

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.*

Many people spread
their cloaks on the road,
and others spread leafy
branches that they had
cut in the fields.

MARK 11:8, NRSV



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 28, 2021
Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm/Passion Sunday

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

Gracious God, we come before you with good intentions but our lives are full of sorrow and distress. In our suffering, we cry out to you. From the misery of rejection and failure and brokenness, we turn to you. In humility, we empty ourselves of the problems that so often overwhelm, that we might see the Christ. Draw us near the cross to experience the confident witness of our Savior, find the strength to live as forgiving people, and catch a vision that looks beyond our own situation to the greater needs of our sisters and brothers. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"The Palms"

Verse 1 O'er all the way green palms and blossoms gay
Are strewn this day in festal preparation;
Where Jesus comes to wipe our tears away,
E'en now the throng to welcome Him prepare.

Refrain Join all and sing, His name declare,
Let every voice resound with acclamation
Hosanna! Praise to the Lord!
Bless Him who cometh to bring us salvation.

Verse 2 His word goes forth and people by its might
Once more regain freedom from degradation.
Humanity doth give to each his right,
While those in darkness are restored to light.

Refrain

Verse 3 Sing and rejoice, O blest Jerusalem,
Of all thy sons sing the emancipation,
Through boundless love, the Christ of Bethlehem
Brings faith and hope to thee forever more.

Refrain

*Jean-Baptiste Fauré; Arranged by Charles H. Gabriel
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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

***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: This is a day of joyous welcome.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**People: Jesus rides into the tumult of our times.
We welcome Christ with waving branches.**

Leader: Our leader comes humbly, riding a donkey.
Give thanks for God's steadfast love endures forever.

**People: Jesus rides into the tumult of our times.
Let us joyously enter into the light God offers.**

{Please be seated}

PRAYER FOR PALM SUNDAY ①

Leader: Christ is with us.

People: Christ is in our midst.

Leader: Let us pray...

People: Merciful God, as we enter Holy Week and gather at your house of prayer, turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ that united with Christ and all the faithful we may one day enter in triumph the city not made by human hands, the new Jerusalem, eternal in the heavens, where with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ lives in glory for ever.

ALL: Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Gospel Lesson (*The Palms*)

[Mark 11:1-11](#)

BLESSING OF PALMS ①

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: Let us pray...

ALL: O God, who in Jesus Christ triumphantly entered Jerusalem, heralding a week of pain and sorrow, be with us now as we follow the way of the cross. In these events of defeat and victory, you have sealed the closeness of death and resurrection, of humiliation and exaltation. We thank you for these branches that promise to become for us symbols of martyrdom and majesty. Bless them and us that their use this day may announce in our time that Christ has come and that Christ will come again. Amen! Come, Christ Jesus!

{Those who are able, please rise}

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)

Do not hesitate to face your brokenness. Be bold to confess your fears. The cross is not a pleasant gathering place but a place where we can find strength. Christ's loving witness cannot be matched, but it will empower all who are open to its transforming power. Come to experience the grace of God.

*CONFESSION OF SIN[®] (Unison)

Lord God, we confess that we are as fickle as the crowds in Jerusalem. When everything seems to be going well, we join the hosanna chorus, but in times of weariness or rebellion, praise can turn to insult. We hide our faith when it is under attack and link ourselves with the scoffers. When there is opportunity to speak a good word for Jesus Christ, we are silent. Our church lifts an uncertain word before the world, for we, its members, have not been faithful. We need your forgiving love today, O God, more than ever. Hear our prayer! 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)

God answers us and offers salvation. In the mystery of God, One came among us, fully human yet fully divine, to lead us to the throne of grace. Though in the form of God, Jesus emptied himself, taking a slave's role in humble service to humanity. This was for our sakes, that we might bend our knees before God in humility and trust. We are saved in God's steadfast love! 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: [Isaiah 50:4-11](#)
Second Lesson: [Philippians 2:5-13](#)
Gospel (*Passion Reading*): [Mark 15:1-39](#) ([Mark 14:1- 15:47](#))

HYMN

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" vs 1 & 2

♪ Red # 184

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EDWARD PERRONET, 1785, alt.
Stanza 5, JOHN RIPPON, 1787

