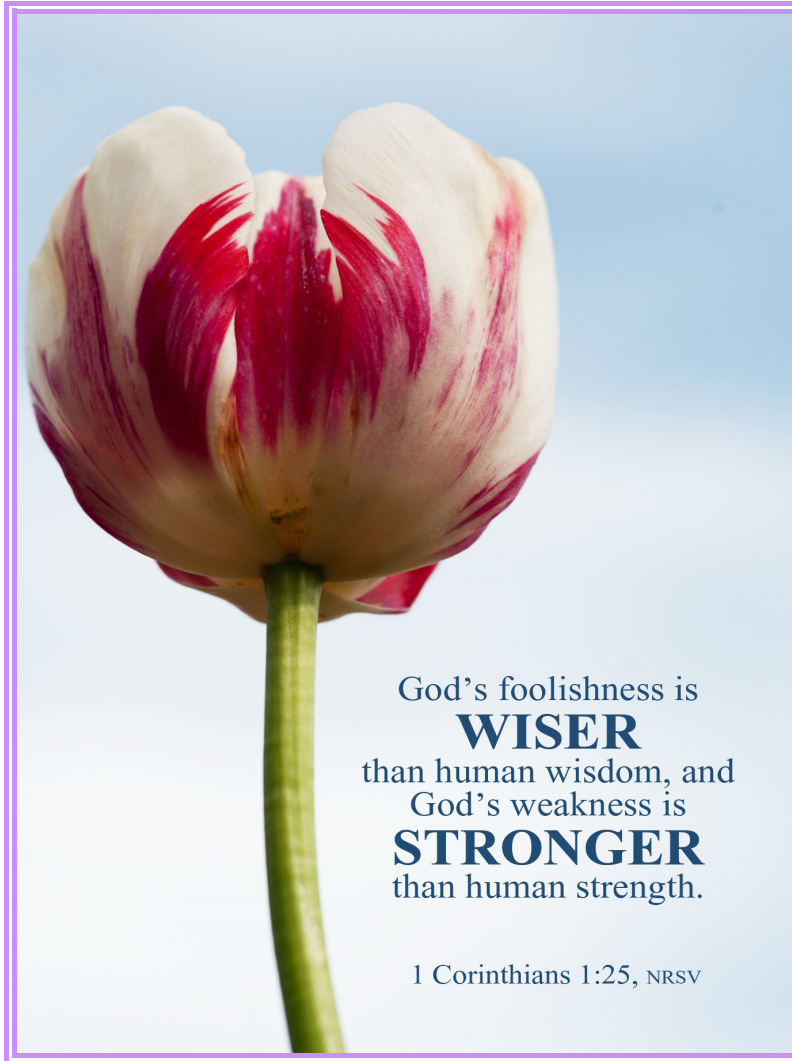


St. Paul's United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551
610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org
Worship 10:30am

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



Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Online Streaming Worship Service

*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.*

+++

Sunday, March 7, 2021
Third Sunday in Lent

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

PRELUDE

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*{To center your hearts and minds,
you are invited to individually offer this prayer silently during or before the Prelude}*

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP ^②

All-wise and all-loving God, we are drawn together in this place because all our knowledge and discernment is not enough to give meaning to our lives. All the pieces of our busy days need a center, and we have come to see that center in the “foolishness” of the cross. There, Love went the distance for us. There, the paths of service were lifted up above our passion for personal gain. We are frightened by what you might ask of us, but we long for the wholeness only you can offer. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *“The Old Rugged Cross”* vs 1 & 2 *♩Blue # 327*
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*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: The heavens are telling the glory of God.
The firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.

**People: We celebrate the steadfast love of God, our Creator.
Surely God is faithful to all who live in covenant.**

Leader: God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom.
God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

**People: The commandments of God are true and righteous.
In following them, we gain wisdom and strength.**

Virtual Worship Service

Online: [Live Stream](#) at www.sprucc.org - Live or Watch & Listen on [St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel](#) Later

[Phone Stream](#) at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later

[Zoom](#): Meeting ID: 104 401 368; Passcode: 301301 (or call 1-646-558-8656) - Live Only

If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610-621-5770 or Office@sprucc.org

