

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
10:15am Worship Service
In-Person & Streaming Online*

† † †

Sunday, April 28, 2024
5th Sunday of Easter

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 and 3rd Sunday of the month, following the mini message, the option of "Junior Worship" is offered downstairs for elementary age children to learn more about today's scripture lessons with fellow youth.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located both on the first and second floors to the left of the elevator. The third toilet stall in each of our four restrooms has a high toilet and handrails.

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....

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](https://www.sprucc.org) at [sprucc.org](https://www.sprucc.org) - Live or Watch & Listen Later on [Our YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)
[Facebook Live](https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/) at <https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/> - Live or Watch & Listen Later
[Phone Stream](https://www.sprucc.org) 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



www.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)*

Holy Jesus, our Savior, Lord, and friend, as Phillip was energized by the request of the Ethiopian traveler, help us to be energized to share the good news with everyone who is eager to know. In your name we pray. Amen.

This service was prepared by Pastor Mary Etta Mest.

PIANO PRELUDE

"What a Friend"

arranged by Tom Fettke

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"I Love to Tell the Story"

*W&R # 560
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 22*

Leader: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

People: all the families of nations shall bow before God.

Leader: The poor shall eat and be satisfied.

People: Let those who seek the Lord give praise!

Leader: May our hearts live forever!

People: May our descendants serve the Lord!

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 ⑩ (Leader)**

God of love and protection and forgiveness, hear now our confession of sins which separate us from you. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

***CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)**

Holy One, we come before you remembering the sharp word we let slip from our lips, we remember the moment when we grumbled at our family when in reality it was our boss who set our teeth on edge. We remember when we annoyed someone else wrongly. Holy One, is this too much to forgive in one shot? We do seek your forgiveness so we can start a new week with a clean slate. Amen.

***SILENCE**

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

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Leader)**

Holy One says, "It is not too much to forgive in one shot. But, I will be with you in this coming week so your confession may be shorter next Sunday. But if not, I will still love you with an everlasting love."

{please be seated}

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE BLANKET SKIT

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

The Beginning of the Church of Jesus Christ: [Acts 8:26-40](#)

New Testament Letter: [1 John 4:7-21](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading: [John 15:1-8](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

"Baptized in Water"

W&R #679

Words: One License #A-728042

Music: Public Domain

MINI-MESSAGE

{Children may return to their pews and remain for the rest of worship, or on the 2nd & 3rd Sundays of the month, elementary age children may go downstairs at this time for the additional option of "Junior Worship"}

CHILDREN'S SONG

"Jesus Loves Me"

Anna B. Warner /William B. Bradbury

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

SERMON

"What is This Thing Called Baptism?"

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)* *adapted from the Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is - both seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. 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: God of grace,

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

"Hear our Prayer, O Lord"

*♩ Red #501
George Whelpton*

**Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord;
Hear our prayer, O Lord, And grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ⑩

Leader: Led by the Spirit, we come to the altar.

People: We confess our sins.

Leader: We are forgiven.

People: We bring our offerings.

Leader: Whom can we serve? How can we serve?

People: The Holy Spirit will lead us.

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 sprucc.org ([Click Here](#)), or you may mail your offering to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.

CHORAL OFFERTORY

"God, Give us Peace"

by Jean Sibelius

{Those who are able, please rise}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"Doxology"

*♪ Red #551
George Bourgeois; Public Domain*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER ⑩ (Leader)

Dearest Jesus, we thank you for the countless blessings you give to us. As we move into the sacrament of Holy Communion, send the Holy Spirit to enrich our thanksgiving as we remember the supreme gift you gave to us. **Amen.**

{Elders shall please remain in the back of the church}

Sacrament of Holy Communion ^{①④}

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)

***HOLY COMMUNION** *Pew Communion*

One: We welcome all believers to the table of our Lord. The inner rings have white grape juice. The outer rings have red wine. Please hold the bread until everyone has received, then we will eat together. Likewise, with the cup, please hold the cup until everyone has received, then we will drink together.

***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...

***SANCTUS**

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

*NCH #795
Alonzo P. Howard;
Public Domain*

**Holy, 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 (*Pastors*)

Leader:

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

One: 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.

All: Holy Spirit, do not leave. Blow through this place; reveal yourself in this bread and this cup; make your dwelling within this congregation. Join us to one another and transform us by your presence, that we may be the sign of your life in this world. Amen

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 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.

*SHARING THE ELEMENTS

Pastor: The Body of Christ given for you.

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: May we carry the presence of the Holy Spirit with us.

