

The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org

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



*Welcome to our
Worship Service
In-Person & Streaming Online*

+ † +

January 29, 2023
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
10:15am

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.

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.

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.

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}*



www.sprucc.org



Free WiFi

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

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

We Gather

*We are coming together as a community of faith to worship our God,
and provide for one another our love, support, and care.*

*Please Do Not move the red ribbons or sit where they are placed.
They are there for your safety and the safety of those around you to help designate social distancing.*

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*{If you have not already done so,
please sign and pass the pew welcome pad
to the person next to you.}*

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP ② (Unison)

Wise and holy God, let the mountains hear our voices raised in prayer and praise. We gather in this sacred place to honor and adore you. We come humbly, claiming the cross of Jesus Christ as our sign. We give thanks that you lift up the weak and lowly, defy the world's foolishness, and invite us to share in life at its fullest and best as disciples of Jesus. We want to accept your invitation. Amen.

PRELUDE

"Let All Things Now Living"

Traditional Welsh melody "Ash Grove"
See Hymn #794 Celebration (Blue) Hymnal

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

♪ *Red #287*
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 ②

Leader: Jesus taught: Blessed are the poor in spirit.
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**People: Those who mourn are blessed.
They will be comforted.**

Leader: The meek will inherit the earth.
The merciful will obtain mercy.

**People: All who hunger and thirst for righteousness are blessed.
They will be filled**

Leader: Blessed are the pure in heart and the peacemakers;
They are God's children and will see God.

**People: Those persecuted and falsely accused are blessed.
Even in the face of evil, we will rejoice; for our reward is great in heaven.**

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 knows the intent of our hearts as we come to this time of repentance. Are we intent on doing justice? Do we love mercy? Are we ready to walk humble with our Creator? If so, God is ready to hear our prayers. Let us confess our sins before God and before one another.

*CONFESSION OF SIN ② (Unison)

O God, we confess that we have accepted the world's wisdom as our guide. We have been impressed by the power of weapons and the importance of high positions. We measure worth by the number of possessions we command. We have been unkind in our speech and uncaring in our deeds. We have doubted the power of the cross to save. Turn us around, holy God, that we might be blessed. 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)

The God who forgives calls us to a life of kindness in word and deed, mercy toward both friend and foe, and justice in all our dealings. Thank God for setting before us standards that surpass our highest aspirations, along with the possibility for joyous fulfillment. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE ②

Leader: The true light of Christ, which enlightens everyone, has come into the world.
People: We praise God, for the light shines and overcomes all darkness.

**Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.**

{Please be seated}

We Hear the Word of God

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

PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

First Lesson: [Micah 6:1-8](#)
Second Lesson: [1 Corinthians 1:18-31](#)

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

Gospel Lesson: [Matthew 5:1-12](#)

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

HYMN

"Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit"

NCH #180

*Special permission from Hope Publishing
Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper.*

MINI-MESSAGE

CONGREGATION SINGS

"Jesus Loves Me"

W&R #437

*Anna B. Warner, William B. Bradbury
One License #A-728042*

**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.**

SERMON

We Respond with Thanks

*We have heard God's call and have come and worshiped,
we have confessed our sins and been assured of our forgiveness, we have learned
more about God's grace and God's will. We now respond by
re-affirming our faith in God,
praying with and for one another, trusting in God's providence in our world, and giving
of ourselves for the sake of the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.*

{Those who are able please rise}

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) "Apostles' Creed"**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended to the dead;
on the third day he rose again,
ascended into heaven,
and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

{Please be seated}

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

{silent prayer}

Leader: Cultivate humility in your church. In gatherings of every size, teach us to boast only in the cross. Shape your church to be people of kindness, generosity, and justice. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: The foundations of the earth bear witness to your faithfulness; the mountains and hills echo with your holiness. When we mistreat your creation, show us the error of our ways. Inspire us with reverent awe to honor all you have made. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: You make foolish the wisdom of the world. Raise up honorable leaders who seek justice, love mercy, and pursue peace. Frustrate plans that are corrupt, wicked, and self-seeking. Prosper the work of peacemakers. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: Bless all whom the world rejects. Accompany those who are regarded as foolish, weak, low, and despised; reveal your power and presence at work where it is least expected. Give your life, strength, and wisdom to all in need. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: As with your people Israel, remind this congregation of your saving acts. Remind us how your faithfulness brought us through difficulties and sustained us despite our weaknesses. Establish the cross as the center of our life together. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: Praise to you for your blessed saints in every time and place. Trusting you accompanied them in poverty, persecution, and in every trial, we trust you abide with your people always. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

People: Amen.

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"*

*♩ Blue #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. Amen.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION ②

Leader: God is neither pleased with burnt offerings nor impressed by the size of our gifts.

People: God wants our full commitment and devotion, of which our giving in these moments is only a symbol.

CHORAL OFFERTORY *"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"* Text by William Williams, 1745
Set to an original tune by Mary Ellen Kerrick

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

*{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 our secure [Online Giving](#) option on our website at sprucc.org. [Click Here](#)
Offerings may also be mailed to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.*

{Those who are able, please rise}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *"We Give Thee But Thine Own"*

W&R #688
*How/Foley
Public Domain*

**We give thee but thine own whate'er the gift may be.
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER ② (Leader)**

Holy God, we devote ourselves and these tokens of our thankfulness toward the realization of your kingdom among us. We pray for purity of heart as we hunger and thirst for righteousness and as we seek to be peacemakers. We rejoice in this opportunity to share in the extension of your kingdom. Bless us and our offering, we pray, in Jesus' name. **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: Walk blamelessly before God and do what is right.
Speak the truth to all, from your heart.

