# 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

†††
April 9, 2023
Easter Sunday
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).

#### Nurserv

Persons of all ages (including children) are welcome to participate in the entire worship service. For an additional option, we have a supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, located on the first floor. Please see Nursery Coordinators, Laurie Ostimchuk, Beth Miller & Geri Gammel if you are in need of the nursery.

#### Junior Worship

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

#### **Youth Group**

Our Youth Group, for those in grades 5-12 (or ages 12-20 years old), meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Last Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:00pm. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

#### Young Children & Family Ministries

This ministry's focus is on children younger than youth group and their families, and most of the monthly activities are welcoming of children of all ages. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

#### **Prayer and Care**

If you would like to add yourself or someone else to the prayer list, or request a pastoral call, please call or email the church office. You are welcome to take home with you a copy of *Our Daily Bread* daily devotional booklet, located on a table in the narthex hallway.

# Looking for a Church to Call Home

If you are looking for a new church family home, we would be happy for you to consider United Church of Christ of Robesonia. For more information about our church, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our church.

#### More Information....

Additional literature about our missions, ministries, and fellowship opportunities is located on the *Blue Visitor Table* in the narthex hallway, or contact us using the contact information on the front page of this bulletin.

Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you or if there is any way in which we can help make your worship experience more meaningful.

{Symbols used in this bulletin: \*= if able please stand; ♪# = Red Hymnal Page; ♬# = Blue Hymnal Page}

#### Virtual Worship Service

Online: Live Stream at sprucc.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on Our YouTube Channel

Facebook Live at https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/ - Live or Watch & Listen Later

Phone Stream at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later

www.sprucc.org

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



Free WiFi

# ORDER FOR WORSHIP We Gather

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

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**

{Today's worship includes the celebration of Holy Communion. If you are at home, please have a bit of bread or a cracker and a small amount of juice or wine ready.}

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

# PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP (Unison)

Lord, this is the day of resurrection. Your resurrection happened once. We celebrate the resurrection every year on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. No matter the precise date, Easter is about rejuvenation. Easter is about new life. We are resurrection people because in you, Lord Jesus Christ, we are renewed. Our spirits are revived! Amen.

PRELUDE "Thine Is the Glory" arr. by Ingram

Handbell Choir

{Those who are able, please rise}

\*Processional Hymn "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" \( \rightarrow \) Red #167

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 from Psalm 118

Leader: Why should we give thanks to the Lord?

People: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: Why should we give thanks to the Lord?

People: The Lord is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

Leader: Why should we give thanks to the Lord?

People: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made;

People: let us rejoice and be glad in it!

# 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)

God of love and protection and forgiveness, hear now our confession of sins which separate us from you.

# \*Confession of Sin @ (Unison)

Jesus, we forget how great you are. We take your resurrection for granted. We forget that we can be walking with you everyday and everywhere. The disciples thought they had lost you. But you were not gone! Your appearance on that first Easter day was unbelievable, but true and awesome. Forgive us for neglecting this awesome truth. Amen.

#### \*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

#### \*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY

"Kyrie"

*▶Red #518* 

Public Domain

Leader (spoken): Lord, have mercy upon us.

Leader (spoken): Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

#### \*Assurance of Pardon @ (Leader)

Resurrection people, Jesus does not forget us. He is beside us in this sanctuary of worship. He is beside us in our homes and work and school. When we are in a predicament, Jesus is there to bless us through it. Let us not forget Jesus!

#### \*CALL TO PRAISE @

Leader: May the glory of God shine through us!.

**People: On this bright Easter Day.** 

\*Sung Praise "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

▶ Red #21
Public Domain

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love; Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, Opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the dark of doubt away; Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day. 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: Jeremiah 31:1-6
Second Lesson: Acts 10:34-43

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 28:1-10

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "In the Garden" 

□ Blue #635

□ Public Domain

MINI-MESSAGE

**CONGREGATION SINGS** 

"This is the Day"

NCH #84 Les Garrett

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made; We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

SERMON

"Our Personal Walk with Jesus"

# 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}

\*Unison Affirmation of Faith - from the UCC Statement of Faith Section Two and Three: Jesus and the Holy Spirit

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

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. 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: Risen Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

#### 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** "O Thou Who Hearest Every Heartfelt Prayer"

▶ Red #503
Public Domain

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.

#### OFFERTORY INVITATION (1)

Leader: The church thanks us for whatever we give.

People: We give gratefully.

Leader: We give in thankfulness for our Jesus.

**People:** How can we measure our thankfulness? Leader: Maybe by how much our offering is needed.

People: Can we trust God to take care of OUR needs?

