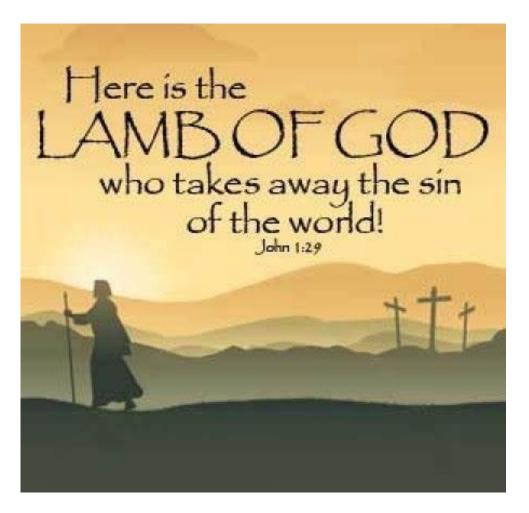
The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

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 Worship Service In-Person & Streaming Online

+ + +

January 15, 2023

Second Sunday after Epiphany
Ordination/Installation of New Leadership
10:15am

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 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).

Nurserv

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.

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 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

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.

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.

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; $\emptyset \# = Red Hymnal Page$; $\square \# = Blue Hymnal Page$ }









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

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

WELCOME AND 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)

Holy God our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you, and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE

{Those who are able, please rise}

*Processional Hymn

"The Church's One Foundation"

*▶ Red #322*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: Listen, all who are near and all who are far away;

God is calling us as servants and as saints.

People: We are here to receive God's message.

Our hearts are open to the Word we will hear.

Leader: Do not be afraid to serve God with your whole being.

Neither fear the call to join the saints of Jesus Christ.

People: We trust that God will strengthen us for our tasks.

We are ready to be led into new responsibilities.

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 [®] (Leader)

The church of which we are a part has a long record of faithful worship and service. Yet, it is easy to settle into routines and rituals that lose the urgency of the gospel. We become complacent, and our focus narrows to our own immediate concerns. Let us return to God for cleansing from our sin.

*Confession of Sin ² (Unison)

Almighty God, we come back to you to renew our commitment. We confess that pride has led us to embrace false gods. We spend more time with our hobbies than with your cause. We pay more attention to our toys than to your truth. Your law is no longer in our hearts. We have neglected the spiritual gifts entrusted to us. We have forgotten that we have been named and baptized and commissioned for service. O God, bring us back to yourself. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*Sung Prayer for Mercy "Kyrie"

Red #518

Leader (spoken): Lord, have mercy upon us. Public Domain

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

*Assurance of Pardon [®] (Leader)

Hear the glad news of deliverance. God's saving help is available to us. God's mercy is sure. We can leave our idols and reorder our priorities. We are empowered by God's steadfast love and faithfulness to become all we are meant to be. Sing a new song of praise to our God! **Amen.**

*Call to Praise (adapted from John 1)

Leader: The true light of Christ, which enlightens everyone, has come into the world. **People: We praise God, for the light shines and overcomes all darkness.**

Anonymous Public Domain

Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

{Please be seated}

We Hear the Word of God

We seek to learn more about God's love and grace, and how we are to live our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Bible is our primary text on faith, which we consider to be scripture - sacred writings.

We believe the Bible to be the "inspired word of God."

Gospel (which means "Good News") refers to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which are Christians' most central books of the Bible.

PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Old Testament Lesson from the Prophet Isaiah: <u>Isaiah 49:1-7</u>

New Testament Lesson - a letter from Paul: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament - Gospel Lesson: <u>John 1:29-42</u>

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

♪ Red #271

Public Domain

MINI-MESSAGE

Congregation Sings "Jesus Loves the Little Children"

Adapted Words of Traditional Chorus

Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world. Shy and quiet, glad and bright, They are treasures in his sight.

Jesus blesses all the children of the world.

SERMON

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.