CORONATION



OLIVER HOLDEN, 1793

C.M.
First Tune

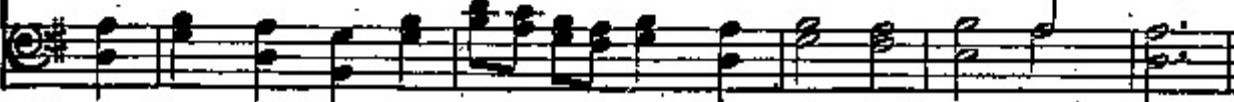
With dignity; but in moderate time



1. All hail the power of Je - sus' name, Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
2. Crown Him, ye mar - tyrs of your God Who from His al - tar call;
3. Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get The worm - wood and the gall,
4. Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe On this ter - res - trial ball,
5. O that with yon - der sa - cred throng We at His feet may fall;

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown Him Lord of all;
Ex - tol the Stem of Jes - se's rod, And crown Him Lord of all;
Go, spread your tro - phies at His feet, And crown Him Lord of all;
To Him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, And crown Him Lord of all;
We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, And crown Him Lord of all;




Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown Him Lord of all.
Ex - tol the Stem of Jes - se's rod, And crown Him Lord of all.
Go, spread your tro - phies at His feet, And crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all ma - jes - ty as - cribe, And crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, And crown Him Lord of all. A-MEN.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

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)** *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.

{Please be seated}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ^②

Leader: In joyous thanksgiving, we offer sacrifices of time and resources to announce God's healing grace to the world.

People: **It is our privilege to participate in God's wonderful works to humankind, to share the steadfast love that is saving us, and to offer life to those who are perishing.**

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 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](https://www.sprucc.org) option on our website at [sprucc.org](https://www.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
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***OFFERTORY PRAYER** ²
Gracious God, what you have done for us is marvelous in our eyes. Our gifts can never match your goodness toward us. Your saving grace, your healing light, your personal sacrifice are so far beyond our imagining! We can only offer ourselves, all we have and all we are, in response to the coming of Christ Jesus. Hosanna in the highest! Receive, O God, our humble service. We pray in the name of the one 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.**

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: God has given us light.
We are sent into the world to share that light.
People: **This is God’s doing; marvelous in our eyes.
We will carry the light of Christ to the world.**
Leader: Give thanks for God’s reign among us.
Praise God, whose steadfast love endures forever.
People: **Hosanna in the highest heaven!
We trust in God and seek to serve in Christ’s name.**
ALL: **Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

***SENDING HYMN**

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

all 3 verses

♪ **Red # 135**

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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}.*

