

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Zion United Church of Christ**

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551
St. Paul's UCC: 610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org
Zion UCC: 610-659-2775 -- mestme@aol.com -- www.1Zion.org

*No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you're welcome here.*



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



**Sunday, December 19, 2021
4th Sunday of Advent**

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 very welcome to participate in the entire worship service. Due to the COVID pandemic, for the safety of children, we are currently not offering a nursery during worship. Normally, we have supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, located on the first floor.

Junior Worship

For the safety of children, we are not offering Junior Worship during the pandemic. Normally, the option of "Junior Worship" is offered downstairs, on the 1st & 2nd Sunday of the month, following the children's sermon, for elementary age children to learn more about today's scripture lessons.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located both on the first and second floors to the left of the elevator.

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

For the safety of all, our water fountains are disabled during the pandemic.

Sunday School & Adult Faith Formation Classes

Classes for all ages are held at 9:00am.

Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship is held at 10:15am.

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 St. Paul's or Zion United Church of Christ. For more information about St. Paul's, Zion, and the UCC, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our churches.

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*}



Free WiFi

Virtual Worship Service

Online: [Live Stream](https://www.sprucc.org) at [sprucc.org](https://www.sprucc.org) - *Live or Watch & Listen Later* on [St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCStPaulsUCC)
[Facebook Live](https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/) (St. Paul's) at <https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/> - *Live or Watch & Listen Later*
[Phone Stream](tel:18886495770) at 1-888-649-5770 - *Live or Listen Later*
[Zoom](https://zoom.us/j/104401368): Meeting ID: 104 401 368; Passcode: 301301 (or call 1-301-715-8592) - *Live Only*

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.*

*Please Do Not move the red ribbons or sit where they are placed.
They are there for your safety and the safety of those around you to help designate social distancing.*

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

GREETING AND WELCOME

*{To center your hearts and minds,
you are invited to individually offer this prayer silently
during or before the Prelude}*

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP[®] *(Silently Before Worship Begins)*

Mighty God, let your face shine on us. Break through the obstacles that keep us from seeing your way. Melt the barriers that keep us from knowing the embrace of your love. Remove from us the low self-esteem that keeps us from valuing the overwhelming gift of life that you entrust to us. Speak to us here in life-changing accents. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" (vs 1 & 2) ♪ NCH # 107

Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper.
Used with Permission 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: Before the majesty of God, we gather to worship;
In quiet expectation, we come to hear God's promises.

People: **This is where we belong; here we are warmly greeted.
Surely God will feed our deepest hunger.**

Leader: Before God's strength and power, we bow down;
in hesitant anticipation, we listen for God's judgment.

People: **This is our home, where our lives are redirected.
Surely God will show us new ways to live.**

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 [Ⓢ]

God understands more profoundly than we our failure to become the people we are intended to be. Be open to the wisdom and forgiveness of the Creator.

*CONFESSION OF SIN [Ⓢ] (Unison)

God of surprises, you bring your name of peace born into a humble faithful family in a previously insignificant place. Wrongly we have looked for you only among the powerful. If we have stood in the way of those you have called to be shepherds of your flock, because they did not seem imposing and appeared in humility, we are sorry. If we have failed to faithfully follow, because we did not immediately see the power of your hand or feel your immediate reward, please forgive us. Help us to study, pray, grow, serve, and worship in connected ways with you and one another. We need to measure greatness as you do, as manifest in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON [Ⓢ] (Leader)

Those who allow themselves to know God are already in touch with God's mercy. It is newly experienced every day. It is available to the least of us and the greatest. All whose spirits hunger for God discover how richly they have been fed. God has been doing great things for us. Let us commit the bodies God has given us to doing God's will. May our spirits rejoice as we magnify our God together. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*PRAYER FOR MERCY

"Kyrie"

♩Red #518

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.

Used with permission One License# A-728042

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: Let us offer our praise to the Lord.

People: **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*SUNG RESPONSE OF PRAISE *"Let's Worship and Adore Him"*

Blue # 247

**Let's worship and adore Him,
Let's worship and adore Him,
Let's worship and adore Him,
Christ the Lord.**

*Music: Wade's Cantus Diversi; arranged: Tom Fettke
Reproduced with permission One License #A-728042*

{Please be seated}

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE[®] - LOVE

INTRODUCTORY SENTENCES: *(Leader)*

As we gather around the Advent wreath today, we rejoice that Christmas is a time of prayer and of open hearts when we sing songs of joy. Christmas is a time of worship-the moment when the busiest of us pause in wonder. Christmas happens when God comes to us in love through Jesus Christ and fills us with love for all humankind.

