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

+ + +

Sunday, July 2, 2023 5th Sunday after Pentecost

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. Please see Nursery Coordinators, Laurie Ostimchuk, Beth Miller & Geri Gammel if you are in need of the nursery.

Junior Worship

On the 2nd 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 2nd 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...

www.sprucc.org

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: <u>Live Stream</u> at <u>spruce.org</u> - Live or Watch & Listen Later on <u>Our YouTube Channel</u>

Facebook Live at https://www.facebook.com/www.spruce.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



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.

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & 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 (Unison)

O God, have you forgotten us? Will you remain hidden from us forever? We speak of you, but we do not know you. We often distrust those who speak glibly of your intervention in their lives. We marvel at the amazing variety of life on this planet. All that we see with our eyes is but a small hint of all that is revealed through microscopes and telescopes—other worlds of form and beauty so amazing beyond any telling. Yet our spiritual ancestors have known you not only as Creator of all things but as one who knows and loves each one of us. Help us to know you here, today. Amen.

PIANO PRELUDE "Let Us Break Bread Together" arranged for piano by Victor Labenske

{Those who are able, please rise}

*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: Early in the morning, our thoughts turn toward God.

We have been led to this mountaintop of worship.

People: We come, trusting in God's steadfast love.

We gather, seeking the way of salvation and peace.

Leader: God has made an everlasting covenant with us.

Let us proclaim God's faithfulness to all generations.

People: We bring our sorrow and pain to this healing time.

May God provide what we need to grow in Christ.

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)

Was it God who tested Abraham? Does God put us to the test? Do we believe that God will provide what we most need? Are we willing to trust God, or would the apostle Paul describe us as "slaves of sin"? This time of confession is not meant to weigh us down with guilt, but to free us to respond to God's love.

*Confession of Sin ² (Unison)

O God, free us from such absorption in our own concerns that we forget your loving intention for us. We find it hard to view what is happening around us through any eyes but our own. We obey our own passions rather than joining your intention for the good of all. It is hard for us, who so value our autonomy, to speak of obedience. Yet we are ashamed of things we have done and things we have failed to do. We want to claim your free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. We sense that you intend for us to accept and live within that gift here and now. Help us, loving God. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*Assurance of Pardon [©] (Leader)

We are not under law but under grace. We are being given God's great bounty as we receive the teaching of Jesus, the witness of our spiritual forebears, and the exultation of the psalmist. God comes to us, not only from the past, but in every moment when we welcome another with even a cup of water in Christ's name. We are forgiven and renewed! **Amen.**

*Call to Praise

Leader: O Lord, open our lips

People: And our mouths shall show forth your praise.

*SUNG PRAISE

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" Stanza 1

▶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.

{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

Old Testament from the Torah ("The Law" one of the Five Books of Moses):

Genesis 22:1-14

New Testament Letter: Romans 6:12-23

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "Lord, Speak To Me, That I May Speak"

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MINI-MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S SONG "Jesus Loves Me"

Text: Anna B. Warner; Music: William B. Bradbury
Public Domain

Vs. 1: Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so; Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain: Refrai

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so. Saying, "Let them come to Me."

Refrain:
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

The Bible tells me so.

Vs. 2: Jesus loves me! This I know.

As He loved so long ago,

Taking children on His knee,

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) UCC Statement of Faith: The Revision of 1981: A Doxology We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,

and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being,

create persons in your own image,

and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

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.

You call us into your church

to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,

to be your servants in the service of others,

to proclaim the gospel to all the world

and resist the powers of evil,

to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,

to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you

forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,

courage in the struggle for justice and peace,

your presence in trial and rejoicing,

and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

{Please be seated} {Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION [®]

Leader: We can offer to God only what we have been given.

People: God may require our dearest treasure, for it is only lent to us for a time.

Leader: What God has provided,

People: we are now invited to invest in the disciple-making business of the

church.

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 Online Giving option on our website at spruce.org (Click Here), or you may mail your offering to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.

VOCAL OFFERTORY

"Change My Heart, O God" Soloist - Sheri Rowe

words and music by Eddie Espinosa

{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 [©] (Leader)

O God, we bring our offering not with thought of reward, but because we are grateful. We give, not from guilt over having so much, but because it is such a privilege and joy to share. We dedicate these gifts, not to pay bills, but to enable a ministry that meets basic human needs with the good news of the gospel. O Lord, may your people be empowered to give the service each moment requires, in even a deed as simple as giving a cup of cold water to quench another's thirst. **Amen.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion ¹⁾⁽⁴⁾

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

Leader: Dearly beloved in the Lord: Our blessed Saviour Jesus Christ instituted the Holy Communion of his Body and Blood, that it might be the abiding memorial of his atoning death; the seal of his perpetual presence in the Church through the Holy Spirit; the mystical representation of the sacrifice of himself on the cross; the pledge of his undying love for his people; and the bond of his living union and fellowship with them to the end of time.

ALL:

The celebration of the Lord's Supper has ever been regarded by the Church as the innermost sanctuary of the whole Christian worship. What we do here is not merely with signs, but with the realities these signs represent. We seek to approach the Lord's Table rightly, striving to be devout and repentant, with a believing mind.

