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

Leader: Through our baptism, we rise with Christ!

People: We give praise for the Good News of God's forgiveness, grace, & love!



"Here's something to take care of that bitter taste in your mouth."

***SUNG PRAISE**

"Alleluia"

Text and music: Jerry Sinclair, 1972; alt.

1 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

{please be seated}

NOT BORED WALK GAMES

A WHALE OF A TALE

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

New Testament History:

[Acts 4:32-35](#)

New Testament Letter:

[1 John 1:1-2:2](#)

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON:

[John 21:1-14](#)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



HYMN

“Here I Am, Lord”

*W&R #559
One License #A -728042*

MINI-MESSAGE

NOT BORED WALK GAMES

*{Children may return to their pews and remain for the rest of worship,
or 0-8 year olds may go downstairs to nursery, or
on the 2nd & 3rd Sundays of the month, elementary age children may go downstairs at this time for “Junior Worship”}.*

CHILDREN'S SONG

“This is the Day”

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.**

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“If I count my blessings and some of them are heavily taxed, do they still count as blessings?”

A WHALE OF A TALE

SERMON



“This week’s sermon is about how we all need to simplify our lives. Unfortunately, I lost the whole thing when my computer crashed.”

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*

{Those who are able, please rise}

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

{Adapted from: 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 & Colossians 1:15-20}

Leader: This is the good news
which we have received,
in which we stand,
and by which we are saved:

**ALL: Christ died for our sins,
was buried,
was raised on the third day,
and appeared first to the women,
then to Peter and the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe Jesus is the Christ,
the Anointed One of God,
the firstborn from the dead,
in whom all things hold together,
in whom the fullness of God
was pleased to dwell
by the power of the Spirit.**

**Christ is the head of the body, the church,
and by the blood of the cross
reconciles all things to God. Amen.**

{please be seated}

NOT BORED WALK GAMES

A WHALE OF A TALE

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray....

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER



"Remember me in your prayers. When my dad finds out I scratched the car with my bike, I'll need all the prayers I can get!"

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.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION ②

Leader: We are blessed beyond all deserving.

People: **How marvelous is the opportunity
to share what we have received.**

Leader: Let us express our thanks to God for
all that is more precious than gold.

People: **Let us pass on God's gifts to us.**



RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

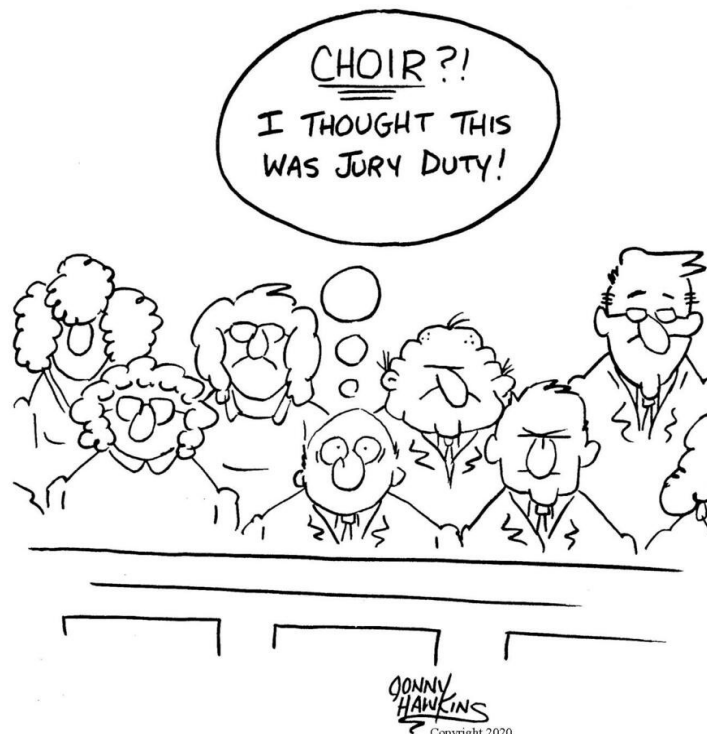
Online Giving

{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://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}.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"