135

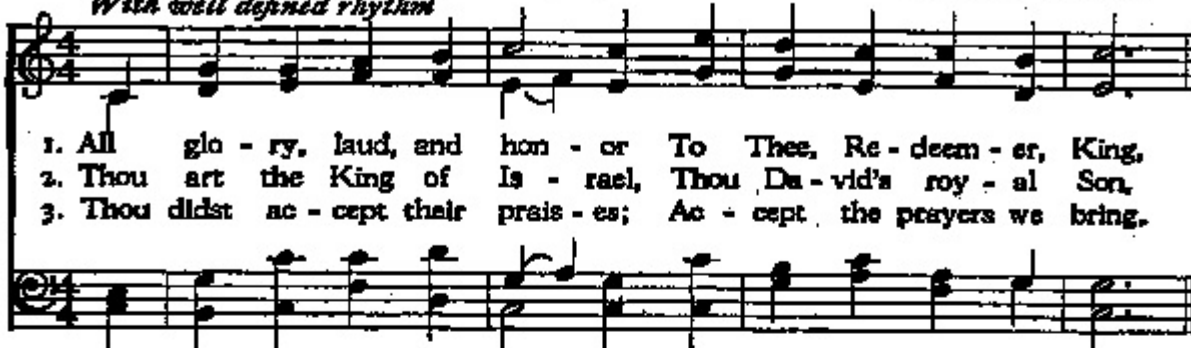
His Triumphal Entry

THEODOLPH OF ORLEANS, 820
Tr. JOHN MASON NEALE, 1854

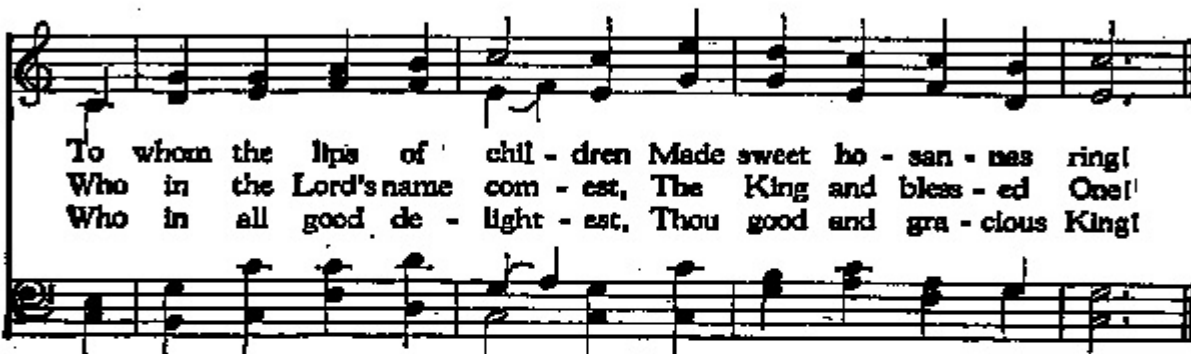
VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN (ST. THEODOLPH)

7. 6. 7. 6. D.

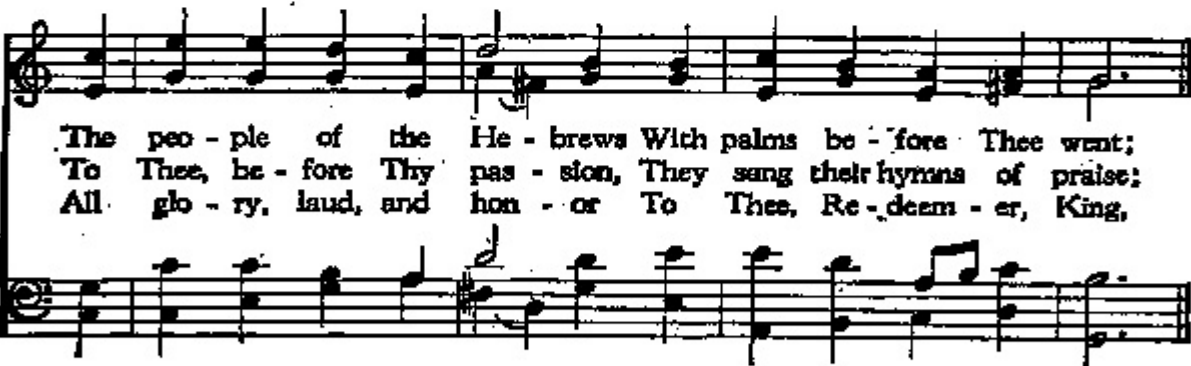
MELCHIOR TESCHNER, 1619

With well defined rhythm


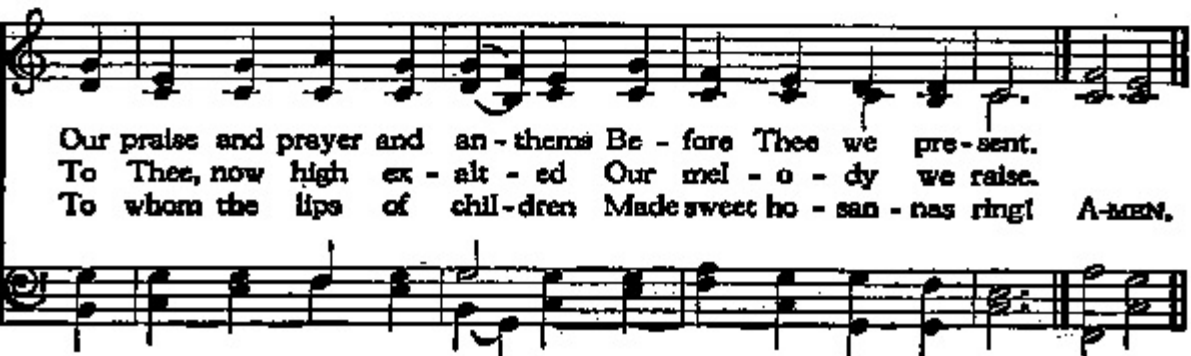
1. All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To Thee, Re - deem - er, King,
2. Thou art the King of Is - rael, Thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
3. Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; Ac - cept the prayers we bring.



