

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.*



*Heavenly Father
give the Holy Spirit
to them that ask Him
Luke 11:13*

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



**Sunday, May 5, 2024
6th Sunday of Easter
Confirmation Sunday**

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 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

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 2nd 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 - 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



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 ^② (Unison)

Come, Holy Spirit, to lift us from empty routines to the surprising joy of your love. Loosen our tongues to praise you with sincere delight. Open our hearts to trust your leading through times of difficulty and days of despair. Calm our doubts and guide us through the mires of fear. You have called us together for mutual support in a time of worship that unites our spirits. We remember that we have been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Teach us to follow where Christ leads. Amen.

PIANO PRELUDE

{Those who are able, please rise}

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *"I Was There To Hear Your Borne Cry"* **NCH #351**
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 ^②

Leader: Come all who are born of God.

Abide in the love revealed in Jesus Christ.

People: We come in response to the one who calls us friends.

We are here in obedience to Christ's command.

Leader: Remember God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

Let hands and voices echo God's praise.

People: Let our lips pour out a joyful noise.

Let our hands reflect a serving Savior.

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)

God judges the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity. God knows all that we have done and all that we avoid. God is aware of our obedience to the way of love and our rebellion against it. We are invited to confess all that God already knows so healing and freedom can be ours in Christ Jesus.

*CONFESSION OF SIN ^② (Unison)

Ever-present God, we confess to you our unloving thoughts and deeds. We live by standards that we bend and break in our own favor, while ignoring the commandments you have given. We find it hard to love everyone, for so many act in unloving ways. It is easier to treat people as things than to listen for their needs. We withhold ourselves rather than offer our lives, even for our friends. We hoard the gifts you entrust to us instead of letting them bear fruit for you. Cleanse us from these destructive ways, freeing us to love as you have loved us, we pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ^② (Leader)

Even now, God is giving us victory over the limitations we impose on ourselves. When we trust God's love, we can emerge from the shell of self-protection to celebrate the joy of friendship in Christ. We can dare to show love that is not dependent on others' responses. We can serve without the need for recognition. Praise God! **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: Let us sing praise to our risen saviour.

People: **We praise God's holy name.**

*SUNG PRAISE

"Alleluia"

Music & Text: Jerry Sinclair

**You're my Savior, alleluia; you're my Savior, alleluia;
You're my Savior, alleluia; you're my Savior, alleluia!**

{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 Beginning of the Church of Jesus Christ: [Acts 10:44-48](#)

New Testament Letter: [1 John 5:1-6](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Gospel (Good News): [John 15:9-17](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MINI-MESSAGE

{Children may return to their pews and remain for the rest of worship, or on the 2nd & 3rd Sundays of the month, elementary age children may go downstairs at this time for the additional option of "Junior Worship"}

CHILDREN'S SONG

"Jesus Loves Me"

*NCH #327
William B. Bradbury*

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

Rite of Confirmation ①②

*The Rite of Confirmation is the affirmation of the Sacrament of Baptism.
When an adult takes the baptismal vows for a young child, the child is given the opportunity to confirm those vows when they become of age.
Confirmation is the process by which youth and young adults become full members of the Christian Church, publically profess their belief in Christ as their Lord and Saviour, and express their desire to be a disciple of Christ.*

INVITATION (Leader)

Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

SENTENCES (Leader)

Hear the words of Jesus: I am the vine, you are the branches. Anyone who abides in me, and I in that person, is the one who bears much fruit. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

{Candidates please rise}

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

Pastor: *Arial Meehan, Ayden Meehan, Ethan Motz, Preslie Ulrich, and Vaughn Ulrich, do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?*

Candidates: *I do.*

Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

Candidates: *I do.*

Pastor: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Candidates: *I do.*

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Candidates: *I promise, with the help of God.*

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

Candidates: *I promise, with the help of God.*

{All rise}

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (Unison)**

UCC Statement of Faith: The Revision of 1981: A Doxology

**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.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth,
our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

***DISCIPLESHIP STATEMENT OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF ROBESONIA (*Unison*)**

As a disciple of Christ, I seek to be....

**inwardly growing,
outwardly serving,
upwardly worshiping
together connecting. Amen.**

*{Congregation please be seated}
{Candidates please remain standing}*

PRAYER OF THE CANDIDATES (*Pastor and Candidates*)

O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to you as your own, to love and serve you faithfully all the days of my life. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Pastor: Let us pray for the faith of our confirmands.

{A period of silent prayer for the confirmation candidates.}

Pastor: Let us pray together . . .

All: Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior, 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.**

MEDITATIONS ON SCRIPTURE

ACT OF CONFIRMATION

Pastor: *Arial Meehan, Ayden Meehan, Ethan Motz, Preslie Ulrich, and Vaughn Ulrich,* the God of mercies multiply grace and peace in you, enable you truly and faithfully to keep your vows, defend you in every time of danger, preserve you to the end, and finally bring you to rest with all the saints in glory everlasting.