by Cesareo Gabarain



{Those who are able, please rise}

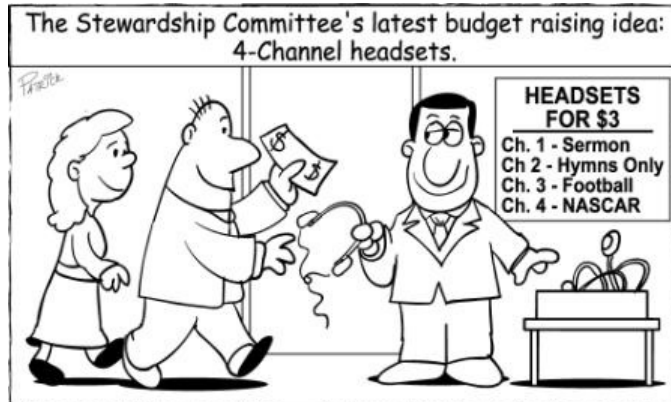
***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

“Alleluia”

**You are worthy, alleluia, You are worthy, alleluia,
You are worthy, alleluia, You are worthy, alleluia!**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** [®] *(Leader)*

O God, we rejoice in the inheritance you have given us and delight in sharing it with others. You have given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. You have touched our lives with eternity, with indescribable and glorious joy. We want others to experience what we have begun to realize in company with one another and with you. To that end, bless all the offerings of this day. **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** [®]

Leader: You are sent into the world as a sign of God's love.
Go forth, carrying God's peace to all you meet.

**People: We will live in unity with our kindred;
We will listen and speak as God guides us.**

Leader: You are commissioned as a bearer of God's forgiveness.
Announce good news, sharing your testimony.

**People: It will be our joy to reconcile others to God.
We will invite our neighbors to share the joy.**

ALL: Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

- Adapted from Psalm 133

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

People: It is like the precious oil on the head, running down anointing the body.

Leader: Live in mutual love and encouragement as the Body of Christ.

Through Christ, the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

ALL: Amen.

***THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

♪ Red #558

Public Domain

***SENDING HYMN**

"How Great Thou Art"

♫ Blue #147

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

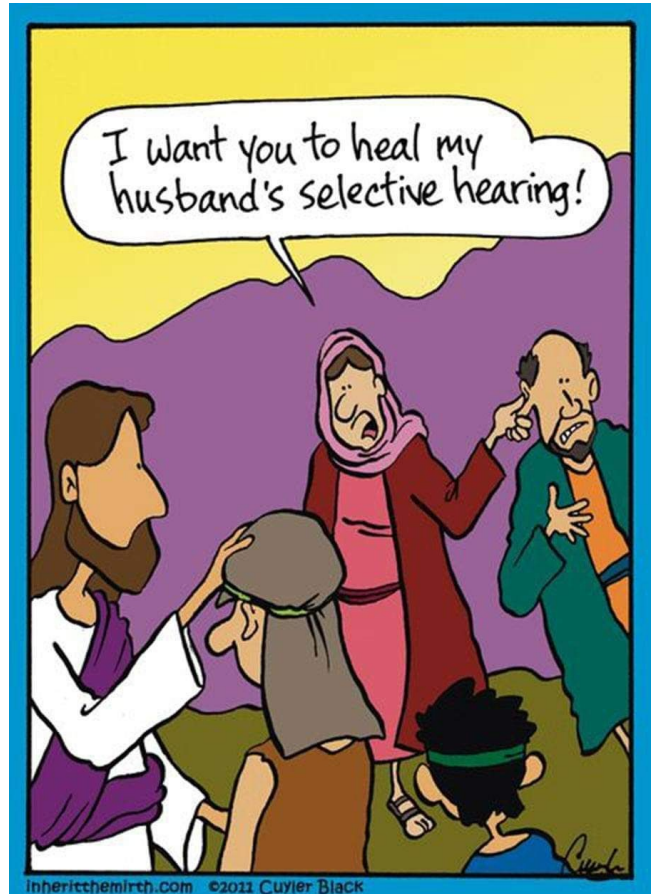
Join Us For Fellowship and Food in Miller Fellowship Hall

Free WiFi: StPaulsUCC-Guest & StPaulsUCC-5G-Guest

Password (for both): iamheretoserve



Join us next week for a healing service:
Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 10:15am





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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 - ⑨ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
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 - ⑩ The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
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Staff & Leadership

Pastor & Teacher: The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz - PastorMotz@sprucc.org - 610-621-5770 (O)

Pastor & Teacher: The Rev. Mary Etta Mest - mestme@aol.com - 610-659-2775 (C)

Music Minister: The Rev. Robert Masenheimer

Bell Choir Director: Miriam Borkert

Office Secretary: Geri Gammel - Office@sprucc.org - 610-621-5770 (O)

Sextons: Michael Pastor & Terry Pastor

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: Easter - The Easter Season begins on Easter Sunday, and continues for seven weeks until Pentecost. 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):

White - symbolizing the defeat of death and darkness of sin with the resurrection to eternal life, and the light of the resurrected Christ.

