United Church of Christ 301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

> No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.



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

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August 28, 2022 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 10:15 a.m.

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 very welcome to participate in the entire worship service. For safety, during the COVID pandemic we temporarily ceased having supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, on Sunday, September 11, 2022. In the meantime, parents who would like to do so, are welcome to watch their own children in the nursery, where a closed circuit TV is located, so that you can still see and hear the worship service.

Junior Worship

For safety, during the pandemic we temporarily ceased offering Junior Worship. We will resume Junior Worship on Sunday, September 11, 2022. The option of Junior Worship is offered downstairs, on the 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month, following the children's sermon, for elementary age children to learn about today's scripture lessons.

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

For the safety of all, our water fountains are disabled during the pandemic.

Sunday School & Adult Faith Formation Classes

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

Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship is held at 10:15am.

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 St. Paul's or Zion United Church of Christ. For more information about St. Paul's, Zion, and the UCC, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our churches.

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; S# = Red Hymnal Page; <math>J# = Blue Hymnal Page}







Virtual Worship Service

Online: Live Stream at spruce.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on <u>St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel</u> <u>Facebook Live</u> (St. Paul's) at <u>https://www.facebook.com/www.spruce.org/</u> - Live or Watch & Listen Later <u>Phone Stream</u> 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@spruce.org

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

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP^(Unison)

Gracious God, our helper, we seek the assurance of your presence in this time of worship. We have come to listen and to receive your counsel. Melt our stubborn hearts to remove the barriers that keep us from seeing your glory and doing your will. Challenge all that is worthless and unprofitable in our lives, that we may become worthy imitators of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

PIANO PRELUDE	"The Lily of the Valley"	based on a tune by Ira D. Sankey

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN	"We Are Called to Be God's People"	Blue #415
		One License #A-728942

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: Listen now to the voice of God and submit to God's will. Hear the Word of God and turn away from worthless things. People: We will delight in the commandments of our God. We will share eagerly in the work God gives us to do.

Leader: This is God's holy day.

How will we honor God in word and deed?

People: We will delight in the Word and works of our God.

We will join together in praise and good works.

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)

When we are not in daily communion with God, false gods rush in to claim our loyalty. We chase after things that do not profit. We become cracked cisterns than can hold no water. Only God can fill our emptiness. Let us confess our sins before God and before one another.

*CONFESSION OF SIN ② (Unison)

O God, we are desolate and frightened, for there are evil tidings all around us and we do not know you well enough to count on your help. We often cannot hear your voice or sense your presence. There is a void within us that things cannot satisfy. We have reached for self-serving honors and recognition, but they provide no lasting fulfillment. Forgive our mistaken priorities and draw us to you, the source of living water. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

***SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY** *"Lord, Thy Mercy, Now Entreating"*

Red #216 Public Domain

Lord, Thy mercy now entreating, Low before Thy throne we fall; Our misdeeds to Thee confessing, On Thy Name we humbly call.

*Assurance of Pardon ② (Leader)

Happy are those who fear God, who delight in God's commandments. It is well with those who deal generously with others, conduct their affairs with justice, and care for the poor. When we listen to God, the enemies with and around us are subdued and we can walk with hope, joy, and confidence into each new day. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE 10

Leader: Uplift your voices in praise to God. **People: We weekly gather to sing praise to the Lord.**

*SUNG PRAISE "All Creatures of Our God and King"

Red #15 One License #A-728042

All creatures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, And praise the Spirit, Three in One O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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 First Lesson: Sirach 10:12-18 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Second Lesson: Leader: This is the word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 14:1. 7-14 Leader: This is the word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "Praise the Source of Faith and Learning" One License #A-728042 These words will be sung to the tune "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper.

