

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.*



The appointed
time has grown short...
the present form of

this
WORLD
is passing away.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31, 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, January 24, 2021
Third Sunday after Epiphany

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

"Balm in Gilead"
Hand Bell Choir

arr. Patricia Cota

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[®]

From deep within us we know of a loving presence. All around us we see glory, beauty, life and light. We have no words for what we experience so we cry out, "God!". In this moment of worship may that loving presence grow deeper, may our awareness of the divine presence around us grow more intense. May we, gathered in this place, learn to pay more attention to God, who loves us at all times and in all places. God, of love and life, in this moment of prayer be more and more in us that we might live more and more in you. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"

vs 1 & 2

*Reprinted on the following pages.
Used with Permission One License #A-728042*

*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[®]

Leader: We gather to respond to the call of God's love

People: **Thankful that someone cared enough to share this good news with us.**

Leader: May we be compassionate enough to share this divine presence with others.

People: **Love, when shared, is not divided but multiplied.**

Leader: Love, given away, is not diminished but expanded.

People: **May our gathering beckon and welcome those near and far to know the love of the divine presence of the LORD GOD.**

Virtual Worship Service

Online: [Live Stream](https://www.sprucc.org) at sprucc.org - Live or Watch & Listen on [St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel](#) Later
[Phone Stream](https://www.sprucc.org) at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later

Tú has venido a la orilla

(You Have Come down to the Lakeshore)

Mat. 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11

Cesáreo Gabarrón, 1979; alt.

Transl. Madeline Forrell Marshall, 1989; alt.

D A7 D

1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -
 2 Tú sa - bes bien lo que ten - go: en mi
 1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing
 2 You know full well my pos - ses - sions. Nei - ther

G A7

ca - do ni a sa - bios, ni a ri - cos, tan só - lo
 bar - ca no hay o - ro ni es - pa - das; tan só - lo
 nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, But on - ly
 trea - sure nor weap - ons for con - quest, Just these my

D A7 D

Estrillo (Refrain)
D7

que - res que yo te si - ga. Je -
 re - des y mi tra - ba - jo.
 ask - ing for me to fol - low. O
 fish - nets and will for work - ing.

G D

sús, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos;
 Je - sus, you have looked in - to my eyes;

One of the most popular hymns to emerge from the 1970s revival of religious songs in Spain, this text has been translated into nearly eighty languages. The Spanish composer-author was a parish priest known for his work among youth.

Tune: PESCADOR DE HOMBRES
 8.10.10, with refrain
 Cesáreo Gabarrón, 1979
 Harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1987

A7 D

son - ri - en - do, has di - cho mi nom - bre;
kind - ly smil - ing, you've called out my name.

D7 G F#m

en la a - re - na he de - ja - do mi bar - ca;
On the sand I have a - ban - doned my small boat;

B7 Em A7 D

jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.
now with you I will seek oth - er seas.

3. Tú ne - ce - si - tas mis ma - nos,
mi can - san - cio que a o - tros des - can - se,
a - mor que quie - ra se - guir a - man - do.
Estríbillo

4. Tú, Pes - ca - dor de o - tros ma - res,
an - sia e - ter - na de al - mas que es - pe - ran.
A - mi - go bue - no, que a - sí me lla - mas.
Estríbillo

3. You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion,
work - ing love for the rest of the
wea - ry—
A love that's will - ing to go on lov - ing.
Refrain

4. You who have fished oth - er wa - ters;
you, the long - ing of souls that are
yearn - ing:
As lov - ing Friend, you have come
to call me.
Refrain

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's word sometimes comes as a warning. How often we have pushed aside the word we find unpleasant. Even if we grudgingly acknowledge its truth, we like to postpone any action to change. God comes to us today, saying that our days are fewer than we think. The time for us to repent is now. Let us confess our sins before God and before one another. Let us pray....

*CONFESSION OF SIN[®] (Unison)

Holy God, what a blessing and privilege we share here in this sacred space and among this loving community. But, like Jonah, we sometimes are jealous of what we share here. We know that others are longing and thirsting for what we know and experience. Forgive us our reluctance to open our doors, open our hearts to others; some like us, some not. We repent of our hesitations and unwillingness to witness to those we have considered strangers and even enemies for fear they just might become friends. Hear our confessions, O God. 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.

