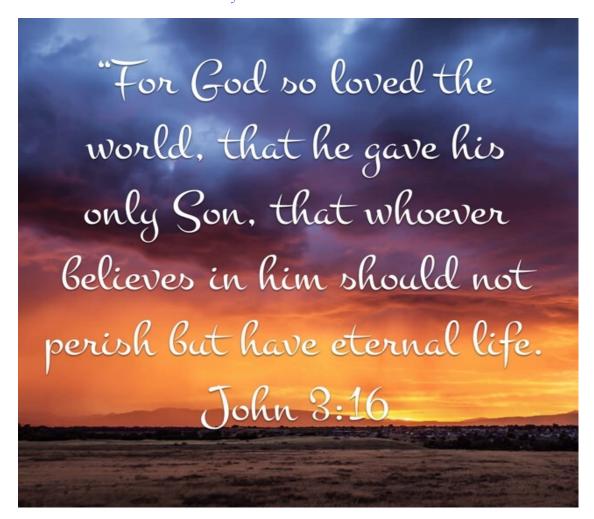
The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

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

+ 🕇 +

March 5, 2023 Second Sunday in Lent

Welcome

May God's loving presence be very real to you, and may you receive strength and guidance today That will enable you to handle life's challenges.

Children's Bulletins

Crayons and activity bulletins are available in the narthex.

The activities match today's Bible readings and are designed for 3-6 & 7-12 year olds.

Biblias en Español

Biblias Bilingües en Español y Inglés están disponible en el vestíbulo narthex en la mesa de visitantes azul. (Bilingual Bibles in Spanish & English are available in the narthex hallway on the blue visitors' table).

Nursery

Persons of all ages (including children) are welcome to participate in the entire worship service. For an additional option, we have a supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, located on the first floor. Please see Nursery Coordinators, Laurie Ostimchuk & Beth Miller if you are in need of the nursery.

Junior Worship

On the 2nd 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.

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.

Praver 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; $\flat \# = Red Hymnal Page$; $\sharp \# = Blue Hymnal Page$ }







Free WiFi

Virtual Worship Service

Online: <u>Live Stream</u> at <u>sprucc.org</u> - *Live or Watch & Listen Later on <u>Our YouTube Channel</u> <u>Facebook Live</u> at https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/ - <i>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 ② (Unison)

Loving God, let the winds of the Spirit blow in our midst today. Let us hear the sound and feel the power. Open our hearts in new ways to the promise of your healing grace so we may be a blessing to one another and to your world. We need courage to face the challenges and struggles of life. We seek reassurance that you will be with us in our going out and our coming in. Strengthen our faith to withstand the trials and temptations that lead us away from a faithful journey with Christ. Amen.

PRELUDE

"This Is My Father's World"

Franklin Sheppard; arr. for piano by Cindy Berry

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Lift High the Cross"

NCH #198

One License #A-728042

Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper.

*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 ②

Leader: People of God, where do we put our trust?

Where do we find wholeness and meaning?

People: We lift up our eyes to the hills.

Our help comes from the Lord who created heaven and earth.

Leader: Our lives are a gift from God, who loves us.

By the grace of God, we are born anew each day.

People: We are followers of Jesus, who proclaim God's realm.

We are born of the Spirit, born from above.

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 ② (Leader)

Spiritual ancestors, like Abraham, sensed God's call to leave behind the security of the familiar to venture forward to new places God would show them. Others, like Nicodemus, were astonished by Jesus' call to rebirth in the Spirit. Reminded that both calls come also to us, we bow before God to confess our unfaithfulness.

*Confession of Sin ② (Unison)

O God, we confess that we have been far more ready to say we believe than to trust you to lead us to new ventures of faithfulness. We are afraid of the evil that surrounds us. We fear rejection, failure, and ridicule. We admire Jesus, but it is difficult to follow in footsteps that lead to a cross. In the midst of life as we know it here, how can we catch glimpses of eternity? Save us, we pray, from our timidity, and use our doubts as an entry to deeper faith. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY

Leader (spoken):

Leader (spoken):

People (sung):

People (sung):

"Kyrie"

▶ Red #518
Public Domain

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

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

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

*Assurance of Pardon ② (Leader)

Our lives are in God's hands. We can only glimpse the mystery of the Source of love, "who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist." Yet, as we look up in trust, there comes to us an abiding assurance that we are not alone. Receive, with humility and joy, the rebirth God offers this day and for all eternity. **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 Torah (Law): Genesis 12:1-4a

New Testament Letter: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Gospel (Good News): John 3:1-17

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "As Moses Raised the Serpent Up" NCH #605

One License #A-728042

Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper.