Service of Ordination & Installation **

Being Ordained and Installed

George McLain - Elder & Consistory VP Wanda Moore - Elder & Fellowship Committee Cory Putt - Deacon & Evangelism/Mission Committee Diane McAllister - Deacon & Worship Committee Brenda Conlon - Deacon & Christian Ed Committee

Being Installed

Elsa Wertz - Elder & Consistory President Terry Pastor - Elder & Worship Committee Geri Gammel - Elder & Christian Ed Committee Jon Henning - Deacon & Evangelism/Mission Committee Dale Mentzer - Head Trustee & Property Committee Ray Trone - Trustee & Property Committee Robin Henning - Evangelism/Mission Chairperson Denise Unger - Christian Ed Chairperson

Carl Unger - Property Chairperson Joel Palmer - Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (PPRC)

Brenda Conlon - PPRC

Barb Orth - PPRC Sheri Rowe - PPRC

Sue Hiester - PPRC

Rick Rentschler - PPRC

John Eiceman - PPRC

Dottie McLain - PPRC

Laurie Ostimchuk - PPRC

Eric Ostimchuk - Investment Advisory Committee John Eiceman - Investment Advisory Committee Annette Pearson - Investment Advisory Committee Mark Mover - Investment Advisory Committee Jon Henning - Investment Advisory Committee Michael Clay - Cemetery Board Dave Rohrbach - Cemetery Board Rick Rentschler - Delegate Jon Henning - Delegate

GREETING

Leader: Grace, mercy and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the head of the church in

heaven and on earth.

People: To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations,

forever and ever. Amen.

Introduction

Leader: Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church

of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings

in the life of the world.

Leader: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

People: There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

Leader: There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability

to each of us for our particular service.

People: The Spirit's presence is shown in some ways in each person for the good

of all.

Leader: Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

People: It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.

Leader: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is

praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

People: All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.

{Those who are being ordained and/or installed as Elders & Deacons of Consistory please come forward}

{Those who are being installed to new leadership positions please come forward}

Presentation (Leader)

These people have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of this church, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

COVENANT (Leader)

Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church.

Elders shall assist and support the Pastor in the spiritual affairs of the church. Elders shall take heed of themselves that they may be examples unto others, watch faithfully over the spiritual interest of the congregation, aid in visiting the sick, and minister according to their ability to the edification and comfort of all the members of the congregation. Elders are to be the advisers and counselors of the Pastor, and are to be to the Pastor as hands and eyes, acting with the Pastor and for the Pastor, and representing the Pastor's presence throughout the congregation

The office of **Deacons** has regard especially to the wants of the poor. Deacons shall assist and support the Pastor in those ministrations which pertain to the more outward needs of the congregation. They shall aid in securing the funds necessary for the support of the congregation in its various activities, foster the principles of stewardship, and dispense the charity of the congregation. They must not lose sight of the true spiritual character of their office, which is a proper branch of the Christian ministry.

Trustees are called to the ministry of care of the church building, the House of the Lord, and its property, enabling the worship, study, prayer, mission, and other ministries to occur within the church's facility, and to symbolize well the presence of this house of faith and sanctuary of Christ within and for our local community.

Those serving on the **Evangelism & Mission Committee** are called to lead all members to be connecting people in a living relationship with the loving God in both word and deed.

Those serving on the **Worship Committee** are called to lead all members to be participating in worship and increase the number of not-yet-members in worship.

Those serving on the **Christian Education Committee** are called to lead all members to be studying scripture and increase the number of not-yet-members learning scripture.

Those serving on the **Fellowship Committee** are called to lead all members to be well connected with each other in supportive Christian relationship.

Those serving on the **Property Committee** are called to lead all members to be caring for this House of Worship.

Those serving on the **Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (PPRC)** are called to help facilitate a good, healthy, and Godly relationship between the Pastor and the parishioners.

Those on the **Investment Advisory Committee** have the responsibility of discerning the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in the stewardship of the long-term investments of the church.

Those on the **Cemetery Board** have the responsibility of the long-term care of the Heidelberg Cemetery and the reverent care of the mortal remains interned there.

Those serving as **Delegates** to the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference and the Covenant Association are called to help foster good relationships and communications between the congregation and the Conference, Association, and wider United Church of Christ, to attend the annual Conference and Association meetings, and to share information from those meetings with the congregation.

Leader: Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Newly Elected: I am.

Leader: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth

the love of Christ?

Newly Elected: I do, relying on God's grace.

Leader: Do you promise with the help of God and the guidance of his Holy Spirit to discharge to the best of your knowledge and ability the service for which you have been chosen?

Newly Elected: I do, with the help of God.

COVENANT WITH CONGREGATION

Leader: Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

{Those who are able please rise}

*Congregation: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful

church of Jesus Christ.

*Prayer (Leader)

Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name. We pray in the name of our Lord and Saviour, who taught us when we pray to say....

*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.