Used with Permission One License #A-728042

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON[®] (Leader)

The one who calls us to this place calls us to reconciliation through grace. God will not deny a repentant heart or an open spirit. Know that you are forgiven and walk in the new way that is made known to you in God's love. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: Let us praise God for our baptism in Christ's name.
People: We lift up our voices in thanks for the Spirit now within.

*SUNG PRAISE "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

vs 2

♪ Red # 271

**O let me feel Thee near me! The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, The tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me, Around me and within;
But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer, And shield my soul from sin.**

*Lyrics: John E. Bode; Music: Arthur H. Mann
Reproduced with Permission One License #A-728042*

{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: [Jonah 3:1-5, 10](#)
 Second Lesson: [1 Corinthians 7:29-31](#)
 Gospel Lesson: [Mark 1:14-20](#)

HYMN "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

vs 1 & 4

Reprinted below.

Used with Permission One License #A-728042

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

271 **The Christian Life**

JOHN H. BOON, 1864 P. & P. & D. ANGEL'S STORY
In moderate time ALBERT H. MANN, 1889

1. O Je - sus, I have prom - ised To serve Thee to the end;
 2. O let me feel Thee near me! The world is ev - er near;
 3. O let me hear Thee speak - ing In ac - cents clear and still,
 4. O Je - sus, Thou hast prom - ised To all who fol - low Thee

Be Thou for - ev - er near me, My Mas - ter and my Friend:
 I see the sights that dex - ter, The tempt - ing sounds I hear;
 A - lone the storms of pes - sion, The mur - murs of self - will
 That where Thou art in glo - ry There shall Thy serv - ant be;

I shall not fear the bat - tle If Thou art by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, A - round me and with - in;
 O speak to re - as - sure me, To hys - ten or con - troll
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised To serve Thee to the end;

Not wan - der from the path - way, If Thou wilt be my Guide.
 But, Je - sus, draw Thou near - er, And shield my soul from sin,
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, Thou Guard - ian of my soul
 O give me grace to fol - low My Mas - ter and my Friend! Amen.

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.

Service of Installation ^① ④

Being Installed

*Sheri Rowe - Elder & Consistory Vice President
Georgianna Hildebrand - Elder & Worship Committee Vice Chair
Steve Miller - Deacon, Mission/Fellowship Committee Vice Chair & PPRC
Carl Unger - Trustee & Property Committee Vice Chair
Geri Gammel - Mission/Fellowship Committee Chairperson & Adult Delegate
Michael Pastor - Property Chairperson
Barb Orth - PPRC Chairperson
David Rohrbach - Cemetery Board*

GREETING

Leader: Grace, mercy and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth.
People: **To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.**

INTRODUCTION

Leader: Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world.
Leader: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.
People: **There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.**
Leader: There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.
People: **The Spirit's presence is shown in some ways in each person for the good of all.**
Leader: Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.
People: **It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.**
Leader: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.
People: **All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.**

{Those who are being ordained and/or installed as Elders & Deacons of Consistory please come forward}

{Those who are being installed to new leadership positions please come forward}

PRESENTATION (Leader)

These people have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of this church, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

COVENANT *(Leader)*

Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church.

Elders shall assist and support the Pastor in the spiritual affairs of the church. Elders shall take heed of themselves that they may be examples unto others, watch faithfully over the spiritual interest of the congregation, aid in visiting the sick, and minister according to their ability to the edification and comfort of all the members of the congregation. Elders are to be the advisers and counselors of the Pastor, and are to be to the Pastor as hands and eyes, acting with the Pastor and for the Pastor, and representing the Pastor's presence throughout the congregation

The office of Deacons has regard especially to the wants of the poor. Deacons shall assist and support the Pastor in those ministrations which pertain to the more outward needs of the congregation. They shall aid in securing the funds necessary for the support of the congregation in its various activities, foster the principles of stewardship, and dispense the charity of the congregation. They must not lose sight of the true spiritual character of their office, which is a proper branch of the Christian ministry.

Trustees are called to the ministry of care of the church building, the House of the Lord, and its property, enabling the worship, study, prayer, mission, and other ministries to occur within the church's facility, and to symbolize well the presence of this house of faith and sanctuary of Christ within and for our local community.

Those serving on the Evangelism Committee are called to promote, advocate, and provide structure, opportunities, and encouragement for all the members of St. Paul's UCC to live out their call to share the love of God with others through both their words and actions, and to lead others to join in the discipleship and the Body of Jesus Christ.

Those serving on the Worship Committee are called to promote, advocate, and provide structure, opportunities, and encouragement for all the members of St. Paul's UCC and the residents of our community to be engaged in the regular communal worship of God; to assist the Pastor in the planning and implementation of regular and special worship services; and provide for the needs of the Music Minister.

