

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, April 14, 2024
3rd Sunday of Easter**

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 *(Unison)*

Risen Lord, how great is your majesty! How powerful are your works! Could we be talking about the wonderful world you helped to create? Could we be talking about the mystery of your resurrection? Can we give the subject of sins a rest for awhile? Please, Lord, we are tired of all the sin-talk! Thank you for listening, Holy One! Amen.

This service was prepared by Pastor Mary Etta Mest.

PIANO PRELUDE

"My Lord, What a Morning"

arranged by Robert Thygeron

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"The Day of Resurrection"

W&R #298

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 the hymn, "The Day of Resurrection"*

Leader: Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth its song begin!

People: **The world resound in triumph and all that is therein.**

Leader: Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend;

People: **for Christ the Lord has risen, our Joy that has no end.**

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. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison) from 1 John 1:1-10

If we say that we have fellowship with Jesus while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

*WANTING TO WALK IN THE LIGHT

Leader: I want to walk as a child of the light.

People: I want to follow Jesus.

Leader: God set the stars to give light to the world.

People: The star of my life is Jesus.

Leader: In him there is no darkness at all.

People: The night and the day are both alike.

Leader: The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

People: Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Kathleen Thomerson

One License #A -728042

*SILENCE

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

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Leader) from 1 John 1

God Is Light! This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. We declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

{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 Beginning of the Church of Jesus Christ: [Acts 3:12-19](#)

The New Testament Letter: [1 John 3:1-7](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading: [Luke 24:36b-48](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

"You Call Us, Lord"

W&R #583

Words: One License #A-728042
Music: Public Domain

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"}*

SONG

"Alleluia"

*the refrain of the last hymn
Donald Fishel
One License #A-728042*

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!**

SERMON

"From Sin to the Light"

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}

HEALING SERVICE

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: God of grace,

People: Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER (*Unison*)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE

"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: Our offerings bring light to a darkened world.

People: How can we say "darkened world?"

Leader: Oh, you mean all the glitzy lights along the highways and streets.

People: Yes, those lights! The world is not dark!

Leader: Wait a minute! Are those glitzy lights from God? Will those lights give us lasting joy?

People: No. We want our offerings to bring comforting necessities and the inner light of joy to people.

Leader: Nothing for our church?

People: Yes, we do need to maintain the church.

Leader: May God help us in these endeavors.

People: Yes, help us O God! Amen.

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}.

CHORAL OFFERTORY

"Praise the Lord"

Natalie Sleeth

{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)**

Yes, Lord, for other people and for this church, this congregation, we bring our offerings and lay them before you. May you be pleased with our giving. **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 take the light of God into the dim world.

People: Rekindle hope and praise for God in the hearts of the world.

Leader: What are the hearts of the world?

People: All the hearts in all the people of the world.

Leader: Good! Have we noticed the person who stands close to our front door looking at the door knob and wondering what happens inside?

People: God, may the outside light shine as brightly as the inside light!

***BENEDICTION**

***THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

***SENDING HYMN**

"Alleluia No. 1"

W&R #291
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.
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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: 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 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

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 21, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

The Day of Resurrection!

C F C C F A C F G

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
 2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right
 3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful! Let earth its song be - gin!

G7 C C7 F C G D D7 G

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light;
 The world re - sound in tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

G7 C7 F A7 D7 G

From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
 and, lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
 let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend;

G C Dm7 C7 F F C G7 G C

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 his own "all hail" and, hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our Joy that has no end.

WORDS: John of Damascus, 8th c.; tr. John M. Neale (1818-1866)
 MUSIC: Henry T. Smart (1813-1879)

LANCASHIRE
 7.6.7.6.D.

You Call Us, Lord

F Dm F Gm7 C F Bb D Bb F C7 F

1 You call us, Lord, to be a peo - ple set a - part,
 2 You call us, Lord, to care for self and neigh - bor too,
 3 You call us, Lord, to be good stew - ards of the earth;
 4 You call us, Lord, to serve: to die that we may live,

F Dm Csus C F Bb D Bb F C7 F

to feel with thought - ful mind and think with ten - der heart.
 to take the risk, and dare to show what love can do.
 to tend it as a place of bless - ed - ness and worth.
 to know we best re - ceive when joy - ful - ly we give.

Refrain

C F Dm F Bb F C F Bb F C

^C/_E ^F/_G ^{Dm}/_A ^F/_A ^{Bb}/_D ^F/_C ^C/_{Bb}

Thus cho - sen, now, O Lord, we ask for faith in your

F C7 F C C Bb F C F Bb F C7 F

^F/_A ^{C7}/_G ^F/_A ^C/_{Bb} ^F/_A ^C/_{Bb} ^F/_A ^{Bb}/_D ^F/_C ^{C7}/_G ^F/_A

un - fail - ing grace to make us e - qual to the task.

WORDS: Jane Marshall (1924-)
 MUSIC: John David Edwards (1806-1885)
 Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Company

RHOSYMEDRE
 6.6.6.6.8.8.8.

Alleluia No. 1

291

Refrain (Unison)

N.C. F Dm Bb Gm7 C C7

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris-en Lord, Al - le -

F C/E Dm Gm/Bb F/A Gm7 C7 F

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to his name!

Harmony

F Dm Dm7 Gm7 C

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth.
 3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
 4 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

F Dm/F Dm Gm/D Dm7 Gm Bbmaj7 C to Refrain

He is the King of cre - a - tion.
 Je - sus has died and has ris - en.
 Now we shall live for - ev - er.
 joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

WORDS and MUSIC: Donald Fishel (1950-)

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