

# The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

610-621-5770 -- [office@sprucc.org](mailto:office@sprucc.org) -- [www.sprucc.org](http://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*

+ † +

**Sunday, September 10, 2023**  
**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Grandparents Day**

# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## **Youth Group**

Our Youth Group, for those in grades 5-12 (or ages 12-20 years old), meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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** at [sprucc.org](http://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](mailto:Office@sprucc.org)



[www.sprucc.org](http://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<sup>®</sup> (Unison)

**This is a festival day, glorious God, a day of remembering your faithfulness through the centuries, a time for celebrating your vibrant presence with us, a pause of anticipation for the seasons yet to be. We rejoice at the assurance that you take pleasure in us, that we are known by you, called by you, empowered by you to live honorably and humbly, in the spirit of Christ. We would exalt your name and sing for joy, knowing that we can trust you for the guidance and direction we need. Amen.**

### PIANO PRELUDE

*"Wonderful Words of Life"*

*Arranged for piano by Lura Foster*

*{Those who are able, please rise}*

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"*

*♪ Red #21  
Public Domain*

### \*INVOCATION

Leader: We worship in the name of God the Father, and of God the Son, and of God the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen.**

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>®</sup>

Leader: God invites us into a living, trusting relationship.  
God is constantly offering new opportunities to us.

**People: God calls us to meaningful pursuits.**

**God wants to employ our talents for the common good.**

**ALL: Happy are those who come together in worship, service, and praise of the Lord.**

## 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<sup>®</sup> (Leader)

There is no distinction: all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. No matter how close is our relationship with God, we always fall short of God's expectations. We fail the One who gave us life. Confession removes our attempts to cover up our failure and gives us the opportunity of new beginnings. Let us confess our sins before God and before one another. Let us pray....

### \*CONFESSION OF SIN<sup>®</sup> (Unison)

**We admit, O God, that we have seldom claimed the full power of the gospel. Rather we have been hesitant and reluctant at times to speak of the Good News to others in various settings of our lives. When we fail to speak up, we join ourselves to the earth's corruption, rather than risking a protest. We battle one another, rather than daring to be peacemakers. We give too little thought to your laws, and too often fail to teach them to our children. False pride keeps us from complete trust in you. Helps us find release from the limits we place on ourselves. Help us to live more fully and more faithfully as disciples of Christ. Amen.**

### \*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

### \*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY

*"Search Me O God"  
Stanzas 1 & 3*

*W&R #385  
Orr, Hopkins  
Public Domain*

**Search me, O God, and know my heart today;  
try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.  
See if there be some wicked way in me;  
cleans me from every sin and set me free.**

**Lord, take my life and make it wholly thine;  
fill my poor heart with thy great love divine.  
Take all my will, my passion, self, and pride;  
I now surrender, Lord - in me abide.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON** <sup>®</sup> (*Leader*)

God comes unexpectedly to those willing to wait and listen and trust. The Spirit amazes and astonishes even those who wait expectantly. There is more to life than the things we can see—and more in the things we see than our eyes can discern. So, too, God is more than we can know or think. Even now, the Holy Spirit is resting on you and on the family of God's people. Do not be afraid; believe in the Good News of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**\*CALL TO PRAISE**

Leader: O Lord, open our lips

People: **And our mouths shall show forth your praise.**

**\*SUNG PRAISE**

*“Sing Praise to God who Reigns Above”*

*Stanza 1*

*♩ Blue #97*

*Johann J. Schutz  
One License #A-728042*

**Sing praise to God who reigns above, The God of all creation,  
The God of pow’r, the God of love, The God of our salvation.  
With healing balm my soul He fills, And every faithless murmur stills:  
To God all praise and glory!**

*{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 Prophet: [Ezekiel 33:7-11](#)

New Testament Letter: [Romans 13:8-14](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Gospel (Good News): [Matthew 18:15-20](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### **HYMN**

*“Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed”*

*NCH #537  
Public Domain*

### **MINI-MESSAGE**

**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, died, and was 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}*

## CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray...

## **A LITANY FOR UNITY AND PEACE** ⑥⑩

Leader: O God, our Heavenly Father, who showed forth your love by sending your only-begotten Son into the world that all might live through him: pour your Spirit upon your church that it may fulfill his command to preach the gospel to every creature;

**People: Hear us, O God.**

Leader: Look upon the sickness of the world and stretch forth your hand to heal. Make your church one and fill it with your Spirit, that it may be the instrument of your reconciling power among the nations, and that all people may be drawn to you and to one another by the bands of your love;

**People: For this we pray.**

Leader: Give your peace, your help, and your love to us your servants, that we may be united in the bond of peace and love, in one body and one Spirit, in one hope of our calling;

**People: Make us one in the unity of your Holy Spirit.**

Leader: We pray for all those who are seeking for the nations of the world a way whereby order and freedom may be maintained and the differences of peoples be justly resolved. Establish their purpose on sure foundations, and prosper their work by your Holy Spirit.

