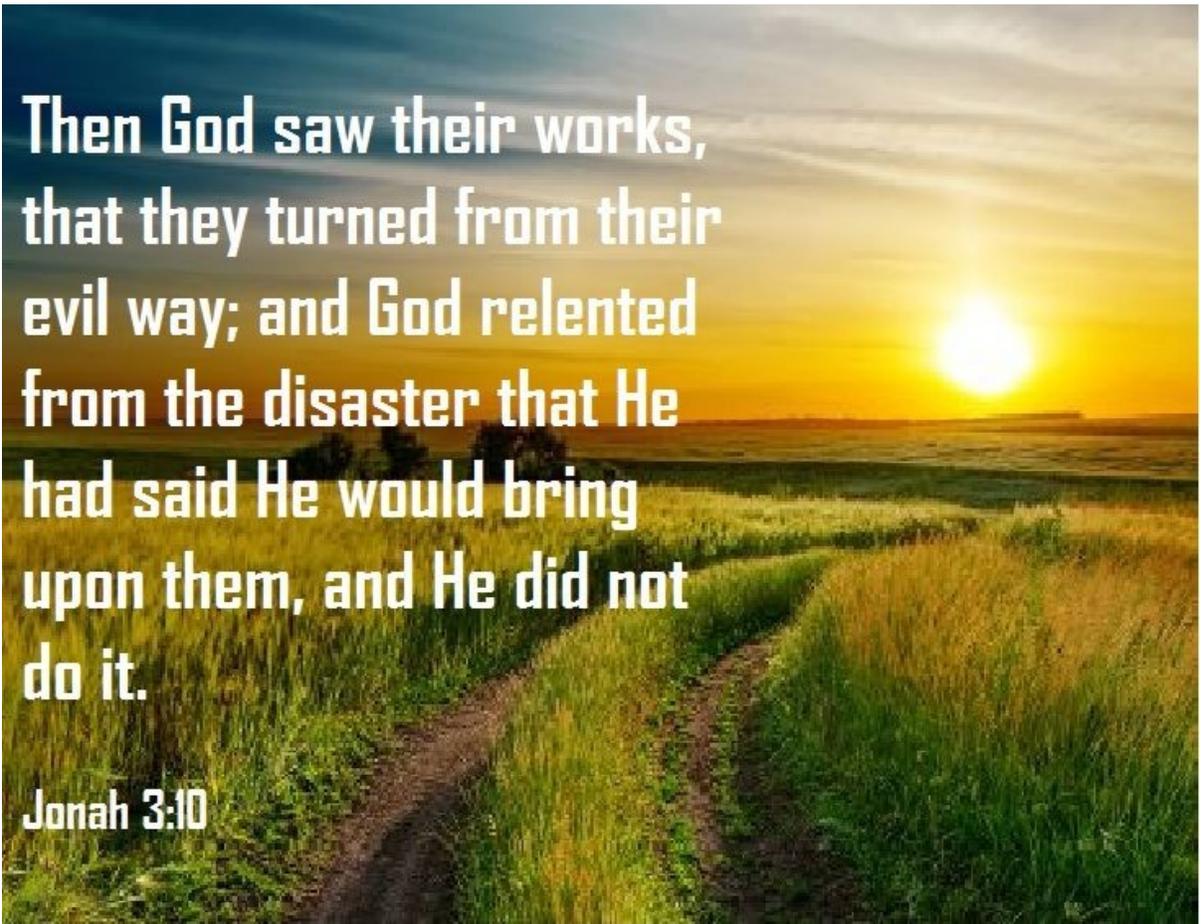


## **The United Church of Christ of Robesonia**

**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.*



**Then God saw their works,  
that they turned from their  
evil way; and God relented  
from the disaster that He  
had said He would bring  
upon them, and He did not  
do it.**

**Jonah 3:10**

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

**+ † +**

**Sunday, January 21, 2024  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

# 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. The third toilet stall in each of our four restrooms has a high toilet and handrails.

## Changing Tables

All four of our restrooms have changing tables. Each restroom has two "child care protection seats" to keep toddlers safe and secure while their parents use the restroom.

## Water Fountains

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

## Sunday School & Adult Faith Formation Classes

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

## Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship is held at 10:15am.

## Youth Group

Our Youth Group, for those in grades 5-12 (or ages 12-20 years old), meets on the 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](https://www.sprucc.org) at [sprucc.org](https://www.sprucc.org) - Live or Watch & Listen Later on [Our YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)  
[Facebook Live](https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/) at <https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/> - Live or Watch & Listen Later  
[Phone Stream](https://www.sprucc.org) at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later

If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610-621-5770 or [Office@sprucc.org](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 ⑩ (Unison)

**Holy and loving God, are we following in your footsteps? Sometimes you take us over majestic terrain. Sometimes your love around us is overwhelming. At other times we wonder if we got lost. But there you are, opening the path, letting your light shine through, sometimes only a crack, sometimes wide open. We feel very blessed. Thank you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

This service was prepared by Pastor Mary Etta Mest.