327 The Old Rugged Cross

He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross. Philippians 2:8

1. On a hill far a - way stood an old rug - ged cross, The em - blem of
 2. O the old rug - ged cross, so de - spised by the world, Has a won - drous at -
 3. In the old rug - ged cross, stained with blood so di - vine, A won - drous
 4. To the old rug - ged cross I will ev - er be true; Its shame and re-

suf - fring and shame; And I love that old cross, where the dear - est and best
 trac - tion for me; For the dear Lamb of God left His glo - ry a - bove
 bear - ty I see; For 'twas on that old cross Je - sus suf - fered and died
 preach glad - ly bear. Then He'll call me some - day to my home far a - way,

Refrain

For a world of lost sin - ners was slain. So I'll cher - ish the old rug - ged
 To bear it to dark Cal - va - ry. cross, the
 To par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.
 Where His glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.

cross, Till my tro - phies at last I lay down. I will cling to the
 old rug - ged cross,

old rug - ged cross, And ex - change it some - day for a crown.
 cross, the old rug - ged cross,

TEXT George Bernard
 MUSIC George Bernard

OLD RUGGED CROSS
 Irregular meter

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[®] (Leader)

The psalmist declared that our souls are revived by God's perfect law. We are confronted by that law today. At its center is the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ. It is more desirable than all the gold in the world. Let us confess those things in our lives that keep us from realizing the fullness of God's love.

*CONFESSION OF SIN[®] (Unison)

Loving God, we have come to your temple because this is your place, not ours. We confess that we sometimes forget whose house this is. We forget that all the world belongs to you as we scramble for all we can claim for ourselves. Our actions deny your love, which is at the heart of your perfect law. Our minds have justified the bending and breaking of your law to suit current trends and feelings. We cry out for forgiveness and the opportunity for a fresh start. Clear us of hidden faults and redeem us from those we recognize and confess. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*PRAYER FOR MERCY

"Kyrie"

♪ Red # 518

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.

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*ASSURANCE OF PARDON[®] (Leader)

When our prayers become more than pious words; when, in awe before God, we truly seek forgiveness; the Almighty becomes for us a guiding presence. We are healed, strengthened, and set free from our slavery to sin. In steadfast love, God claims us, saying: You are my people. Dare to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. **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: [Exodus 20:1-17](#)
 Second Lesson: [1 Corinthians 1:18-25](#)
 Gospel: [John 2:13-22](#)

HYMN

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

vs 1 & 4

Red # 158

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CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

158

ISAAC WATTS, 1707

In moderate time.

L. M.

HAMBURG

LOWELL MASON, 1825

The musical score consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

Lyrics:

1. When I sur-vey the won-drous cross On which the
 2. For-bid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the
 3. See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sor-row and
 4. Were the whole realm of na-ture mine, That were a
 Prince of Glo-ry died, My rich-est gain I
 death of Christ my God; All the vain things that
 love flow min- gled down: Did e'er such love and
 pres-ent far too small; Love so a-maz- ing,
 count but loss, And pour con-tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac-ri-fice them to His blood.
 sor-row meet, Or thorns com- pose so rich a crown?
 so di-vine, De-mands my soul, my life, my all. A-MEN.

Alternative time, Rockingham Old.

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.*

In Memory of
Barbara R. (Miller) Blatt
Disciple of Christ
and
Member of the Family of St. Paul's UCC

April 20, 1940 to February 24, 2021

*{We share in this memorial rite today to offer prayers
and show our love, support, and care
for this member of our family of St. Paul's United Church of Christ}.*

GREETING

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
People: **And also with you.**

SENTENCES *(Leader)*

God is near to all who call, who call from their hearts. The desires of those who fear God are fulfilled, their cries are heard; they are saved.

When we were baptized into Christ Jesus, we were baptized into Christ's death. By our baptism, then, we were buried with Christ and shared Christ's death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of God, so too we might live a new life. For if we have been united with Christ in a death like Christ's, we shall certainly be united with Christ in a resurrection like Christ's.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(Unison)* *The 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.**

* The word "catholic" means "relating to the church universal" and was the word used in the original version of the Creed. It does not mean the Roman Catholic Church, but the church, the body of Christ, as a universal fellowship.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING (*Leader*)

O God, our strength and our redeemer, giver of life and conqueror of death, we praise you with humble hearts....

....Keep us all in communion with your faithful people in every time and place, that at last we may rejoice together in the heavenly family where Jesus Christ reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever. **Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Leader: Let us offer our silent prayers....