**People: Help us to follow the Prince of Peace.**

Leader: Let us pause to remember those who lost their lives from acts of violence — in war, from terrorism, in solitary and mass shootings, from domestic violence, from persecution — the loved ones they left behind, our armed forces seeking peace as they serve abroad and their loved ones at home, those nations and people mired in conflict, war, and oppression today, first responders who run toward the danger in service, protection, and rescue of us...

*{a moment of silent prayer}*

Leader: Out of the darkness of our divided world we cry to you, O God. Let not the hopes of people perish, nor their sacrifice be vain. Turn to yourself the hearts of rulers and peoples, that a new world may arise where all live as your children, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray....

## **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  
Public Domain

**Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord;  
Hear our prayer, O Lord, And grant us Thy peace.**

*{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}*

**OFFERTORY INVITATION** <sup>®</sup>

Leader: Our Hebrew ancestors offered the best of their flocks and crops to honor God.

**People: We bring symbols of our labor, dedicating them and ourselves to upholding the highest values of human life.**

Leader: May our tithes and offerings be a joyous expression of worship.

**People: We give generously of our first fruits to God through His church.**

**RETURNING GOD’S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS**

Online Giving

*{Today, we will be passing the offering plate in person. You may also offer your tithe and offering to God through our secure [Online Giving](https://sprucc.org) option on our website at [sprucc.org](https://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**

*“You Are My Hiding Place”*

*Words & Music by Michael Ledner*

*{Those who are able, please rise}*

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

*We Praise Thee, O God”*

*Stanza 1*

♪ *Red #19*  
Julia Cory  
One License #A-728042

**We praise Thee, O God, our Redeemer, Creator,  
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.**

**We lay it before Thee, we kneel and adore Thee,  
We bless Thy holy Name, glad praises we sing.**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER** <sup>®</sup> *(Leader)*

We give thanks gracious God for the gift of grandparents. We give thanks for their generosity, wisdom, service, and especially their love.

Help us dear Lord to love our grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews well. Help us to boldly share with them our Christian faith, the teachings of holy Christian scripture, the joy and discipleship of the Christian church, and our living relationship with you. Help us to pray with them, especially those times when we might not feel confident in finding the right words. Help us to speak and model Christian discipleship in such a way that these children grow in faith in such a way that they too model Christian discipleship for their grandchildren.

Generous and giving God, as Christ sacrificed all personal gain for the sake of others, including us, we venture little sacrifices to support the ministries of the church. O God, we have experienced your blessing when we give, so our most generous efforts do not seem a sacrifice. We give that your will might be done, and when it is, all of us benefit. Multiply, we pray, the power of these gifts to do the good you intend. Accept our efforts to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. **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 are God's servants, sent on a mission.  
Let us make God's deeds known among the people.

**People: We will ready ourselves to go where God sends us.  
High praises to God will come forth from our lips.**

Leader: Owe no one anything, except to love one another.  
Keep the commandments God has given.

**People: Let us then lay aside the works of darkness  
and put on the armor of the light of Christ.**

**ALL: Amen.**

### **\*BENEDICTION**

### **\*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

♪ *Red #558*  
*Public Domain*

### **\*SENDING HYMN**

*"I Love to Tell the Story"*

♪ *Red #467*  
*Public Domain*

*{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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  - ⑦ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
  - 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.
  - ⑨ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
  - ⑩ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
  - ⑩ The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
  - ⑩ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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## Staff & Leadership

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*Music Minister:* The Rev. Robert Masenheimer

*Bell Choir Director:* Miriam Borkert

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*Sextons:* Michael Pastor & Terry Pastor

*Treasurer:* Terry Pastor

*Financial Secretary & Assistant Secretary:* Geneva Aulenbach

*Consistory President:* Elsa Wertz

*Consistory Vice President:* George McLain

*Consistory Secretary:* Geri Gammel

## About Today

**Church Season: Pentecost** -which is the season of the church in mission. It is the time between the ascension of Christ and his second coming, which is the time we are presently living in today, and as such is the longest season of the church year. The day of Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian church.