### HANDBELL PRELUDE

*“Ring Jubilee”*

*by Susan Geschke*

*{Those who are able, please rise}*

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*“Stand Up and Bless the Lord”*

*W&R #11  
Public Domain*

### \*INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of God the Father, and of God the Son, and of God the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 62*

Leader: For God alone I wait in silence;

**People: truly, my hope is in God.**

Leader: God alone is my deliverance and my honor;

**People: God is my strong rock and my refuge.**

Leader: Put your trust in God always, O people,

**People: pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

## We Repent

*This is a time to confess our wrongdoings and neglects, ask for God's mercy, admit our need for God's forgiving grace, hear the assurance of our forgiveness, and then give God our thanks and praise.*

### \*CALL TO CONFESSION ⑩ (Leader)

God of love and protection and forgiveness, hear now our confession of sins which separate us from you.

### \*CONFESSION OF SIN ⑩ (Unison)

**Lord of might and Lord of mercy, forgive our stubbornness, our reluctance, our disobedience. There is some Jonah in each of us. There are things we will not do. We don't see the point. We don't see the benefit. Ignoring you, God, by getting on a boat going the opposite direction. Wrong decision! These wrong decisions do not turn into good results. Being swallowed by a big fish? But you, Lord, are full of patience. Soon or later you turn us around. We thank you!**

### \*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

### \*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY

*"Kyrie"*

*♪ Red #518  
Public Domain*

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.**

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ⑩ (Leader)

People of God, do you feel turned around, headed where God wants you to be? It is such a "right" feeling. No need to make excuses. No need to justify our motives or our direction. We are walking toward Ninevah with Jonah. We are walking with Jesus, not away from Jesus. "So be it," says the Lord.

### \*CALL TO PRAISE ⑩

Leader: May the glory of God shine through us!  
**People: May we live as inspired followers of God!**

**It only takes a spark to get a fire going,  
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;  
that's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it;  
you spread God's love to everyone, you want to pass it on.**

*{please be seated}*

## **We Hear the Word of God**

*We seek to learn more about God's love and grace, and how we are to live our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Bible is our primary text on faith, which we consider to be scripture - sacred writings. We believe the Bible to be the "inspired word of God." Gospel (which means "Good News") refers to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which are Christians' most central books of the Bible.*

### **PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE**

**The Old Testament Reading:** [Jonah 3:1-5, 10 and Jonah 4:1-11](#)  
**The New Testament Letter:** [1 Corinthians 7:29-31](#)

**Leader:** This is the word of the Lord.  
**People:** Thanks be to God.

**The Gospel Reading:** [Mark 1:14-20](#)

**Leader:** This is the gospel of the Lord.  
**People:** Thanks be to God.

### **HYMN**

*"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"*

**W&R #591**  
Public Domain

### **MINI-MESSAGE**

### **CHILDREN'S SONG**

*"Praise Him, Praise Him!"*

Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise Him in the morning; praise Him at the Noontime.  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise Him when the sun goes down.  
(repeat)

### **SERMON**

*"Why Should We Love Foreigners?"*

## 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)** *United Church of Christ Statement of Faith* ①  
*(Section One about God)*

**All: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,  
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:  
You call the worlds into being,  
create persons in your own image,  
and set before each one the ways of life and death.  
You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.  
You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through  
prophets and apostles.  
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.**

*{Please be seated}*

### CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: God of grace,

**People: receive our prayer.**

### LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

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

### SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE

*"Gloria"*

*Text: Benjamin Motz;  
Music: Jacques Berthier  
One License #A-728042*

**We uplift our prayers, we uplift our prayers,  
we uplift our prayers to you Lord.  
Hear our prayers, grant us peace, alleluia, alleluia!**

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

**OFFERTORY INVITATION ⑩**

Leader: May we give in trust from the top of our monthly income.

**People: But how do we know if we will have enough for expenses?**

Leader: It is this thing called trust.

**People: Like following Jesus?**

Leader: Like following Jesus.

**People: Lord, give us courage and trust.**

**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 option on our website at [sprucc.org](http://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**

*"Day By Day"*

*Text and Music by Jay Althouse*

*{Those who are able, please rise}*

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

*Doxology*

*♪ Red #551*

*One License #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 ⑩(Leader)**

Blessed Jesus, Almighty God, thank you for trusting us to think of people in need of food and shelter and water and warmth and the other necessities of life we take for granted. Help us to do more than pray for the people. Help us to do a balancing act between our bell tower and other building expenses and the empty shelves in our local food pantries. In the name of the one who cares. **Amen.**

## We Are Sent Out

*In response to God's love and grace,  
we go out into the world to share God's Good News  
through our words and actions.*

### \*COMMISSION ⑩

Leader: Behold, there is a new opportunity waiting outside the door.

**People: We don't see the opportunity.**

Leader: Well, let's not forget the Safe Sanctuary training video.

**People: Then we can go forth and make disciples of children, and youth, and adults - you know - everybody!**

Leader: We are going to be like Jesus!

**People: And like Jonah!**

Leader: Yes, like Jonah and Jesus!