People: We will honor and fear God each day.

May our words and deeds resist all evil.

Leader: Consider your call to discipleship and live righteously.
Know that God chooses you for a blessing.

People: We are amazed at the responsibility God gives us.

We rejoice in sharing the blessings God promises with others.

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"Rise Up, O Church of God"

♩ *Blue #433*
One License #A-728042

*{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

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.
 - ② *Gathered By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
 - ③ Reprinted with permission from *Sundays and Seasons*. (2020). 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
 - ⑦ Reprinted with permission from *Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ*. (2013).
 - ⑧ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑨ 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
 - ⑩ Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑪ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
 - ⑫ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
 - ⑬ The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
 - ⑭ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
- 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.



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: Geneva Aulenbach

United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue; Robesonia, PA 19551

610-621-5770 *** office@sprucc.org

www.SPRUCC.org

Consistory President: Elsa Wertz

Consistory Vice President: George McLain

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.

Sunday, January 29th- Lectionary Reading for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

Micah

The OT book of Micah is named for its author, the 8th century B.C. prophet Micah. Micah means “Who is like the LORD,” and he prophesied during the reigns of kings Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. This book focuses on ethical issues, and shares a message of divine forgiveness and hope.

Psalm 15

This OT song is attributed to the authorship of King David. It is intended as a liturgy for entering into the sanctuary. It asks and answers the question of who may have admission into worship.

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 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, February 5th- Lectionary Reading for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12); Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16); Matthew 5:13-20

In moderate time, with dignity

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Thy peo - ple pour Thy power;
2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn Thy Christ, as - sail His ways!
3. Cure Thy chil-dren's war-ring mad-ness, Bend our pride to Thy con - trol;
4. Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; Gird our lives that they may be



Crown Thine an - cient church's sto - ry; Bring her bud to glo - rious flower.
 From the fears that long have bound us Free our hearts to faith and praise:
 Shame our wan - ton, sel - fish glad-ness, Rich in things and poor in soul.
 Ar - mored with all Christ-like gra - ces In the fight to set men free.



Grant us wis-dom, Grant us cour-age, For the fac - ing of this hour.
 Grant us wis-dom, Grant us cour-age, For the liv - ing of these days.
 Grant us wis-dom, Grant us cour-age, Lest we miss Thy king-dom's goal.
 Grant us wis-dom, Grant us cour-age, That we fail not man nor Thee! A-MEN.



Words used by permission of the author.

Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

Matt. 5:3-12; Luke 6:20-23; John 20:29; 2 Cor. 5:17-18

Rusty Edwards, 1993

Unison

1 Blessed are the poor in spir - it: heav - en will some - day be theirs.
 2 Blessed all who thirst or hun - ger: righ - teous - ly they will be fed.
 3 Each seek - ing peace and jus - tice shall be known as God's own heir.

Blessed are the mourn - ing chil - dren: com - fort comes from One who cares.
 Those who re - spond with mer - cy will see mer - cy up a - head.
 Blessed, too, are those ill - treat - ed for what's good and right and fair.

Blessed the meek and pa - tient, hav - ing cour - age to hang on.
 Blessed the clean in spir - it— beau - ti - ful, the pure in heart;
 Blessed the New Cre - a - tion, joy be - yond what we con - ceive;

Soon all earth they will in - her - it; times of tri - als will be gone.
 One day they will see their Mak - er, nev - er - more to live a - part.
 Blessed all those who trust the prom - ise: with - out see - ing, they be - lieve!

Howard M. Edwards III, who writes as Rusty Edwards, is an ordained Lutheran pastor from Illinois. The tune for this new Beatitudes paraphrase was composed especially to be interpreted by liturgical dancer Annika Gustafson.

Tune: ANNIKA'S DANCE 7.7.7.6.7.8.7.
 Jane Marshall, 1993

433 Rise Up, O Church of God

Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die. Revelation 3:2

F C G7 C F E C7 F Gm C7 F C
 E D A G

1. Rise up, O Church of God! Have done with less - er things;
 2. Rise up, O Church of God! His king - dom tar - ries long;
 3. Rise up, O sons of God! The Church for you doth wait,
 4. Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where His feet have trod;

C F E C C F Dm C E Bb F Bb F C7 F
 E A C E A C

5 Give heart and mind and soul and strength To serve the King of kings.
 6 Bring in the day of broth - er - hood And end the night of wrong.
 7 Her strength un - e - qual to her task, Rise up, and make her great!
 8 As fol - l'wers of the Son of Man, Rise up, O Church of God!

Optional last stanza setting
 F D sus D G D A7 G B D7 G Am D7 G
 Eb F# E B A

9 4. Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where His feet have

D D F# G G B D D F# G Em D G B C G C D D7 G
 F# B B F# B C D

13 trod; As fol-l'wers of the Son of Man, Rise up, O Church of God!
 14
 15
 16
 17

TEXT: William P. Merrill, altered
 MUSIC: Aaron Williams; arranged by Joseph Barlowe
 ST. THOMAS S.M.

Arr. © Copyright 1997 by Integrity's Hosanna! Music and Word Music (a div. of WORD MUSIC). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Optional choral ending
 f G A G Eb G ff G

18 Rise up, rise up, rise up!
 19
 20
 21