MINI-MESSAGE

CONGREGATION SINGS

"This is the Day"

NCH #84 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.

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.

{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.

{Please be seated}
{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ②

Leader: The faith that sustains us is not a commodity to be hoarded and protected.

People: Rather, faith is an active, dynamic relationship which God calls us to share with one another, not just within the church, but with everyone.

Leader: Our offerings make possible faithful ministries within the church and our outreach in the world.

People: The generosity of our hearts is revealed in the generosity of our offerings.

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

{Today, for the first time since the outbreak of COVID, we will be passing the offering plate in person.
You may also offer your tithe and offering to God
through our secure Online Giving option on our website at **sprucc.org** (Click Here), or
mail your offering to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.

CHORAL OFFERTORY

"Jesus Calls Us"

Text by John Bell (Scotland) & Graham Maule (Scotland); Traditional Scottish melody

{Those who are able, please rise}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"Because I Have Been Given Much"

▶ Red #259
Public Domain

Because I have been given much, I, too must give: Because of Thy great bounty, Lord, each day I live, I shall divide my gifts from Thee with every brother that I see Who has the need of help from me.

*Offertory Prayer ② (Leader)

Thank you, God, for glimpses of eternity in the daily experiences of life. We are grateful for encounters that lift the horizons of our vision. We rejoice in the teaching and care you have provided to us. Bless now the gifts we return to you for the programs and outreach of the church. We want to share our faith with our community and the world. We pray for trustful relationships among all your children. We rejoice together in the saving ministry of Jesus that inspires us to give our best. **Amen.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion ^{0.4}

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is the central act of Christian worship, bringing us more fully together with one another and the Triune God, through the sacrifice of the body and blood of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 26:20-30, Mark 14:17-26, Luke 22:14-23, John 13:21-30)

*INVITATION

Leader:

Dearly beloved in the Lord: Our blessed Saviour Jesus Christ instituted the Holy Communion of his Body and Blood, that it might be the abiding memorial of his atoning death; the seal of his perpetual presence in the Church through the Holy Spirit; the mystical representation of the sacrifice of himself on the cross; the pledge of his undying love for his people; and the bond of his living union and fellowship with them to the end of time.

ALL: The celebration of the Lord's Supper has ever been regarded by the Church as the innermost sanctuary of the whole Christian worship. What we do here is not merely with signs, but with the realities these signs represent. We seek to approach the Lord's Table rightly, striving to be devout and repentant, with a believing mind.

Leader: We cordially invite to partake of this Sacrament all who are truly grieved and penitent for their sins, who look to the Lord Jesus Christ for righteousness and salvation, who abide in the fellowship of his Church, and who desire to possess his Spirit and walk in his ways. To all such the compassionate Redeemer himself says: Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

*COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader:

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Everlasting God, who created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, who made humankind in your own image, and whose tender mercies are over all your works.

We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none.

We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless.

We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory.

We give thanks to you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy and sing....

*SANCTUS

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Seraphic Hymn One License #A-728042

{Sanctus is Latin for "Holy." Seraphic Hymn refers to the song of the Seraphim Angels. Sabaoth is a Hebrew name for God, referring to God as both creator and ruler of the world}.

Holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of thy glory, Hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

{Please be seated}

Words of Institution

Leader:

Lord, we remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.

Leader: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

ALL: Christ has died,

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Ordained Minister:

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We offer you these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service in behalf of all people.

Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and wine, both here within this sanctuary and within our homes, and bless us that as we receive them at this table, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united in communion with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things.

ALL: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. Amen.

BREAKING BREAD AND RAISING CUP

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.

LAMB OF GOD

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People: grant us peace.

CALL TO THE SUPPER

Leader: The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come, for all things are ready.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

{This morning we will be partaking of communion in small groups in front of the Chancel Rail.

The choir will come forward as the first group.

The ushers will then guide persons a few pews at a time down the center aisle.

You may stand or kneel at the rail.

The Pastor will distribute the bread, then instruct to consume at the same time. For those preferring **gluten free bread**, please pick up a piece as you approach the Chancel Rail.

The Elders will distribute the **red wine** and **white grape juice** and the Pastor will then instruct people to consume at the same time.

The Pastor will dismiss persons to return to their pews using the side aisles, and you can place your empty cup in the tray as you depart.

The Pastor and Elders will bring communion to the pews for those who cannot come forward.}

{We invite all baptized Christians who profess a belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour to participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion. You do not need to be a member of this congregation or of the UCC to participate in Communion.