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS (3)

{All students, teachers, school staff, and younger children are invited to come forward. If you have your backpack or briefcase, bring it forward with you.}

SCRIPTURE (Leader) - from Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

(Those who are able, please rise)

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Leader: Let us pray... Dear God, as we get ready to start another year in school, we ask your blessing on these backpacks, and especially on these students who will carry and wear them. As they do the very important work of being students, bless them with: eagerness to learn, that their world may grow large, respect for teachers and fellow students, that they may form healthy relationships; love for nature, that they may become caretakers of your creation; happiness when learning is easy and stick-to-it-iveness when learning is hard; faith in Jesus as their best teacher and closest friend. 5

ALL: We ask that you would protect these, your own children. Watch over them and keep them safe as they travel to and from school.

As they learn, help them also to discover the different gifts that you have given each one of them to be used in your work in the world.

- Leader: As they hear the many voices that will fill their days, help them to listen most carefully for your voice, the one that tells them you will love them always, no matter what.
- ALL: We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYER FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND ADMINISTRATORS 300

Leader: Let us pray for all who are beginning a new school year and Sunday school year. that both students and teachers will be blessed in their academic endeavors and Biblical study.

ALL: Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge. Grant teachers the gift of joy and insight, and students the gift of diligence and openness, that all may grow in what is good and honest and true. Grant administrators wisdom and support staff a servant's heart, that all might serve and work well in mutual support and care. Support all who teach and all who learn, that together we may know and follow your ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us when we pray to say...

Lord's Prayer (Unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

MINI-MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S SONG "God Hears My Prayer"

God, our Father, hears my prayer Anytime and anywhere, He will listen when I pray, Hear the loving words I say.

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 aiving of ourselves for the sake of the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

(Those who are able, please rise)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) "Apostle's 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)

***PRAYER RESPONSE** *"O Thou Who Hearest Every Heartfelt Prayer"*

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O Thou who hearest every heartfelt prayer, With Thy rich grace Lord, all our hearts prepare; Thou art our Life, Thou art our Love and Light, O let this Sabbath hour with Thee be bright. Amen.

OFFERTORY INVITATION 2

Leader: Through our offering, we extend to the world God's banquet invitation.

People: As we reach out to people who have not known our advantages, we are blessed.

Leader: Let us not neglect to do good and to share generously what we have,

People: for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

{Those who are able, please rise}

OFFERTORYSOLO

"Near to the Heart of God" Soloist – Brian Keppley text and music by Leland McAfee

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. Amen.

{As we share in hybrid worship, there is no passing of the plate in person. A plate is placed in the rear of the sanctuary for offerings to be placed when arriving or departing from the sanctuary.)

Whether worshiping in person or online,

the safest way to offer your tithe and offering to God through his church is through St. Paul's UCC secure <u>Online Giving</u> option on our website at **sprucc.org**. <u>St. Paul's UCC Click Here</u> Offerings may also be mailed to St. Paul's UCC; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551 or Zion UCC; PO Box 97; Womelsdorf, PA 19567}

*OFFERTORY PRAYER (Leader) 2

Our God, in joyous thanksgiving for the banquet of life, we invite those who live in poverty to share our wealth. We give up some of our luxuries for the sake of brothers and sisters who lack food, shelter, or medical care. We reach out to help, expecting no reward but the satisfaction of sharing what you have so richly entrusted to us. We dedicate our time and abilities along with these first fruits of our labor. **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: Go forth as humble servants of Almighty God. Those who humble themselves will be exalted.

People: Everyone is a child of God, deserving of our attention, witness and service.

We are privileged to share God's bounty with God's world.

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

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NCH #539

***Sending Hymn** *"Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?"*

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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

TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

The Flow of the Worship Service

Our worship service has an intentional order to it. The flow of worship is called the liturgical movement. The movement reminds us weekly of our journey in faith of moving from being separated from God by sin, to being restored by God's grace as disciples of Christ. It is based on the sixth chapter of the Biblical book of Isaiah.