READING OF SCRIPTURE: *(Leader)*

"The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink.' You would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get the living water?"

(from John 4:9-11)

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE: *(Leader)*

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is love. Such great love helps us to love God and one another.

{Light the fourth blue candle in the wreath.}

PRAYER:

Leader: Let us pray...

ALL: O God, we thank you that Jesus showed your love for every person- babies and children, old people and young, sick people and those who were strong, rich people and those who were poor. Come to us in the Advent season, and give us love in our hearts for all people. Amen.

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

Old Testament Lesson: Micah 6:2-5a

New Testament Letter: Hebrews 10:5-10

New Testament Canticle: Mary's Magnificat: Luke 1:39-55

(Mary's song of praise (Magnificat) to God).

Leader: Let us praise God with the Mary's Magnificat...

Sung Refrain:

Leader: In those days Mary set out and went to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my LORD comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the LORD."

Sung Refrain: My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.

Leader: And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the LORD,

People: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

Leader: for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

People: Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

Leader: for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

People: and holy is his name.

Sung Refrain: My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.

Leader: His mercy is for those who fear him

People: from generation to generation.

Leader: He has shown strength with his arm;

People: he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

Leader: He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

People: and lifted up the lowly;

Leader: he has filled the hungry with good things,

People: and sent the rich away empty.

Sung Refrain: My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.

Leader: He has helped his servant Israel,

People: in remembrance of his mercy,

Leader: according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

People: to Abraham and to his descendants forever. "

Sung Refrain: My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

HYMN "My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

NCH # 119

*Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper.
Used with Permission One License #A-728042*

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

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 (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, dead, and 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.**

*The word "catholic" means "the universal church" and was the word used in the original version of the Creed.
It does not refer here to the particular denomination of the Roman Catholic Church, but rather the whole
Christian church of all denominations, the body of Christ, as a universal fellowship.

{please be seated}

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray....

PASTORAL 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.**

PRAYER RESPONSE “Let’s Worship and Adore Him” □ Blue # 247

**We lift our prayers up to Him,
We lift our prayers up to Him,
We lift our prayers up to Him,
Christ our Lord.**

*Music: Wade’s Cantus Diversi; arranged: Tom Fettke; Text: Benjamin D. Motz
Used with Permission One License #A-728042*

OFFERING TIME AND TALENT

{Prayer Needs, Joys, Opportunities for Study and Service, and other Announcements}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ②

Leader: In this season, we remember the greatest offering of all time, God’s gift of salvation in Jesus Christ.

People: **The only appropriate response is our giving of ourselves.**

Leader: What we place on the altar today symbolizes the depth of our commitment.

People: **May we show how thankful we are.**

RETURNING GOD’S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

*{As we share in hybrid worship, there is no passing of the plate in person.
A plate is placed in the rear of the sanctuary for offerings to be placed
when arriving or departing from the sanctuary.*

*Whether worshipping in person or online,
the safest way to offer your tithe and offering to God through his church
is through St. Paul’s UCC secure [Online Giving](#) option on our website at [sprucc.org](#). St. Paul’s UCC [Click Here](#)
or Zion UCC’s online giving at [www.1Zion.org](#) - [Zion UCC Click Here](#)
Offerings may also be mailed to St. Paul’s UCC; 301 West Penn Ave; Robeson, PA 19551
or Zion UCC; PO Box 97; Womelsdorf, PA 19567}.*

OFFERTORY

{Those who are able, please rise}

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** “Let’s Worship and Adore Him”

□ Blue # 247

**For He alone is worthy,
For He alone is worthy
For He alone is worthy,
Christ the Lord.**

*Music: Wade’s Cantus Diversi; arranged: Tom Fettke
Used with Permission One License #A-728042*

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** ②

Thank you, God, for your mercy and protection, for feeding us physically and spiritually, for caring for us like a shepherd. We present our tithes and offerings as an act of gratitude. What we can never repay we pause to appreciate. In the name of generosity we cannot match, we seek to be generous toward others. May these tithes and offerings do far more than support the church. We dedicate ourselves and these gifts to honor Christ through ministry in the world. 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: Depart from this place to do God's will.

Carry your discipleship and service into the world.

People: **Our spirits rejoice in God's saving grace.**

Our lives have been equipped to meet the world.

Leader: Greet strangers as you would have been greeted here.

Feed them as you have been fed by a living God.

People: **In gratitude and joy we accept our commission.**

Our spirits rejoice to share good news.