{Silent Prayers}

SENTENCES (*Leader*)

We would not have you be ignorant brothers and sisters, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*Unison*)

**O God, whose days are without end
and whose mercies cannot be counted,
awaken us to the shortness and uncertainty of human life.**

**By your Holy Spirit,
lead us in faithfulness all our days.
When we have served you in our generation,
may we be gathered with those who have gone before,
having the testimony of a good conscience,
in the communion of your holy church,
in the confidence of a certain faith,
in the comfort of a saving hope,
in favor with you, our God,
and at perfect peace with the world;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer we pray. 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.**

BLESSING

Leader: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of Christ Jesus our risen Savior. And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

*The above is reprinted with permission from the Order for Thanksgiving for One Who Has Died
and the Order for Committal from the United Church of Christ Book of Worship (1986)
United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership*

PRAYER RESPONSE "O Lord, Hear My Prayer "

vs 1

**Oh, Lord hear my prayer,
Oh Lord, hear my prayer
When I call answer me.**

**Oh Lord, hear my prayer,
Oh Lord, hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.**

Artist: Taizé
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OFFERTORY INVITATION ②

Leader: The commandments invite us to a sabbath time in which we give ourselves completely to the worship of God.

People: **The gifts we bring are important, but even more, we are invited to commit ourselves to God's foolishness, to the way of Christian love.**

Leader: May it be our passion to extend God's love to all of earth's people.

People: **The depth of our faith is revealed in the depth of our generosity.**

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

*{As we share in 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, or mailed in to the church.*

*Whether worshipping 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 St. Paul's UCC; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.*

{Those who are able, please rise}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** "In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful "

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
In the Lord I'll rejoice.
Look to God, do not be afraid,
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near;
Lift up your voices the Lord is near.**

Artist: Taizé
Reproduced with Permission One License #A-728042

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** ②

O God, we bring our offerings not to buy your favor, but to express our gratitude, not to support an institution, but to further your mission. We support the church in its efforts to challenge the false wisdom that pervades our culture. We seek to make this community of faith a center of values that are consistent with your will. May we be zealous in your service, willing to sacrifice for love's sake, and eager to embrace your word in our everyday living. **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: You have been embraced by God's power and love.
Dare to face the world, bearing God's wisdom.

People: **We proclaim the crucified one, Jesus Christ.
The power of love is not destroyed by death.**

Leader: The scriptures will guide us toward God's truth.
God's steadfast love will sustain us.

People: **We will seek to keep the spirit of the commandments.
Self-giving love toward God and humanity will guide us.**

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING HYMN

"The Old Rugged Cross"

vs 3 & 4

♪Blue # 327

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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}.*



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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 *Led by Love* by Lavon Bayler. (1996). Cleveland, OH: United Church Press.

³ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. (1995). Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis and Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, Philadelphia.

⁴ Reprinted with permission from *Sundays and Seasons*. (2020). Augsburg Fortress.

⁵ 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.

⁶ Reprinted with permission from *Sourcebook of Worship Services*

⁷ scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America

⁸ Reprinted with permission from *Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ*. (2020).

⁹ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.

¹⁰ Sunday Sermons Preaching Resources. (2017). Margate, NJ.

¹¹ 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

¹² Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.

¹³ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.

¹⁴ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

¹⁵ The Love Feast liturgy was primarily designed and written by United Methodist pastor, the Rev. Dr. Cynthia A. Wilson (2018) at umcdiscipleship.org, with adaptations from: the Rev. Tamie Scalise, Richard Stowe (author of *The Love Feast*), moravianmusic.org, moravian.org, and the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz.

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Resources are edited and adapted for use in this worship service.



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

† Prayer List †

Please lift up those listed here in your prayers this week.

"Pray for one another, so that you may be healed.

The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." ~ James 5:16b

Sam B.
 Rich D.
 Deb D.
 Linda L.
 Rob & Jodi S.
 Jim S.
 George M.
 Starr M.
 Paul P.
 Marianne M.
 Robin L.
 Alex
 Jacob E.
 Fred R.

Diane M.
 Lori & Ryan B.
 Ann H.
 Lenna H.
 Mildred U.
 Julie R.
 Jim & Donna K.
 Family & Friends of Marilyn W.
 Family & Friends of Barb B.
 Family & Friends of Rev. Bill W.
 Family & Friends of Elaine R. (mother of Barb D.)
 Those impacted by the frigid weather in the US
 Those impacted by COVID-19
 Those working on a vaccine for COVID-19

Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you.