ALL: Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFIRMATION

Pastor: We rejoice, O merciful God, with this person in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in the Spirit's power to awaken us to new truth and to inspire us to venture into fullness of life. We give you thanks that she/he has been moved to affirm her/his baptism. Help her/him to live not for herself/himself but for Christ and those whom Christ loves. Keep her/him steady and abounding in hope, never giving up, pressing toward the goal of life with you in Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen.

{Candidates please rise}

ADDRESS (Pastor)

By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

QUESTION ABOUT PARTICIPATION

Pastor: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

{Representative from each Standing Committee, please come forward}

{Candidates please come forward}

{Members please rise}

***SHARING IN THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF ROBESONIA**

WORSHIP

Leader: You have vowed to share regularly in the worship of God.

Candidates: We offer our names in the Pew Welcome Pad to symbolize our ongoing regular attendance in worship.

Worship Committee: On behalf of your church, I accept this sign.

Members: We reaffirm our vows to sharing regularly in the communal worship of God.

EVANGELISM

Leader: You have vowed to witness to the word of Jesus Christ.

Candidates: We offer the names in the Guest Book of the visitors we invited to symbolize our ongoing efforts to invite others into the Body of Christ.

Evangelism Committee: On behalf of your church, I accept this sign.

Members: We reaffirm our vows to evangelize the Good News of the grace of God by both our words and our deeds.

MISSION & SERVICE

Leader: You have vowed to witness to the work of Jesus Christ and to enlist in the work of this local church as it serves this community.

Candidates: **We offer our Time and Talent sheets as a symbol of our willingness and desire to participate in the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ as His Body.**

Mission Committee: On behalf of your church, I accept this sign.

Members: **We reaffirm our vows to personally participate in the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ and in service through His church.**

STEWARDSHIP

Leader: You have vowed to further Christ's mission throughout the world and to be a faithful member of the church.

Candidates: **We offer our "Faith Promise to God Cards" and our weekly envelopes to symbolize our willingness and desire to be good stewards and to give the first and best of our resources to God through His church.**

Deacons: On behalf of your church, I accept this sign.

Members: **We reaffirm our vows to give our first and best to God and to financially support the local and worldwide mission of the United Church of Christ.**

CONTINUAL FAITH FORMATION

Leader: You have vowed to grow in the Christian faith.

Candidates: **We offer our names in the Sunday School attendance pad to symbolize our continual participation in ongoing Christian formation.**

Christian Education Committee: On behalf of your church, I accept this sign.

Members: **We reaffirm our vows to intentionally join together in Sunday school or Bible study, to learn and grow in our Christian faith, and to continue our formation as faithful disciples of Christ.**

FAMILY OF FAITH

Leader: The church is a body of people, not a building. It is something that we become when we gather, not a place to which we go on Sundays.

Candidates: **We offer the work of our hands, to symbolize our love, support, and care of the members of this church, and our commitment to care for the place where the church gathers to worship.**

Fellowship Committee & Property Committee: On behalf of your church, I accept this sign.

Members: **We do not go to church, but become the church when we gather together. We reaffirm our vows to regularly gather with you as a family of faith, and reaffirm that you can depend upon us to be here weekly when you arrive, in order to continually give you our love, support, and care, and to be here that together we may be the church.**

{Congregation please rise}

***WELCOME**

Pastor: Let us, the members of the United Church of Christ of Robesonia, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

***GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE**

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the United Church of Christ of Robesonia, we extend to you the hand of Christian love.

***PRAYER** *(Leader)*

Eternal God, we praise you for calling us to be your servant people and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank you for sending to us these believers that we may work together in serving the needs of others.

Confirm in us the power of your covenant that we may live in your Spirit, share regularly in worship, and so love each other that we may have among us the same mind which was in Christ Jesus, to whom be all honor and glory.

ALL: Amen.

*{Congregation & Candidates, please be seated;
the choir will remain standing for the singing of this hymn.}*

HYMN

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

*♪ Red #271
Public Domain*

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.*

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ²

Leader: We are people whom God has blessed with many gifts.

People: God has done marvelous things for us.

Leader: How will we, who have been baptized by water and the Spirit, respond to God's generosity?

People: We offer the fruits of our labors, our time, talent, and treasure.

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 (Click Here), or you may mail your offering to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.

CHORAL OFFERTORY

{Those who are able, please rise}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"Alleluia"

Music & Text: Jerry Sinclair

**You are worthy, alleluia, You are worthy, alleluia,
You are worthy, alleluia, You are worthy, alleluia!**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER ² (Leader)

Generous and loving God, we dedicate to your service the work of our hands, the earnings of our time and efforts, and our vision for the future. May faith sustain us as we offer our best to you in praise and thanksgiving and joyous dedication. We seek to work for the reign of your truth and extension of the friendship granted to us in Jesus Christ. Let our offering bear fruit in the lives of all who are helped by it. **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.*

*REMEMBERING OUR CONFIRMATION[®] (Leader) from *My Confirmation & Heidelberg Catechism (20th Century Ed.)*

To our latest confirmation class and to all who have been previously confirmed
You are now confirmed. Never forget what you have done. Often recall the lessons, hymns and prayers, your confession, vows and kneeling, the laying on of hands, the solemn blessing. Now that you are a full member of the church, stand firm. Be faithful to your vows. Beware of backsliding — the quiet, slow, gradual slipping away from daily faithfulness in private and public Christian duty. Be careful to cultivate a tender conscience and a devotional spirit. Receive the Lord's Supper regularly. Always come to the holy communion humbly, sincerely, trustfully. At every communion, recall your confirmation vows, and carefully look over your past life to see how they have been kept. Cultivate great love for the church. Take a deep interest in all its work. Regularly go to the house of God and heartily join in worship. Be active in church work. Faithfully use your gifts for the salvation of others. Regularly join with fellow Christians to study the Bible. Read the Bible daily and prayerfully. Use all the best helps you can to learn from scripture. One great help is the sermon. Listen carefully to it. Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.