ALL: **Amen.**

*BENEDICTION

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪Red #558

Used with Permission One License #A-728042

*SENDING HYMN "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night" □W&R # 228 (vs. 1, 3 & 5)

*(Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper.
Used with Permission One License #A-714101)*

*{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

TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

ALL are invited

*to share in a time of Refreshments and Fellowship
in the downstairs Miller Fellowship Hall*



The Altar Flowers are Sponsored by

The Bulletins are Sponsored by



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.

- Ⓞ Reprinted with permission from *The New Century Hymnal* of the United Church of Christ. (1995). Cleveland, Ohio: The Pilgrim Press. and/or the *Book of Worship* of the United Church of Christ (1986). New York: United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership.
- Ⓞ *Gathered By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
- Ⓞ Reprinted with permission from *Sundays and Seasons*. (2021). Augsburg Fortress.
- Ⓞ Reprinted with permission from the *Order of Worship for the Reformed Church in the United States*. and/or *The Hymnal of the Evangelical and Reformed Church*. (1985) New York: United Church Press.
- ④ Hostetter, B. David. (1997). *Prayers for the Seasons of God's People; Worship Aids for the Revised Common Lectionary, Year C*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press.
- Ⓞ Reprinted with permission from *Sourcebook of Worship Services*
- Ⓞ Reprinted with permission from *Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ*. (2013).
- Ⓞ Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
- The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
- Ⓞ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
- *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).

One License is our Church Copyright License, which is a subscription service giving us copyright permission to print the words and music found in the bulletin and to live stream music on the internet during the Worship Service.

#A-728042 is St. Paul's License Number

#A-714101 is Zion's One License Number



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

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

Church Secretary: Janice Conner - 610-781-4825 or 717-933-8910

Sextons: Michael Pastor & Terry Pastor

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue; Robeson, PA 19551

610-621-5770 *** office@sprucc.org

www.SPRUCC.org

Consistory President: Kirk Aulenbach

Consistory Vice President: Sheri Rowe

Consistory Secretary: Sheri Rowe

Treasurer: Jon Henning

Financial Secretary: Terry Pastor - FinSec@sprucc.org

Zion United Church of Christ

PO Box 97; Womelsdorf, PA 19567

www.IZion.org

Consistory President: George McLain

Consistory Vice President: Charles Meredith

Treasurer: George McLain 717-628-1875 / 610-507-7865

Free WiFi: StPaulsUCC-Guest & StPaulsUCC-5G-Guest
Password (for both): iamheretoserve



Link to Website's
Upcoming Events



December 19, 2021

Blue Christmas

I attended a Blue Christmas service after my husband died. I experienced loss before, but that year was more difficult. He was with me during those other losses. It was the first time I had to prepare Christmas for my daughter without him.

I remember decorating the house, looking up to heaven saying, "Why did you leave me to do all this by myself." Then I sat down and did one of those laughing-crying moments because he never really helped with that part of the holiday anyway. But it was still different. Just not the same. My guess is many of you know what I'm talking about.

It is almost three years now since my sister died. I am still moving through losing her. Grief doesn't come with a manual. There is no one correct way to do this. It is a process that comes and goes. We need to give ourselves permission to be in all of that...even during a holiday.

Give yourself permission. Give yourself permission to skip a party or attend a party. If decorating gives you joy and you cry while doing it...go ahead. If you decide to skip some of what you used to do...it's fine. Give yourself permission to do what you need to do. This season is about welcoming Christ into the world and remembering God breaking into our suffering, sad and difficult world. It is about receiving the Holy One into our lives...into our hearts and even into our pain.

If you find this season particularly painful, reach out to someone who can give you the kind of support you need. Protect yourself from people who try to fix your feelings and wrap them up nice and neat so THEY will feel better.

Sometimes being at church can tap into the grief even more. Just know that your tears are free to flow. It's biblical! The ache that comes in that spot? Well...that's real and to be honored.

If you are finding this season difficult, know that I light a candle for you every day. If you are a friend of someone who is grieving, let them know you love them and just be present. Allow them to be where they need to be. That acceptance is the greatest gift you can give.

In all of this remember you are loved and the Holy One is with you always.



New ONA Church!

Congratulations to the United Church of Christ's newest Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation: Zwingli United Church of Christ in Souderton. Congratulations to Zwingli UCC, the 1733rd church to become ONA since 1985. Their Open and Affirming Covenant reads:

At Zwingli United Church of Christ, we promise to engage and nurture Christ's light in all of God's people, no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity, race or ethnic background, social status, soul injury, religious beliefs, age, and physical, mental, or addiction challenges. We aspire to be a counterweight to exclusion and discrimination. We choose to purposefully welcome and include all people in every aspect of our church family including worship, fellowship, and leadership, lay and ordained, and will meet you where you are on life's journey to share God's love with you. It is our commitment that all members should feel and be safe, as we express God's universal and unconditional love in our church, community and daily lives.