(1) God welcomes us and invites us

(2) We respond to God's call by worshiping Him

- (3) We confess our need for God's forgiveness and grace
- (4) We are assured of God's forgiveness and grace
- (5) We learn more about God's will through scripture, song, and sermon
- (6) We grow closer to God and one another through prayer
- (7) We give God thanks by offering our time, talent, and treasure
- (8) God sends us into the world to share His love and grace with others

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Worship Service Resource Credits

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⁽²⁾ Gathered By Love by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.

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- ⁽¹⁾ Lecturn Resource. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
- 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.

[®] 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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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)

Church Secretary: Janice Conner - 610-781-4825 or 717-933-8910

Sextons: Michael Pastor & Terry Pastor

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue; Robesonia, PA 19551 610-621-5770 *** office@spruce.org

www.SPRUCC.org

Consistory President: Sheri Rowe Consistory Vice President: Elsa Wertz Consistory Secretary: Treasurer: Terry Pastor Acting Financial Secretary: Terry Pastor Zion United Church of Christ PO Box 97; Womelsdorf, PA 19567 www.1Zion.org

Consistory President: George McLain Consistory Vice President: Cory Putt Consistory Secretary: Yvonne Rentschler Treasurer: George McLain 717-628-1875 or 610-507-7865 Financial Secretary: Janice Conner

Free WiFi: StPaulsUCC-Guest & StPaulsUCC-5G-Guest Password (for both): iamheretoserve

Link to Website's Upcoming Eve



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. During this season we focus on how we, as disciples of Jesus Christ, are called by God to go out into the world and share his Good News through both our deeds and words.

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

Green –symbolizing the growth of the Christian church, as we go out into the world and share God's Good News with both our words and actions, and invite others into the church of Jesus 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 C**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Luke.

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 Christians consider the most central books of the Bible; the rest of the NT takes place after his ascension into heaven.

This Sunday, August 28, 2022 -- Lectionary Reading for the 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Sirach 10:12-18	Psalm 112	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Luke 14:1, 7-14

The Wisdom of Jesus Son of Sirach

Sirach is attributed to Jesus Son of Eleazar son of Sirach of Jerusalem (known as Ben Sira) and written around 180 B.C. Ben Sira was a traveling teacher for the "house of instruction". By demonstrating the wisdom of Judaism, this book addresses the questioning (which was leading to decline) as to whether or not the ancient Jewish traditions could match the new teachings of Greek thought and philosophy. This was widely used as a handbook of wisdom and faith.

The Pharisees omitted this book from the Jewish canon, but some rabbis considered it to be a sacred writing. Although, copies of the Greek translation survived, fragments of the Hebrew version were only discovered in the 1960s. Sirach is considered to be a deuteroncanonical (after-canon or second-canon) text by the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches, and an apocryphal (secret, hidden, or non-canonical) book by most Protestant churches. The 18 deuteroncanonical/aprocryphal books are deemed as important writings, but they are not universally viewed as "sacred", and are often not held in the same high authoritative regard as the more widely accepted 66 canonized books.

Psalm 112

This is an OT wisdom song, extolling the virtues of living as a person of faith, and giving praise to righteous living. In its original Hebrew, it has an alphabetic acrostic form, which means that every other verse begins with a successive letter of the alphabet.

Hebrews

The Epistle (letter) to the Hebrews (NT) is attributed to the Apostle Paul, believed to be written between 60-95 A.D. (C.E.). Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and leader in the Christian church, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. He wrote more of the NT than any other person. The title of this letter "Hebrews" presumably refers to the original audience of this letter as primarily Jewish-Christian.

The Gospel According to Luke

The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles is attributed to Luke "the beloved physician," written around 59-90 A.D. (C.E.). Not having met Jesus personally, Luke undertook the task of "investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account" of Jesus Christ, "so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed."