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

**Green** - symbolizing the life God brings, especially through our mission work.

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 A**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Matthew.

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).

**This Sunday, September 10, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 12:1-14 *and* Psalm 149 *or* Ezekial 33:7-11 *and* Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14;  
Matthew 18:15-20

### **Ezekial**

The book of Ezekiel (OT), is attributed to the priest and prophet Ezekiel, who was born of the priestly family of Zadokite, married, then widowed, and prophesied from 593 to 571 B.C. Ezekiel proclaimed that the Israelites were defeated and exiled by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar in 587 B.C. as a just punishment from God for their idolatrous behavior (i.e. not putting God first in their lives); they need to repent (change direction heart and mind towards God), for only God can breathe life back into their dry bones. A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct.

### **Psalm 119**

This is an OT wisdom song. This song gives praise to God's law and the teaching of it. In its original Hebrew, it has an alphabetic acrostic form, which means that every other verse begins with a successive letter of the alphabet. With 176 verses, it is also the longest psalm.

### **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 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.

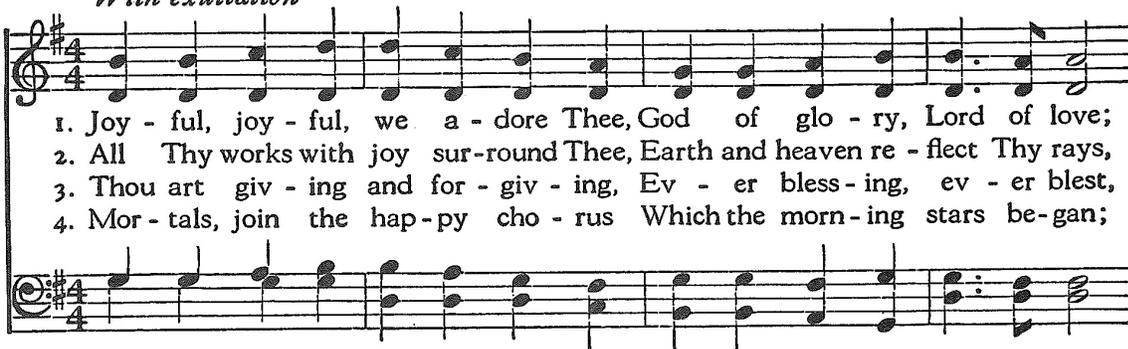
**Next Sunday, September 17, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 14:19-31 *and* Psalm 114 *or* Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 *or* Genesis 50:15-21 *and*  
Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