PSEC 2021 Giving Cut-Off Date

Books of the PSEC will close Jan. 17. All OCWM contributions for 2021 must be in our office by that date or they will be counted towards 2022 contributions. **Please mail your contributions as soon as possible due to possible mail delays.**

About Today

Church Season: Advent - is a season of preparation for the coming of Christ: (1) the second coming of Christ; (2) the preparation for the anniversary of Jesus' birth on Christmas; and (3) the reminder to be daily aware of Christ's presence for the Kingdom of God is near. The season of Advent takes place during the four weeks before Christmas.

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

Blue - symbolizes the hope found in the anticipated coming of Christ

Violet - symbolizes royalty and penitent preparation for Christ our King, who offers forgiveness

Rose/Pink - symbolizes joy, as expressed by Jesus' mother Mary

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 C**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Luke.

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 Christians consider the most central books of the Bible.

This Sunday, December 19 -- Lectionary Reading for the 4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 6:2-5a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55

Micah

The OT book of Micah is named for its author, the 8th century B.C. prophet Micah. Micah means "Who is like the Lord," and he prophesied during the reigns of kings Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. This book focuses on ethical issues, and shares a message of divine forgiveness and hope.

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 Luke

The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles is attributed to Luke "the beloved physician," written around 59-90 A.D. Not having met Jesus personally, Luke undertook the task of "investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account" of Jesus Christ, "so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed."

Next Sunday, December 26 -- Lectionary Reading for the First Sunday of Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

*Isa. 12:6; 26:9; 35:6; Matt. 11:5**Marty Haugen, 1983; rev. 1993*

1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In deep - est night Christ's com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, whose hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 cold the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

Je - sus is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing.
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;

Liturgical composer Marty Haugen wrote both words and music for this Advent hymn with the twofold aim of providing an easy congregational chorale and utilizing the images of the Isaiah passages.

Tune: REJOICE, REJOICE 9.8.9.8.8.7.8.9.
Marty Haugen, 1983

D D/F# G D Em Am D

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing
 One with-out voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in
 Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our end - less

Em D7 G C B7 Em

geth - er, to o - pen wide the heaven - ly door, and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of the an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak are raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry, may God fill ev - ery day we share, and

Am7 D7 G 1-3 G/B C 4 G/B C G


lives now in-side us for ev - er. . . .
 shat - ter all hate and in - jus - tice. . . .
 weap-ons are bro-ken a - sun - der. . . .
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry. . . .

My Soul Gives Glory to My God



119

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987


Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Sam. 2:1-10



1 My soul gives glo - ry to my God. My heart pours out its praise.
2 My God has done great things for me: yes, ho - ly is God's name.
3 From age to age, to all who fear, such mer - cy love im - parts,
4 Love casts the might-y from their thrones, pro-motes the in - se - cure,
5 Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup-ports those in dis - tress,



God lift - ed up my low - li - ness in man - y mar-vel-ous ways.
All peo - ple will de - clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.
dis - pens-ing jus-tice far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
leaves hun - gry spir-its sat - is - fied, the rich seem sud-den-ly poor.
re - mem-ber-ing past prom-is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.



This New Testament canticle, with its mosaic of liberation motifs that proclaim the justice of God, is known as the "Magnificat," the opening word of its Latin translation.

Tune: MORNING SONG C.M.
Melody from Kentucky Harmony, 1816
Harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940

228 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

1 While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all seat-ed
 2 "Fear not!" said he, for might-y dread had seized their
 3 "To you, in Da-vid's town, this day is born of
 4 "The heaven-ly babe you there shall find to hu-man
 5 Thus spoke the ser-aph, and forth-with ap-peared a
 6 "All glo-ry be to God on high, and to the

on the ground, the an-gel of the Lord came down,
 trou-bled mind; "Glad tid-ings of great joy I bring
 Da-vid's line the Sav-ior, who is Christ the Lord,
 view dis-played, all mean-ly wrapped in swath-ing bands,
 shin-ing thron'g of an-gels prais-ing God, who thus
 earth be peace; good will hence-forth from heaven to all

and glo-ry shone a-round, and glo-ry shone a-round.
 to you and hu-man-kind, to you and hu-man-kind.
 and this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign:
 and in a man-ger laid, and in a man-ger laid."
 ad-dressed their joy-ful song, ad-dressed their joy-ful song:
 be-gin and nev-er cease, be-gin and nev-er cease!"