Those serving on the Christian Education Committee are called to promote, advocate, and provide structure, opportunities, and encouragement for the study and understanding of scripture and the Christian faith by all of the members of St. Paul's UCC and by all persons within our local community; to develop our members as disciples, as learners and sharers of the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed; and to provide oversight, support, and encouragement of the youth ministries of our church.

Those serving on the Mission, Fellowship, and Fund-raiser Committee are called to promote, advocate, and provide structure, opportunities, and encouragement for the members of St. Paul's UCC to provide love, support, and care for one another; to strengthen the ties that bind the members as the Body of Christ; to lead the members of St. Paul's UCC to be engaged in local mission and to be supportive of our UCC wider ministries, partner ministries, and ecumenical Christian mission outreach.

Those serving on the Property Committee are called to provide leadership, structure, opportunities, and encouragement for the membership's care and maintenance of the buildings and grounds of St. Paul's UCC; and provide oversight and support of the sexton.

Those serving on the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee are called to help facilitate a good, healthy, and Godly relationship between the Pastor and the parishioners.

Those on the Investment Advisory Committee have the responsibility of discerning the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in the stewardship of the long-term investments of the church.

Those on the Cemetery Board have the responsibility of the long-term care of the Heidelberg Cemetery and the reverent care of the mortal remains interred there.

Those serving as delegates to the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference and the Covenant Association are called to help foster good relationships and communications between the congregation and the Conference, Association, and Wider United Church of Christ, to attend the annual Conference and Association meetings, and to share information from those meetings with the congregation.

Leader: Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Newly Elected: I am.

Leader: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Newly Elected: I do, relying on God's grace.

Leader: Do you promise with the help of God and the guidance of his Holy Spirit to discharge to the best of your knowledge and ability the service for which you have been chosen?

Newly Elected: I do, with the help of God.

COVENANT WITH CONGREGATION

Leader: Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

{Those who are able please rise}

***Congregation: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.**

***PRAYER (Leader)**

Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name. We pray in the name of our Lord and Saviour, who taught us when we pray to say....

***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.**

{Congregation please be seated}

DECLARATION (Leader)

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, I rejoice to announce you are installed and affirmed in your ministry.

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

Leader: In accordance with the faith and order of this church, I extend to you the hand of Christian love.

People: Thanks be to God.

{Installed Leaders & Congregation may be seated}

PRAYER RESPONSE *"O Jesus, I Have Promised"* vs 3 ♪ Red # 271
**O let me hear Thee speaking, In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion, The murmurs of self-will!
O speak to reassure me, To hasten or control!
O speak, and make me listen, Thou Guardian of my soul!**

*Lyrics: John E. Bode; Music: Arthur H. Mann
Reproduced with Permission One License #A-728042*

OFFERTORY INVITATION ②

Leader: Gestures of gratitude are a demonstration that a blessing or benefit has been received.
People: **We heard a call, dropped our nets and came to this place to find new life.
The gifts we give today are but tokens of the blessings of the new life we live in Christ.**
Leader: Bring your gifts with joy for they remind us
People: **just how blessed we are to know this love that flows so generously from the spirit of God.**

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

*{As we share in hybrid 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.
Whether worshipping in person or online,
the safest way to offer your tithe and offering to God through his church
is through our secure [Online Giving](https://sprucc.org) option on our website at sprucc.org. [Click Here](#)
Offerings may also be mailed to St. Paul's UCC; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.*
{Those who are able, please rise}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *"O Jesus, I Have Promised"* vs 5 ♪ Red # 271
**O let me see Thy footmarks, And in them plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly Is in Thy strength alone.
O guide me, call me, draw me, Uphold me to the end;
And then to rest receive me, My Savior and my Friend!**

*Lyrics: John E. Bode; Music: Arthur H. Mann
Reproduced with Permission One License #A-728042*

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** ⑥

May these gifts, given to these ministries of grace, be a blessing to friends and strangers, those like us and those not, those deserving and those not, for in this way the love of God reaches all of God's beloved. **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 sends us out into the world with good news.
God directs us to warn and to give assurance.
People: **We are disciples of Jesus Christ.
We have been commissioned and blessed.**
Leader: We go out as people who know our own weakness.
We rise above our shortcoming in the strength Christ gives.
People: **We will trust in God at all times.
We will speak God's truth in love.**
ALL: **Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

***THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

♪ Red # 558
Used with Permission One License #A-728042

{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}.