People: This is a blessed feeling:

Leader: a feeling of being lifted beyond daily tasks,

People: beyond the weight of worries;

Leader: both a cushion from the world

People: and the courage to go into the world with our message.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"This is My Father's World"

♪ *Blue #143*
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

Join Us For Fellowship and Food in Miller Fellowship Hall

Free WiFi: StPaulsUCC-Guest & StPaulsUCC-5G-Guest
Password (for both): iamheretosome



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) 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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 - ① United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need (NIN) 2023 Resources.
 - ② *Led By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1996). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
 - ② *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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 - ⑦ 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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 - ⑨ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
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Staff & Leadership

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Bell Choir Director: Miriam Borkert

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Treasurer: Terry Pastor

Financial Secretary (Interim): Terry Pastor

Consistory President: George McLain

Consistory Vice President: Kirk Aulenbach

Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

About Today

Church Season: Easter - The Easter Season begins on Easter Sunday, and continues for seven weeks until Pentecost. 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):

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

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). The first four books of the NT are called the "Gospels," which are about the life of Jesus Christ, which Christians consider the most central books of the Bible; the rest of the NT takes place after his ascension into heaven.

This Sunday, April 28, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

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.

Psalm 22

This OT song is attributed to King David. This song is a prayer to God, asking for help in times of distress, giving thanks and praise to God for his presence and deliverance in times of affliction, and reaffirming the vow to worship and follow in the ways of the Lord.

The First Letter of John

This epistle (letter) is a homily attributed to the apostle John, as is the Gospel of John. Of the core 12, John is believed to be the "beloved disciple" (John 19:26). This epistle is believed to be written in Ephesus around 100 A.D.

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, May 5, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

I Love to Tell the Story

G G/B C G

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove, of
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry, 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat what
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best seem

D7 D7/G G D D7

Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love. I love to tell the
 seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet. I love to tell the
 hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest. And when in scenes of

D7/G G Em B C C/G G

sto - ry be - cause I know 'tis true; it sat - is - fies my long - ings as
 sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from
 glo - ry I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old sto - ry that

D7 G/D D7 G *Refrain* D D7 D7/G G G/B C

noth - ing else can do.
 God's own Ho - ly Word. I love to tell the sto - ry, 'twill be my theme in
 I have loved so long.

glo - ry, to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

WORDS: A. Catherine Hankey (1834-1911)
 MUSIC: William G. Fischer (1835-1912)

HANKEY
 7.6.7.6.D.Ref.

Baptized in Water

679

Unison

1 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it,
 2 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it,
 3 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it,

cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
 dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;
 marked with the sign of Christ, our King;

heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his prom - ise,
 one with his ris - ing, freed and for - giv - en,
 born of one Fa - ther, we are his chil - dren,

faith - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 thank - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

WORDS: Michael Seward (1932-)
 MUSIC: Gaelic melody; harm. David Evans (1874-1948)
 Words © 1982 Jubilate Hymns (Admin. Hope Publishing Company)
 Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

BUNESSAN
 5.5.5.4.D.

This Is My Father's World 143

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1

$E\flat$ $E\flat^4_2$ $E\flat$ $\frac{G\flat m}{B\flat}$ $B\flat^7$ $E\flat$ $E\flat^4_2$ $E\flat$ $\frac{A\flat}{E\flat}$ $E\flat$ $B\flat$

1. This is my Fa-ther's world, And to my lis-t'ning ears
 2. This is my Fa-ther's world, The birds their car-ols raise;
 3. This is my Fa-ther's world, O let me ne'er for-get

1 2 3 4

$B\flat^9$ $E\flat$ $\frac{G\flat m}{B\flat}$ $B\flat^7$ $\frac{E\flat}{B\flat}$ $\frac{G\flat m}{B\flat}$ $B\flat^7$ $E\flat$ $E\flat^4_2$ $E\flat$ $B\flat$ $B\flat^7$ $E\flat$

All na-ture sings, and round me rings The mu-sic of the spheres.
 The morn-ing light, the lil-y white De-clare their Mak-er's praise.
 That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul-er yet.

5 6 7 8

$B\flat$ $E\flat$ $A\flat$ $\frac{B\flat^7}{F}$ $E\flat$ $\frac{E\flat}{G}$ $A\flat$ $A\flat^{\sharp 4}$ $A\flat$ $E\flat$

This is my Fa-ther's world, I rest me in the thought
 This is my Fa-ther's world, He shines in all that's fair;
 This is my Fa-ther's world, The bat-tle is not done;

9 10 11 12

$B\flat^9$ $E\flat$ $\frac{G\flat m}{B\flat}$ $B\flat^7$ $\frac{E\flat}{B\flat}$ $\frac{G\flat m}{B\flat}$ $B\flat^7$ $E\flat$ N.C. $E\flat$ $E\flat^4_2$ $E\flat$ $B\flat$ $B\flat^7$ $E\flat$

Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas- His hand the won-ders wrought.
 In the rus- tling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me ev-ery- where.
 Je- sus, who died, shall be sat- is- fied, And earth and heav'n be one.

13 14 15 16

TEXT: Maltbie D. Babcock

MUSIC: Traditional English melody; adapted by Franklin L. Sheppard

TERRA BEATA

S.M.D.