Leader: We cordially invite to partake of this Sacrament all who are truly grieved and penitent for their sins, who look to the Lord Jesus Christ for righteousness and salvation, who abide in the fellowship of his Church, and who desire to possess his Spirit and walk in his ways. To all such the compassionate Redeemer himself says: Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

*COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you. Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader:

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Everlasting God, who created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, who made humankind in your own image, and whose tender mercies are over all your works.

We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none.

We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless.

We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory.

We give thanks to you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy and sing....

*Sanctus

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Seraphic Hymn
Public Domain

{Sanctus is Latin for "Holy." Seraphic Hymn refers to the song of the Seraphim Angels. Sabaoth is a Hebrew name for God, referring to God as both creator and ruler of the world}.

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

{Please be seated}

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader:

Lord, we remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.

Leader: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

ALL: Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Ordained Minister:

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We offer you our gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service in behalf of all people.

Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine, both here at this table in this sanctuary and in the homes of those who are gathered as the church even though separated by physical distance, we are one in your spirit, and bless us that as we receive them, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united in communion with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things.

ALL: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. Amen.

BREAKING BREAD AND RAISING CUP

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.

LAMB OF GOD

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People: grant us peace.

CALL TO THE SUPPER

Leader: The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come, for all things are ready.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

(This morning we will be partaking of communion in the pews.

The Elders will first distribute the bread,
Gluten free bread is in the center,
and regular bread is in the outer ring.
The Pastor will then instruct the congregation
to eat the bread at the same time.

The Elders will distribute the wine and grape juice.
The wine is red in the outer rings, and
the grape juice is white in the inner ring.
The Pastor will then instruct the congregation
to drink of the cup at the same time.}

{We invite all baptized Christians who profess a belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour to participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion. You do not need to be a member of this congregation or of the UCC to participate in Communion.}

Youth & Children:

Children of Members who have not yet professed their Christian faith through the Rite of Confirmation are to participate in communion and refresher classes prior to communing, and follow the "Children & Communion Guide."

Children of Visitors - if you commune at your home church, you are welcome to commune here.

- - -

{Those who are able, please rise}

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Leader: Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by

granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing

in the power of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: 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: Scatter into the world, believing God will provide.

Our service in Christ's name will be blessed.

People: We present ourselves for service in the world.

We seek to be instruments of righteousness.

Leader: God's grace will be with you wherever you go.

There is delightful freedom in serving God.

People: We rejoice in the light we have received.

We accept with joy the tasks of discipleship.

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

▶ Red #558
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*SENDING HYMN

"God of Our Fathers"

▶ Red #440
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{Acolyte carries the light back into the world, leading us, as we now go to carry God's light and love back into the world.}

Postlude

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.

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

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- @ Edmonds, Robert Lee (Editor). (2008). In Our Own Way, Living a Scouting Life Through Faith; A Handbook of Prayer and Devotion. Dallas, TX: Red Honor Press
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Miller, Earl D. (1994). Consecrating Stewards. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.

10 The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

The Rev. Mary Etta Mest

@ Occasional Sérvices; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).

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Staff & Leadership

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Treasurer: Terry Pastor

Financial Secretary & Assistant Secretary: Geneva Aulenbach

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

About Today

Church Season: Pentecost -which is the season of the church in mission. It is the time between the ascension of Christ and his second coming, which is the time we are presently living in today, and as such is the longest season of the church year. The day of Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian church.

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

Green - symbolizing the life God brings, especially through our mission work.

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, July 2, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 22:1-14 and Psalm 13 or Jeremiah 28:5-9 and Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

Genesis

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 13

This OT hymn is a prayer for individual help in a time of trouble, which concludes with praise and an expression of confidence in God to provide help.

The Letter of Paul to the Romans

This epistle (letter) is addressed "to all God's beloved in Rome." It was dictated by the Apostle Paul to Tertius in 58 A.D. in Corinth and delivered to Rome by Phoebe (she was appointed by Paul as a deacon, teacher, and leader of the church). 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, a highly educated man, 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, July 9, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 *and* Psalm 45:10-17 *or* Song of Solomon 2:8-13 *or* Zechariah 9:9-12 *and* Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Seasons and Special Services





The Nation 440 NATIONAL HYMN GEORGE WILLIAM WARREN, 1892 Daniel C. Roberts, 1876
In march rhythm 10. 10. 10. 10. God of our fa - thers, whose al-might - y hand
 Thy love di-vine hath led us in the past;
 From war's a-larms, from dead-ly pes - ti-lence,
 Re - fresh Thy peo - ple on their toil-some way, Trumpets, before each stanza Leads forth in beau ty all the star - ry band Thee our free land In this by lot is cast; Thy ev - er de - fense; Be strong arm sure our nev - er end - ing Lead from night to day; us shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies, Thou our Rul - er, Guard - ian, Guide, and Stay; Thou our - li - gion in our hearts in - crease, true re all lives with love and grace di - vine, our Our Thy grate - ful Thy be - fore throne a songs Thy paths our cho - sen law, way.

good - ness nour - ish

and praise be

peace.

Thine.

A-MEN.

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And

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laud.

boun - teous

glo - ry,