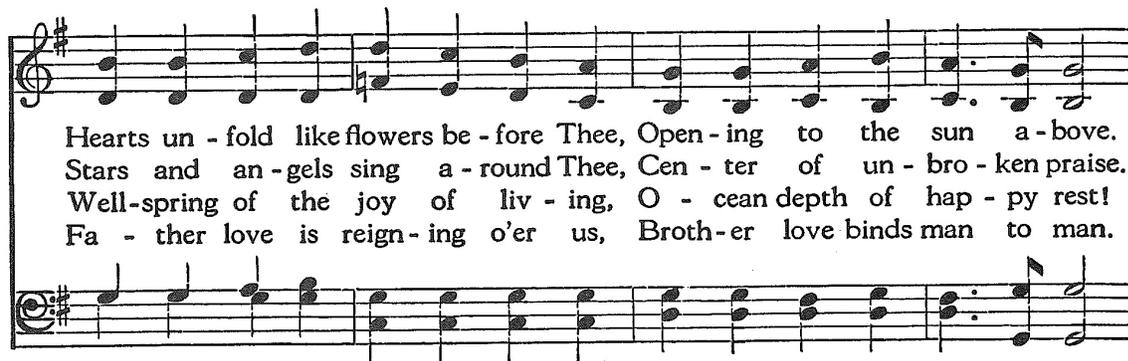
## Adoration and Praise

HENRY VAN DYKE, 1907

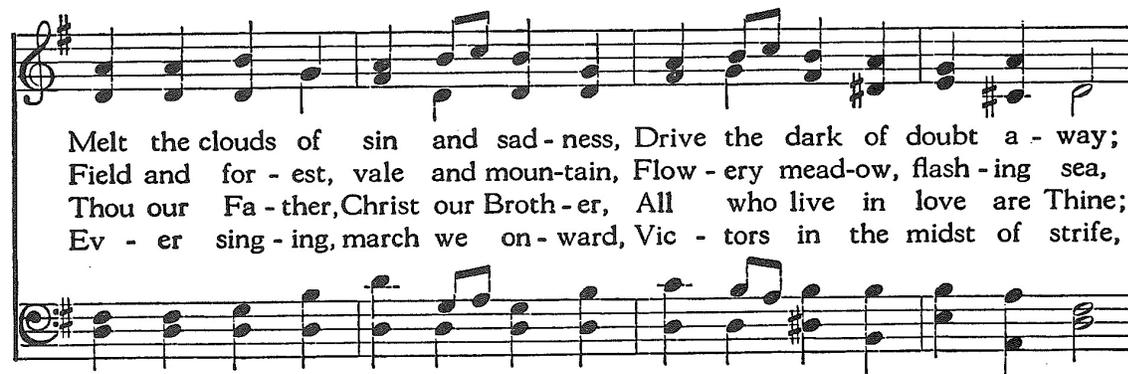
8. 7. 8. 7. D.

HYMN TO JOY  
LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN, 1824*With exultation*


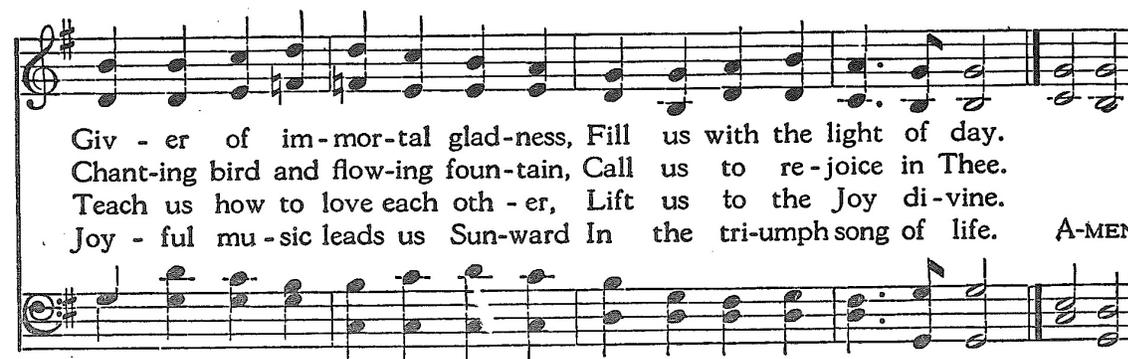
1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,  
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,  
4. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.  
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!  
Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us, Broth - er love binds man to man.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er, All who live in love are Thine;  
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.  
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the Joy di - vine.  
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us Sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life. A - MEN.

Words used by permission of Chas. Scribner's Sons.

## Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed

537

*Francis Albert Rollo Russell, 1893; alt.*


1 Chris - tian, rise and act your creed; let your  
 2 Hearts a - round you sink with care; you can  
 3 Of - fer oth - ers hope and joy, and God's  
 4 Come then, law di - vine, and reign: faith that



prayer be in your deed; Seek the right, per - form the  
 help their load to bear; You can bring in - spir - ing  
 wor - ship your em - ploy; Giv - ing thanks in hum - ble  
 doubt as - sails in vain, Per - fect love be - reft of



true, raise your work and life a - new.  
 light, strength - en them to do the right.  
 zeal, learn - ing all God's will to feel.  
 fear, born in heaven and ra - diant here.

*Francis Albert Rollo Russell was a writer on scientific subjects and a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society. This hymn was first published in the Pilgrim Hymnal (1904). The tune originated with a text used for the Feast of the Holy Innocents.*

Tune: INNOCENTS 7.7.7.7.  
 The Parish Choir, 1850

KATHERINE HANKEY, 1866; refrain added

7. 6. 7. 6. D. with Refrain

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

WILLIAM G. FISHER, 1869

1. I love to tell the sto - ry Of un - seen things a - bove,  
 2. I love to tell the sto - ry, 'Tis pleas - ant to re - peat  
 3. I love to tell the sto - ry, For those who know it best

Of Je - sus and His glo - ry, Of Je - sus and His love.  
 What seems, each time I tell it, More won - der - ful - ly sweet.  
 Seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing To hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, Be - cause I know 'tis true;  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, For some have nev - er heard  
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

It sat - is - fies my long - ings As noth - ing else would do.  
 The mes - sage of sal - va - tion From God's own Ho - ly Word.  
 'Twill be the old, old sto - ry That I have loved so long.

## REFRAIN

I love to tell the sto - ry, 'Twill be my theme in glo - ry

To tell the old, old sto - ry Of Je - sus and His love.