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*  
*Public Domain*

### \*SENDING HYMN

*"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"*

*W&R #344*  
*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):** iamheretosome



## 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.

- ① 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.
  - ① United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need (NIN) 2023 Resources.
  - ② *Led By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1996). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
  - ② *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
  - ③ Reprinted with permission from *Sundays and Seasons*. (2023). Augsburg Fortress.
  - ④ 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.
  - ⑤ Reprinted with permission from *Sourcebook of Worship Services*
  - ⑥ scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America
  - ⑥ Reprinted with permission from *Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ*. (2013).
  - ⑦ *Sunday Sermons Preaching Resources*. (2017). Margate, NJ.
  - 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
- One License is our Church Copyright License #A-728042,, 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.  
Cartoons are reprinted with permission from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*. (2023).



## Staff & Leadership

*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

*Bell Choir Director:* Miriam Borkert

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

*Sextons:* Michael Pastor & Terry Pastor

*Treasurer:* Terry Pastor

*Financial Secretary & Assistant Secretary:* Geneva Aulenbach

*Consistory President:* George McLain

*Consistory Vice President:* Kirk Aulenbach

*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):

**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.

The suggested scripture lessons are from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), which selects passages throughout the Bible over a three year cycle. The RCL is the most common lectionary used by Christian churches. We are in **Year B**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Mark.

The Bible is in two sections: Old Testament - OT (scripture prior to Christ’s birth), located in the first 2/3 of the Bible; and New Testament - NT (about Christ & early church).

**This Sunday, January 21, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

### **Jonah**

The Book of Jonah is named for the prophet Jonah, who was sent by God to the Assyrians in Nineveh to prophesy repentance to them. The Assyrians had inflicted brutal violence upon the people of Israel, and therefore Jonah initially hoped for their destruction rather than for God's grace. This OT book is dated sometime during the postexilic period (after 539 BC).

### **Psalm 62**

This OT song is a prayer expressing trust in God when experiencing persecution.

### **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 factions 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 Mark**

Mark's Gospel is the oldest and shortest of the four Gospels, written between 65-75 A.D. Papias, a church leader in the 2nd century, reported that this Gospel's author is Mark, a follower of Peter who wrote this Gospel after Peter's death.

**Next Sunday, January 28, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

# Stand Up and Bless the Lord 11

(N.C.)  $\frac{F}{A}$  F  $\frac{C}{E}$   $\frac{G7}{D}$  C F  $\frac{F}{A}$   $\frac{C7}{G}$  F Gm F C

1 Stand up and bless the Lord, you peo - ple of his choice;  
 2 O for the liv - ing flame, from God's own al - tar brought,  
 3 God is our strength and song, and his sal - va - tion ours;  
 4 Stand up and bless the Lord, the Lord your God a - dore;

$\frac{C}{E}$  F  $\frac{F}{A}$  C  $\frac{C}{E}$  F Dm C  $\frac{F}{A}$  Bb  $\frac{F}{A}$  Bb  $\frac{F}{C}$  C7 F

stand up and bless the Lord your God with heart and soul and voice.  
 to touch our lips, our minds in - spire, and wing to heaven our thought.  
 then be his love in Christ pro - claimed with all our ran - somed powers.  
 stand up and bless his glo - rious name, both now and ev - er - more.

WORDS: James Montgomery (1771-1854)  
 MUSIC: Aaron Williams' *New Universal Psalmist*, 1770

ST. THOMAS  
 S.M.

# Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life 591

Ab Eb7/Bb Ab/C Bbm/Db Eb7 Db/Eb Edim7 Fm Bb7 Eb/Bb Bb/Ab

1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the  
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad - owed  
 3 The cup of wa - ter given for you still holds the  
 4 O Mas - ter, from the moun - tain side, make haste to  
 5 Till all the world shall learn your love and fol - low

cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of  
 thresh - olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the  
 fresh - ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -  
 heal these hearts of pain; a - mong these rest - less  
 where your feet have trod: till glo - rious from your

self - ish strife we hear your voice, O Son of Man!  
 lures of greed we catch the vi - sion of your tears.  
 tudes to view the strong com - pas - sion of your face.  
 throngs a - bide, O tread the cit - y's streets a - gain,  
 heaven a - bove shall come the cit - y of our God.

Eb/G Cm Fm/Ab Eb/Bb Bb Eb Ab Eb7sus/Bb Eb7/Bb

Ab/C Ab Db/maj7 Bbm/Db Ddim7 Eb Edim7 Db/F Fm Bbm/Db Ab/Eb Eb7(no3) Eb7 Ab

WORDS: Frank Mason North (1850-1935)  
 MUSIC: William Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

GERMANY  
 L.M.

# I Have Decided to Follow Jesus 344

*Unison* C C7

1 I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de -  
 2 The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be -  
 3 Though none go with me, I still will fol - low, though none go  
 4 Will you de - cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de -

F C

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de - cid - ed to fol - low  
 hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be - hind me, the cross be -  
 with me, I still will fol - low, though none go with me, I still will  
 cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de - cide now to fol - low

C D7 G7 C  
G A B

Je - sus— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.  
 fore me— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.  
 fol - low— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.  
 Je - sus?— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.

WORDS: Anonymous  
 MUSIC: Indian folk tune

ASSAM  
 10.10.10.8.