Next Sunday, September 4, 2022 -- Lectionary Reading for the 13th Sunday after Pentecost

	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalm 1	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-33
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WWW.PSEC.ORG OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION IN SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA



August 28, 2022

Preaching Classes Offered for All

Rev. Dr. Steve Ohnsman, Pastor of Calvary UCC in Reading is offering preaching classes. It doesn't matter if you are lay or clergy, all are welcome.

speaking skills. We will choose 5 more two hour classes that will end in May. The class is free and will be held at Calvary UCC, 640 Centre Ave., Reading The first class will meet on October 2nd from 12-2pm. We will cover the basics of exegesis, different ways to prepare sermons, and better public

For more information contact Steve Ohnsman at ohnsman@comcast.net.

"From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving" **Stewardship Theme Materials**

Download Stewardship Theme Materials for your congregation's stewardship efforts.

resources for preaching and teaching about paign guidance and calendars help leaders make the best use of these robust materi-Materials include practical tools such as stewardship throughout the year. Camlogos, commitment cards, bulletin inserts, and letters, and provide als for their specific context and size.



Various download options available. Printed packs also available but will be delayed due to the UCC Resources temporary closure.

Order at uccresources.com .

From the Addiction & Recovery Taskforce: Step Eleven

contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious His will for us and the power to carry that out.

and improving that relationship. We need a system of belief that works when we surrender control. This step is used to maintain our spiritual condition by increasing our awareness of God as a source of strength The first ten steps set the stage and give us a foundation to improve our conscious contact with God. Our lives take on deeper meaning for us.

choose to practice in a variety of ways, as this is a spiritual not religious Our lives should be maintained on a spiritually sound basis. With our religious practices to help with prayer and meditation. Many others selfish motives out of the way, we find peace. Some will seek out program.

pray and meditate successfully. Meditation provides emotional balance meditation we achieve this contact. It is necessary to still our minds to Prayer is communicating and meditation is listening for God's answer. awareness and empathy toward others that had never been possible Through prayer we seek spiritual contact with our God, during and the results show in our daily lives. We begin to experience before.

need is for knowledge of God's will for us and the strength to carry that clearly what is real, respect the beliefs of others, and we seek strength we use this step over and over to receive the benefits God's will has to and guidance according to our belief. Through surrender and humility, out. God's will becomes our own true will for ourselves. We see more Our belief and understanding changes, and we see that our greatest offer.

helping others stay clean, we give freely and gratefully what has been Practicing spiritual principles helps us carry a message of recovery. By given to us. We continue the journey with Step Twelve.

FAMILY OF BELIEVERS



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"Praise the Source of Faith and Learning"

- 1. Praise the Source of faith and learning that has sparked and stoked the mind with a passion for discerning how the world has been designed. Let the sense of wonder flowing from the wonders we survey keep our faith forever growing and renew our need to pray.
- 2. God of wisdom, we acknowledge that our science and our art and the breadth of human knowledge only partial truth impart. Far beyond our calculation lies a depth we cannot sound where your purpose for creation and the pulse of life are found.
- 3. May our faith redeem the blunder of believing that our thought has displaced the grounds for wonder which the ancient prophets taught. May our learning curb the error which unthinking faith can breed lest we justify some terror with an antiquated creed.
- As two currents in a river fight each other's undertow till converging they deliver one coherent steady flow.
 Blend, O God, our faith and learning till they carve a single course till they join as one, returning praise and thanks to you, their Source.

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt. Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29 1 & 6 Won't you let me your ser - vant, let be be as Christ to you? me 2 We are pil - grims on a jour-ney, we are trav-elers on the road: 3 will hold the Christ-light for you in Ι the shad - ow of your fear; 4 Ι will weep when you are weep-ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you. 5 When we sing to God in heav-en we shall find such har - mo - ny, Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser-vant, too. We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load. I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear. Ι will share your joy and sor-row till we've seen this jour-ney through. Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny. (repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States. Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7. Richard Gillard, 1977 Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.

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