All are welcome to add names to the prayer list.

Names are generally left on the list for about four weeks.

Please let us know if you would like a name to remain longer or shorter.

If you would like someone's name added to the prayer list, please contact the church office at 610-621-5770 or office@sprucc.org.

††† General Announcements †††

Welcome!

We are glad that you are here to worship with us virtually. May you find the worship and message meaningful and satisfying to your soul. May your week be blessed.

In Person AND Virtual Sunday School Options

Due to the increase in the number of people affected by COVID, *in-person Sunday school* for children and adults has been suspended until further notice.

However, [The Wired Word](#) is still available for adults. This is a virtual option which you may join via Zoom. For Zoom you can join either with a computer or smart device (if you do not yet have the Zoom app, click on this [Zoom](#) link), or call 1-301-715-8592 with a landline or cell phone. Meeting ID: 860 8980 7220; Passcode: 195152.

Although not in-person, the youth can still continue to learn about God's Word through the information available on our website. We have Sunday school music, videos, and an assortment of other materials that are available for downloading. Click on this link for [Sunday school for youth](#).

We also have devotional music for all ages on our website, courtesy of Pastor Bob. Click on this link for [Devotional Music](#).

For our Sunday school [COVID-19 Safety Precautions](#) click on the following link:

<http://www.sprucc.org/news-a-events.html#COVID19Precautions>

To have a copy of the precautions mailed to you, please call 610-621-5770.

Telephone Live Streaming & Playback Worship

This service is being offered to those who do not have internet access. You may call us at our toll free number **1-888-649-5770** and listen to the worship service live using a landline or cell phone. (No internet, smartphone, tablet, or computer is necessary - this works with a standard corded phone, cell phone, or even with a rotary phone). You also have the option for the church to automatically call you when the live stream worship begins (rather than you calling the church); which you can sign up for at the above toll free number, or you can call the church office, and we can add you to the call list. If you have any questions, difficulties, or issues, please let us know by calling the office at 610-621-5770. There is no charge to you for this service. If you know of someone who does not have internet access, please let them know of this feature, especially as they cannot log onto the website and find out about this themselves.

Visitation Care Team

Our Visitation Care Team (VCT) is composed of lay members who have been trained for visitation. If you are in need of prayer, a visit, or just a listening ear, they are here to be of support to you. To contact the Visitation Care Team with a visitation request or to share information about a potential care need, call the church office at 610-621-5770 or email the office at office@sprucc.org. For more information, go to our "[Visitation Care Ministries](#)" page at www.sprucc.org under the "ministries" tab.

Lenten Bible Study Series

This year, St. Paul's UCC in Robesonia and Zion UCC in Womelsdorf, will be having a combined study series during the Sundays in Lent. The topic is "*Making Sense of the Bible*". It will be held via Zoom on Sunday evenings (Feb. 21, 28, March 7, 14, & 21) at 6:30pm. There is no cost, no minimum number of sessions that you must attend, and you need not be a member of either church. All are welcome. Detailed information may be found [here](#).

Weekly Lectionary Bible Study

Every Tuesday morning Zion UCC of Womelsdorf offers a Zoom Bible Study based on the scripture passages for the coming Sunday. You may use any version of the Bible. The study goes from 9:00 to 9:45am most of the time (occasionally it may go a little longer). They would be happy to have you join them! Zoom login information may be found on our [website](#).

About Today

Church Season: Lent - 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):

Purple - Symbolizing the passion (suffering) of Christ our King that led to his crucifixion.

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, March 7, 2021, Lectionary Reading for the Third Sunday in Lent.

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22.

Exodus

The book of Exodus (OT) is a part of the Pentateuch (first five books of the OT or Torah or one of the five most central books in Judaism), and is named for the exodus (leaving/escape) of the Israelite people from Egyptian slavery through the divine saving providence of God and the leadership of Moses and his brother Aaron.

Psalm 19

In this OT song, we sing proclaim that we and the heavens give praise and glory to God for creation and the perfect law of the LORD.

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 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, March 14, 2021, Lectionary Reading for the Fourth Sunday in Lent.

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21.