Leader: How will we know unless we gradually increase our giving?

People: God, help us to take the risk.

Leader: Meanwhile, God is grateful for our gifts.

People: Praise be to God.

# RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

{Today, we will be passing the offering plate in person. You may also offer your tithe and offering to God through our secure <u>Online Giving</u> option on our website at **sprucc.org** (<u>Click Here</u>), or you may mail your offering to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.

CHORAL OFFERTORY

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

musical setting by Lani Smith

{Those who are able, please rise}

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"We Give Thee But Thine Own"

▶ Red #506
Public Domain

We give Thee but Thine own, What e'er the gift may be; All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee. Amen.

# \*Offertory Prayer ① (Leader)

Lord God, we give in trust to meet your expectations, Bless these gifts we have brought before you on this wonderful, glorious Easter Day. In the name of Jesus, we pray.

All: Amen

# Sacrament of Holy Communion <sup>1)(4)</sup>

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is the central act of Christian worship, bringing us more fully together with one another and the Triune God, through the sacrifice of the body and blood of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 26:20-30, Mark 14:17-26, Luke 22:14-23, John 13:21-30)

#### \*INVITATION

One: We welcome all believers to the table of our Lord. The inner rings have white grape juice. The outer rings have purple wine.

#### \*COMMUNION PRAYER

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift your hearts in thanksgiving.

All: We lift them toward God.

One: Let us offer our thanks to Almighty God.

All: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

One: With all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name singing:

(Pastors remove the cloth and prepare the elements)

#### \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD GOD OF SABAOTH

*♪Red #522* 

Alonzo P. Howard, Public Domain

Holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of thy glory, Hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

{Please be seated}

# **Words of Institution** (Pastor)

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

(Pastor lifts bread and breaks it.)

After supper, Jesus took the cup and said, "This is the new covenant in my blood, which was shed for you and for all people, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

(Pastor pours wine from the flagon to the chalice.)

#### INVITING THE HOLY SPIRIT

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

#### SHARING THE ELEMENTS

Ushers Distribute the Bread (Gluten-free bread is available)

People hold the bread until the pastor says:

Pastor: The Body of Christ given for you.

Ushers Distribute the Wine and Juice

People hold the wine or juice until the pastor says:

Pastor: The Blood of Christ shed for you.

{Those who are able, please rise}

#### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: May the body and blood of Jesus Christ strengthen us until eternal life.

All: Almighty God, we give you thanks for this refreshing and healing gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would increase our faith in you and our fervent love for one another. For the sake of Jesus Christ, we pray. 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 @

Leader: The resurrection of Jesus is not a secret.

People: Of course not!

Leader: So what will we do as we leave this place of worship?

People: We will make sure that at least one relative or friend or stranger will hear

the resurrection story.

\*BENEDICTION

\*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

▶ Red #558
Public Domain

\*Sending Hymn "Christ Arose" \$\beta\$ Blue #357

Public Domain

{Acolyte carries the light back into the world, leading us, as we now go to carry God's light and love back into the world.}

#### **POSTLUDE**

Please enjoy your Easter meal.
Our Koffee Klatch Fellowship time will resume next Sunday.

**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 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) We experience greater oneness with God and each another through Holy Communion
- (9) 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.

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- Miller, Earl D. (1994). Consecrating Stewards. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
- 10 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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#### **United Church of Christ of Robesonia**

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www.SPRUCC.org

Consistory President: Elsa Wertz Consistory Vice President: George McLain Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

# **About Today**

**Church Season: Easter** - Easter is the 50 days from the Saturday of Holy Week to Pentecost. Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and is the most joyful season of the church year. The first Sunday of Easter, Resurrection Sunday, is the highest and holiest day of the Christian Church.

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

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

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 A**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Matthew.

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, April 9, 2023, Lectionary Reading for Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43 or **Jeremiah 31:1-6**; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4 or **Acts 10:34-43**; John 20:1-18 or **Matthew 28:1-10** 

#### Jeremiah

The book of Jeremiah (OT) is attributed to the major prophet Jeremiah and written around 600-500 B.C. (B.C.E.). A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct. Jeremiah's ministry extended over the last tragic forty years of the kingdom of Judah to the destruction of Jerusalem and the deportation of the Jewish people to Babylon.

#### The Acts of the Apostles

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

#### The 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, April 16, 2023, Lectionary Reading for Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

His Resurrection



MUSIC: C. Austin Miles

# 635 In the Garden



Irregular meter

# Christ Arose 357