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.

^① Reprinted with permission from *The New Century Hymnal* of the United Church of Christ. (1995). Cleveland, Ohio: The Pilgrim Press. and/or the *Book of Worship* of the United Church of Christ (1986). New York: United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership.

^② *Led by Love* by Lavon Bayler. (1996). Cleveland, OH: United Church Press.

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

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

^⑤ Reprinted with permission from the *Order of Worship for the Reformed Church in the United States*. and/or *The Hymnal of the Evangelical and Reformed Church*. (1985) New York: United Church Press.

^⑥ Reprinted with permission from *Sourcebook of Worship Services*

^⑦ scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America

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

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

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

^⑪ Edmonds, Robert Lee (Editor). (2008). *In Our Own Way: Living a Scouting Life Through Faith: A Handbook of Prayer and Devotion*. Dallas, TX: Red Honor Press

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

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

^⑭ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

One License is our Church Copyright License# A-728042., which is a subscription service giving us copyright permission to print the words and music found in the bulletin and to live stream music on the internet during the Worship Service.

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

589 Here I Am, Lord

"Whom shall I send?" I said, "Here am I. Send me." Isaiah 6:8

Unison

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My peo-ple cry.
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My peo-ple's pain.
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

All who dwell in deep - est sin My hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them, They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them, My hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide Till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send?

TEXT: Daniel L. Schutte, based on Isaiah 6:8

MUSIC: Daniel L. Schutte

HERE I AM, LORD

7.7.7.4.D. with Refrain

© Copyright: 1951 by Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

COMMITMENT AND OBEDIENCE

Refrain Harmony optional

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You
call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, If You
lead me. I will hold Your peo - ple in my heart.

† 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

B. & S. Blatt
R. DiGirolamo
L. Laumeister
R. & J. Seifrit
K. Long & D. Long
G. Merkel III
A. Robertson
F. Rahmanian
A. Snyder
D. Logic
J. Altrechter
R. Koch
N. Miller
S. Rowe
P. Porter

D. DiGirolamo
M. McCloy
Family & Friends of E. Phillips
Family & Friends of S. Walker
Family & Friends of E. Himlin
Family & Friends of A. Robertson
Family & Friends of B. Gechter
Family & Friends of L.J. Neuen
Students and Teachers
Veterans
Those impacted by storms and hurricanes
Those battling forest fires
Victims of forest fires & their loved ones
Efforts to reduce & eliminate racism
Those impacted by COVID-19
Those working on a vaccine for COVID-19

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

All are welcome to add names to the prayer list.

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

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

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

††† General Announcements †††

Welcome!

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

In Person AND Virtual Sunday School Options

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Telephone Live Streaming & Playback Worship

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

Visitation Care Team

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

About Today

Church Season: Epiphany - Season of the manifestation of God incarnate to the world.

In Greek “phan” is “shine” or “manifest,” and “epi” is “upon.” The season of Epiphany continues from January 6 until Ash Wednesday.

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

Red - symbolizing the tongues of fire of the Holy Spirit imparting the spiritual gifts of discipleship

Green- symbolizing this season of mission - the incarnate Christ has been made manifest to us on Epiphany and we are to go into the world and share his Good News.

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, January 24, 2021, Lectionary Reading for the Third Sunday after Epiphany.

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20.

Jonah

The Book of Jonah is named for the prophet Jonah, who was sent by God to the Assyrians in Nineveh to prophesy repentance to them. The Assyrians had inflicted brutal violence upon the people of Israel, and therefore Jonah initially hoped for their destruction rather than for God’s grace. This OT book is dated sometime during the postexilic period (after 539 BC).

Psalm 62

This OT song is a prayer expressing trust in God when experiencing persecution.

The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

This NT Epistle (letter) was written by the Apostle Paul between 53-54 A.D. to a gentile congregation he had founded several years earlier in Corinth (the capital city of the Roman province of Achaia, a large and prospering urban center that was ethnically, culturally, and religiously diverse). This letter is in response to issues within the Corinthian church, in particular factions caused by one-upmanship and privatization of faith. Paul encourages humility, unity within diversity, and witnessing to God’s grace. Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and church leader, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus’ ascension into heaven. Paul wrote more of the NT than any other person.

The Gospel According to 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, January 31, 2021, Lectionary Reading for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany.

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28.



Link to Website's
Upcoming Events