*COMMISSION[®]

Leader: Friends of Christ, carry God's love into the world.
You have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.

**People: May the Holy Spirit inspire our words.
May God's love in Christ empower our deeds.**

Leader: Sing of the victory of self-giving friendship.
Witness to the saving power of love.

**People: In Christ, we are servants and friends.
We are learning to love as we have been loved.**

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

W&R #581

Words: One License #A-728042
Music: 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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 - 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).
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 - 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.
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 - ⑩ The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
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Staff & Leadership

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Music Minister: The Rev. Robert Masenheimer

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Sextons: Michael Pastor & Terry Pastor

Treasurer: Terry Pastor

Financial Secretary (Interim): Terry Pastor

Consistory President: George McLain

Consistory Vice President: Kirk Aulenbach

Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

About Today

Church Season: Easter - The Easter Season begins on Easter Sunday, and continues for seven weeks until Pentecost. 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):

White - symbolizing the defeat of death and darkness of sin with the resurrection to eternal life, and the light of the resurrected Christ.

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). The first four books of the NT are called the "Gospels," which are about the life of Jesus Christ, which Christians consider the most central books of the Bible; the rest of the NT takes place after his ascension into heaven.

This Sunday, May 5, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

The Acts of the Apostles

The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of the Apostles (NT) are attributed to Luke "the beloved physician" written around 59-90 A.D. This is essentially volume 2 of the Gospel of Luke. The Book of Acts records the ministry of the early church after the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven, and guides us how we are to live, act, work, and be the church.

The First Letter of John

This epistle (letter) is a homily attributed to the apostle John, as is the Gospel of John. Of the core 12, John is believed to be the "beloved disciple" (John 19:26). This epistle is believed to be written in Ephesus around 100 A.D.

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, May 12, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

CONFIRMATION

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I Was There to Hear Your Morning Cry

John Ylvisaker, 1985; alt

Unison

D7 G D G D G D

1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
 2 When you found the won - der of the Word, I was
 3 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too
 4 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be

G D G D7 G D

there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
 there to cheer you on; You were raised to praise the
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you
 there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you

G D G C D7 G

were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.
 liv - ing God, to whom you now be - long.
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.
 were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold. *St. 4, end*

G/B C G

I was there when you were but a child, with a
 Should you find some-one to share your time and you
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you

Am D G G/B C

faith to suit you well; I'll be there in case you
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
 shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have

G A7 D *to beginning*

wan - der off and find where de - mons dwell.
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

John Ylvisaker is the composer of a number of collections of music in the "contemporary" or "folk" idiom, as well as soundtracks for various media productions. This is perhaps his best-known song.

Tune: BORNING CRY 9.7.9.6.D.
 John Ylvisaker, 1985

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The Christian Life

JOHN E. BODE, 1868

7. 6. 7. 6. D.

ANGEL'S STORY
ARTHUR H. MANN, 1883*In moderate time*


1. O Je - sus, I have prom - ised To serve Thee to the end;
2. O let me feel Thee near me! The world is ev - er near;
3. O let me hear Thee speak - ing In ac - cents clear and still,
4. O Je - sus, Thou hast prom - ised To all who fol - low Thee




Be Thou for - ev - er near me, My Mas - ter and my Friend:
I see the sights that daz - zle, The tempt - ing sounds I hear;
A - bove the storms of pas - sion, The mur - murs of self - will!
That where Thou art in glo - ry There shall Thy serv - ant be;




I shall not fear the bat - tle If Thou art by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, A - round me and with - in;
O speak to re - as - sure me, To has - ten or con - trol!
And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised To serve Thee to the end;




Nor wan - der from the path - way If Thou wilt be my Guide.
But, Je - sus, draw Thou near - er, And shield my soul from sin.
O speak, and make me lis - ten, Thou Guard - ian of my soul!
O give me grace to fol - low My Mas - ter and my Friend! A-MEN.



581 Called as Partners in Christ's Service

A D/A A E7 A D(9/2) D A/E E7 A

1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life

A D/A A E7 E#dim7 F#m D A/E E7 A

we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quers strife.

F#m F#m F#m C#7 F#m C# A D/A A E/B B7 E7

May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,

A D/A A E7 E#dim7 F#m D A/E E7 A

e-equal part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.

WORDS: Jane Parker Huber (1926-)

MUSIC: John Zundel (1815-1882)

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BEECHER

8.7.8.7.D.