Children who are not yet communing may come forward to receive a blessing. To indicate that you prefer a blessing, simply keep your hands by your side.}

{As you receive the elements, you may say the following...}

Pastor: The Body of Christ broken for you.

Individual: Amen.

Elder: The Blood of Christ shed for you. **Individual: Amen. or Thanks be to God.**

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by

granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing

in the power of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: 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 rejoice that God has gathered us for worship.

Now we depart to go where God sends us.

People: We are God's messengers wherever we go.

We are called to be faithful in all that we do and say.

Leader: In our work and in our leisure, may we serve faithfully.

God's love surrounds us wherever we go.

People: With joy, we will go where God sends us.

With confidence, we will share our faith with others.

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

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*SENDING HYMN

"The God of Abraham Praise"

NCH #24

One License #A-728042

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{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 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) We experience greater oneness with God and each another through Holy Communion

(9) God sends us into the world to share His love and grace with others



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@ Gathered By Love by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
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6 scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America

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- 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
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Miller, Earl D. (1994). Consecrating Stewards. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.

10 The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

The Rev. Mary Etta Mest

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

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About Today

Church Season: Lent - 40 days and six Sundays before Easter; a season of penitence as we reflect upon our personal sins, which led to the need for the sacrifice of Jesus' life for us upon the cross. The root word of "Lent" means "to lengthen", referring to the lengthening of days as we anticipate spring and the new life granted through the resurrection - moving from darkness to light.

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

Purple - Symbolizing the passion (suffering) of Christ our King that led to his crucifixion.

Sunday, March 5th- Lectionary Reading for 2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

Genesis

The book of Genesis (OT) is a part of the Pentateuch (first five books of the OT or Torah or one of the five most central books in Judaism). Genesis means beginning. The book of Genesis tells about the creation of humankind and the entire universe by the will and power of God. Genesis creates a context for the reading of the entire rest of the Bible. The book is traditionally attributed to Moses, who led the Israelite people from Egyptian slavery to freedom, through the saving grace and divine providence of God.

Psalm 121

This OT song expresses our confidence in God's providence and care. Psalms 120-134 are a part of the collection known as "A Song of Ascents." These songs were most likely sung by people on religious pilgrimages.

The Letter of Paul to the Romans

This epistle (letter) is addressed "to all God's beloved in Rome." It was dictated by the Apostle Paul to Tertius in 58 A.D. in Corinth and delivered to Rome by Phoebe (she was appointed by Paul as a deacon, teacher, and leader of the church). 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, a highly educated man, 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).

The Gospel According to Matthew

Matthew's Gospel was written around 80-90 A.D. in Antioch, Syria by a Greek-speaking Jewish Christian. The first writing was probably by a Christian scribe who wrote in the name of Matthew. Matthew was a disciple who knew Jesus personally.

Next Sunday, March 12th- Lectionary Reading for 3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

Lift High the Cross

George William Kitchin (1827–1912) Rev. by Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916; alt. John 1:29–34; Rom. 5:6–11; 6:3–8; Rev. 7:9–17; 22:1–5



Since its first inclusion in a U.S. hymnal in the 1970s, this hymn has become enormously popular. G. W. Kitchin and M. R. Newbolt were Church of England ministers. Sydney Nicholson was organist of Westminster Abbey.

Tune: CRUCIFER 10.10. with refrain Sydney Hugo Nicholson, 1916

As Moses Raised the Serpent Up

605

Versification The New Century Hymnal, 1993

John 3:14-17



This hymn is a paraphrase of the gospel for Holy Cross Day, traditionally a time for reflection on faith and the meaning of the cross. In this reading, the image of Christ on the cross as the way to eternal life is related to the story of redemption of God's rebellious people in the wilderness.

Tune: MORNING SONG C.M.

Melody from Sixteen Tune Settings, 1812

Harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940

Yigdal Elohim Chai (The God of Abraham Praise)

Gen. 12:1; 17:15-16; Exod. 3:14; Isa. 44:6; Rev. 4:8

Moses Maimonides, 12th century Versification attrib. to Daniel ben Judah, c. 1400 Transl. Max Landsberg and Newton Mann, 1884; alt.



The twelfth-century scholar Moses Maimonides drew up the thirteen articles of the Hebrew creed, which were subsequently cast in metrical form (the Yigdal). This translation represents an ecumenical collaboration between Rabbi Landsberg and Unitarian minister Mann.

Tune: LEONI 6.6.8.4.D. Traditional Yigdal melody Adapt. Meyer Lyon, 1770