LAYING ON OF HANDS (Leader)

{All Ordained Elders please come forward, and join in the laying on of hands (right hand if possible)}

ELDERS:

The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognizes God's call to ministry in the lives of faithful women and men and asks the Holy Spirit to confer upon them the gift's of ministry. We lay hands upon you for the position of Elder.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for the ministry of Elder in Christ's church and equip you with everything good to do God's will. Receive authority to execute the office of Elder in the name of Christ.

ALL: Amen.

{All Ordained Deacons please come forward, and join in the laying on of hands (right hand if possible)}

DEACONS:

The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognizes God's call to ministry in the lives of faithful men and women and asks the Holy Spirit to confer upon them the gifts of ministry. We lay hands upon you for the position of Deacon.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for the ministry of deacon in Christ's church and equip you with everything good to do God's will. Receive authority to execute the office of deacon in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYER (Leader)

Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

DECLARATION (Leader)

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of the United Church of Christ of Robesonia, I rejoice to announce you are installed and affirmed in your ministry.

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

Leader: In accordance with the faith and order of this church, I extend to you the hand

of Christian love.

People: Thanks be to God.

{Installed Leaders & Congregation may be seated}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ²

Leader: Remembering all we have spent for nothing or for vanity,

People: we now consider how to bring offerings worthy of God's saving grace. Leader: Nothing can compare to God's wondrous deeds and thoughts toward us.

People: We can only respond with trust and joy and generosity.

MUSICAL OFFERTORY

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS



{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 worshiping in person or online, the safest way to offer your tithe and offering to God through his church is through our secure Online Giving option on our website at sprucc.org. Click Here Offerings may also be mailed to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Doxology

*▶ Red #*551

OneLicense #A-728042 Genevan Psalter, Thomas Ken, Louis Bourgeois

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.

*Offertory Prayer [®] (Leader)

God of the saints in every age and time, we are grateful for the privilege of being numbered among them as we invest our gifts from you. Because of your generosity, we have not lacked for anything we really need. Grant now that our words and deeds may follow our tithes and offerings into loving service in your kingdom. **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 ²

Leader: We have found the Messiah, God's anointed one.

Let us follow where Jesus leads.

People: We want to learn from Jesus how to live.

We are eager to be faithful disciples.

Leader: God remains steadfast and faithful.

We will be strengthened for all of life's journey.

People: We put are trust in God for all time and eternity.

We will delight to do God's will.

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

▶ Red #558
Public Domain

*Sending Hymn "Here I Am, Lord"

*♬ Blue #589*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

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 worshiping 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



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- Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).

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United Church of Christ of Robesonia

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Consistory President: Elsa Wertz Consistory Vice President: George McLain Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

About Today

Church Season: Epiphany - Season of the manifestation of God incarnate to the world. In Greek "phan" is "shine" or "manifest," and "epi" is "upon." The season of Epiphany continues from January 6 until Ash Wednesday.

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

Red - symbolizing the tongues of fire of the Holy Spirit imparting the spiritual gifts of discipleship. **Green**- symbolizing this season of mission - the incarnate Christ has been made manifest to us on Epiphany and we are to go into the world and share his Good News.

Sunday, January 15th- Lectionary Reading for the Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

Isaiah

The book of Isaiah (OT) is attributed to three prophets. The first of whom is from where the book gets its name, and is about Isaiah's call to become a prophet and his prophecy that Jerusalem will face God's judgement regarding its immorality in order to be God's Holy City (chaps. 1-39, written 738-688 B.C.), the second is about living in exile in Babylon (chaps. 40-55, written 597-539 B.C.), and the third is about the return from exile to Judah and the rebuilding of the Temple (chaps. 56-66, written 520-515 B.C.). A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct.

Psalm 40

The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

This NT Epistle (letter) was written by the Apostle Paul between 53-54 A.D. to a gentile congregation he had founded several years earlier in Corinth (the capital city of the Roman province of Achaia, a large and prospering urban center that was ethnically, culturally, and religiously diverse). This letter is in response to issues within the Corinthian church, in particular fractions caused by one-upmanship and privatization of faith. Paul encourages humility, unity within diversity, and witnessing to God's grace. Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and church leader, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. Paul wrote more of the NT than any other person.

The Gospel According to John

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

Next Sunday, January 22nd- Lectionary Reading for the Third Sunday after Epiphany

<u>Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23</u>



one hope she press - es, With ev - ery grace en - dued. the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest. Like them, the meek and low - ly, On highmay dwell with Thee. A-MEN.

The Christian Life



589 Here I Am, Lord

"Whom shall I send?" I said, "Here am I. Send me." Isaiah 6:8



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