To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring!
Who in the Lord's name com - est, The King and bless - ed One!
Who in all good de - light - est, Thou good and gra - cious King!



The peo - ple of the He - brews With palms be - fore Thee went;
To Thee, be - fore Thy pas - sion, They sang their hymns of praise;
All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To Thee, Re - deem - er, King,



Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore Thee we pre - sent.
To Thee, now high ex - alt - ed Our mel - o - dy we raise.
To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring! A - MEN.



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.

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 - 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.
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 - 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.
 Rob & Jodi S.
 Jim S.
 George M.
 Starr M.
 Paul P.
 Robin L.
 Alex
 Jacob E.
 Fred R.
 Ella L.
 Terry O.
 Rev. David K

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 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 Sunday School

Beginning Sunday, May 2, 2021, the church will be returning to in-person Sunday school for children and adults. Classes will begin at 9:00am and finish at 10:00am.

Although currently we are still not meeting in-person, the youth can 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.

In-Person Worship

On April 25, Good Shepherd Sunday, we will return to a hybrid worship service. Worship will be offered both virtually and as an outside in-person worship in the church parking lot at 10:30am.

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.

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. They would be happy to have you join them! Zoom login information may be found on our [website](#).

Maundy Thursday

This year's Maundy Thursday worship service will be a combined service with Zion UCC in Womelsdorf. It will take place this Thursday, April 1, at 6:30pm. You are invited to participate in this worship service through [Live Stream](#) or [Phone Stream](#). The Maundy Thursday worship bulletin is available at this [bulletin](#) link. Within that bulletin is a prayer for you to use for your evening meal. You are invited to purchase bread and wine/juice ahead of time, as the Pastor will lead us in a commune service, as we all commune from our homes.

Easter Sunday

Next Sunday, April 4, is Easter Sunday. We will have one Easter worship service this year at 10:30am (rather than two), so that we can join together as one church, at one time, as one Body of Christ, even when separated by social distancing, and celebrate in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour who through the sacrifice of himself, saves all of us from sin and death. We will have a children's sermon, regular sermon, downloadable children's bulletins, lighting of the Paschal Candle, and Holy Communion through a door drop off. Included in the communion delivery will be a tea light candle for you to use during the Paschal Candle lighting.

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.

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 28, 2021, Lectionary Reading for the Sixth Sunday in Lent: Palm/Passion Sunday.

Isaiah 50:4-11; Philippians 2:5-13; Mark 15:1-39 (Mark 14:1-15:47), Mark 11:1-11.

Isaiah

The book of Isaiah (OT) is attributed to three prophets. The first of whom is from where the book gets its name, and is about Isaiah's call to become a prophet and his prophecy that Jerusalem will face God's judgement regarding its immorality in order to be God's Holy City (chaps. 1-39, written 738-688 B.C.), the second is about living in exile in Babylon (chaps. 40-55, written 597-539 B.C.), and the third is about the return from exile to Judah and the rebuilding of the Temple (chaps. 56-66, written 520-515 B.C.). A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct.

The Letter of Paul to the Philippians

This epistle (letter) (NT) was written by the Apostle Paul from prison in the 60s A.D. Paul and Timothy are sending this letter to the church in Philippi, thanking and rejoicing with them for their steadfast faithfulness, prayers, and support, cautioning them of missionaries who focus on physical wants and needs, and encouraging them to stay true and united to his and Timothy's teachings and example. Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and church leader, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. Paul wrote more of the NT than any other person.

The Gospel According to Mark

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

Next Sunday, April 4, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Easter Sunday.

Acts 10:34-43 *or* Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 *or* Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 *or* Mark 16:1-8.