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). The first four books of the NT are called the "Gospels," which are about the life of Jesus Christ, which Christians consider the most central books of the Bible; the rest of the NT takes place after his ascension into heaven.

This Sunday, April 7, 2024, Lectionary Reading for Second Sunday of Easter, Holy Humor Sunday

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1 - 2:2; John 20:19-31

The Acts of the Apostles

The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of the Apostles (NT) are attributed to Luke "the beloved physician" written around 59-90 A.D. This is essentially volume 2 of the Gospel of Luke. The Book of Acts records the ministry of the early church after the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven, and guides us how we are to live, act, work, and be the church.

Psalm 133

This OT song proclaims the blessedness of humanity living together in unity and harmony. Psalms 120-134 are a part of the collection known as "A Song of Ascents." These 15 OT songs were most likely sung by people on religious pilgrimages.

The First Letter of John

This epistle (letter) is a homily attributed to the apostle John, as is the Gospel of John. Of the core 12, John is believed to be the "beloved disciple" (John 19:26). This epistle is believed to be written in Ephesus around 100 A.D.

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, April 14, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

Here I Am, Lord

Unison

G Am G D7 C
G G

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my
2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my
3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the

G D G Em Am7 C

peo - ple cry. All who dwell in dark and sin
peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them,
poor and lame. I will set a feast for them,

Am D7/G D/F# D/C G Am/G D7/G

my hand will save. I who made the stars of night,
they turn a - way. I will break their hearts of stone,
my hand will save. Fin-est bread I will pro-vide

C/G G D G Em

I will make their dark - ness bright. Who will bear my
give them hearts for love a - lone. I will speak my
till their hearts be sat - is - fied. I will give my

WORDS: Daniel L. Schutte (1947-); para. Isaiah 6:8

MUSIC: Daniel L. Schutte (1947-); arr. Michael Pope (20th c.), Daniel L. Schutte (1947-), John Weissrock (20th c.)

Words and Music © 1981 Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music

Refrain

Am7 C Am G/B C6 *slowing* D D7 F#

light to them? Whom shall I send?
 Word to them. Whom shall I send?
 life to them. Whom shall I send? Here I

a tempo G Gsus G D7/A C/E D7 G

am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have

Cmaj7 G Am G/B C6 D D/F# D

heard you call - ing in the night. I will

G Gsus G C/G G C/E D7 G

go, Lord, if you lead me. I will

Am7 C/D D G C/G G

hold your peo - ple in my heart.

147 How Great Thou Art

You are great and do marvelous deeds: You alone are God. Psalm 86:10

F Gm7 $\frac{F}{A}$ B \flat $\frac{F7}{C}$ B \flat D E \flat E $\circ 7$

1. O Lord, my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
 2. When thro' the woods and for-est glades I wan - der And hear the
 3. And when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to
 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me

B \flat Dm Cm F7 B \flat $\frac{F7}{C}$ B \flat

all the *worlds Thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the
 birds sing sweet - ly in the trees, When I look down from loft - y
 die, I scarce can take it in; That on the cross, my bur - den
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble

E \flat E $\circ 7$ B \flat Dm Cm F7 B \flat

*roll - ing thun - der, Thy pow'r thro' - out the u - ni - verse dis - played.
 moun - tain gran - deur, And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
 glad - ly bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin.
 ad - o - ra - tion And there pro - claim: my God, how great Thou art!

Refrain B \flat B $\flat 9$ D E \flat E $\flat 2$ E \flat B \flat B \flat F7

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee; How great Thou

*Author's original words are "works" and "mighty."

TEXT: Stuart K. Hine
 MUSIC: Swedish Folk melody; adapted by Stuart K. Hine;
 Choral ending arranged by Eugene Thomas

O STORE GUD
 11.10.11.10. with Refrain

WORSHIP THE LORD

art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior

11 12 13

God, to Thee; How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

14 15 16

Optional choral ending
How great Thou art! How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

17 18 19 20

The end of SING OF HIS GREATNESS - A Worship Sequence