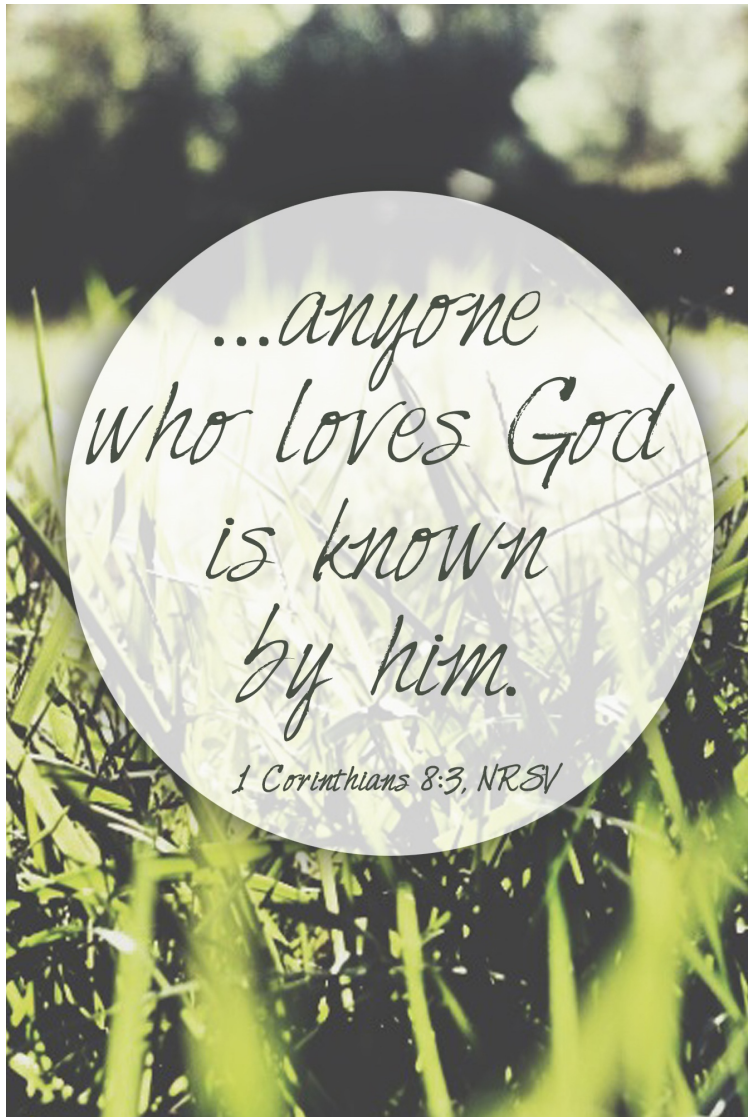


## **St. Paul's United Church of Christ**

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.*



***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 31, 2021  
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
Health and Human Service Sunday**

# ORDER FOR WORSHIP

## We Gather

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

### A TIME OF GATHERING

#### RINGING OF THE BELL

#### PRELUDE

#### GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*{To center your hearts and minds,  
you are invited to individually offer this prayer silently during or before the Prelude}*

#### PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP <sup>®</sup>

God of the prophets, help us to recognize your voice among the competing claims of our day. Raise up in our midst authentic witnesses to your truth. Be present with us now to guide our prayers and praise. Let us not presume to know your message without careful listening or to speak your word without discerning the Spirit. Light your fires within us so we may heed your summons and give our best in your service. Amen.

*{Those who are able, please rise}*

#### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*"We Are Called"*

all 3 verses

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#### \*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 *(adapted from Psalm 111)*

Leader: Great are the works of the LORD, and greatly to be praised.  
His righteousness endures forever.

People: **We come together as a congregation of believers.  
We give thanks to the LORD with whole hearts.**

Leader: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.  
All who practice it have a good understanding

People: **Holy and awesome is God's name.  
His praise endures forever.**

---

### **Virtual Worship Service**

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

---

720

# We Are Called

G C C/D D

1 Come! Live in the light!  
 2 Come! O - pen your heart!  
 3 Sing! Sing a new song!

G C D

Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! We are  
 Show your mer - cy to all those in fear! We are  
 Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will

Bm Em<sup>7</sup>/D C G/B

called to be light for the king - dom, to  
 called to be hope for the hope - less so  
 reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as

Am<sup>7</sup> G/B C C/D D

live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.  
 ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no  
 sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love.

Text: David Haas, b. 1957  
 Music: David Haas  
 Text and music © 1988 GIA Publications, Inc.

WE ARE CALLED  
 Irregular

*Refrain*  
Am<sup>7</sup> G C D C/G G

We are called to act with justice, we are

C D Bm Bm<sup>7</sup>/D C

called to love tenderly; we are called to

D G C

serve one another, to walk

D C/G G

humbly with God.

C D<sup>1 2</sup> D<sup>3</sup> G

## 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 <sup>2</sup> (Leader)

We are called to confession if we have distorted God's word, knowingly or unknowingly. We are invited to repent if our freedom in Christ has led others astray. We join in prayer together because the church is not yet the perfect body of Christ. Let us seek God's forgiveness.

### \*CONFESSION OF SIN <sup>2</sup> (Unison)

**Faithful God, we have claimed to have more knowledge than we really possess. We have presumed to judge others on the basis of our limited understanding. We have grasped for freedom without taking full responsibility for our actions. Our witness is weak, and is directed primarily toward those with whom we prefer to associate. By our actions, some of our sisters and brothers are excluded, some are misled, and some are unjustly accused. If we have violated another's conscience, if we have caused someone to fall, we are deeply sorry. For failing to do all Christ expects of the church, we repent and seek your forgiveness. Amen.**

### \*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

### \*PRAYER FOR MERCY

*"Kyrie"*

♪ Red # 518

Leader (*spoken*): Lord, have mercy upon us.  
People (*sung*): **Lord, have mercy upon us.**  
Leader (*spoken*): Christ, have mercy upon us.  
People (*sung*): **Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
Leader (*spoken*): Lord, have mercy upon us.  
People (*sung*): **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

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### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON <sup>2</sup> (Leader)

All who love God are known by God, whose intention is that we live by eternal values, in loving relationship with one another. God applauds our efforts to rid our lives of the pseudo-gods we create, habits that destroy, and prejudices that divide. We count on God to understand us, to free us from our bondage to sin, and to dwell among us, transforming our lives. Praise God forever and ever! **Amen.**

### \*CALL TO PRAISE (*adapted from Psalm 111*)

Leader: Praise the LORD!  
People: **I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**

### \*SUNG PRAISE *"Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good"*

vs 1

♩ Blue # 97

**Sing praise to God, our highest good,  
profound respect expressing.  
God gives us health, life, livelihood,  
with every needed blessing.  
To God, who wondrous works performs,  
creating life and calming storms,  
to God give praise and glory!**

*Johann J. Schultz  
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*{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: [Deuteronomy 18:15-20](#)  
Second Lesson: [1 Corinthians 8:1-13](#)  
Gospel Lesson: [Mark 1:21-28](#)

## HYMN

"There Is a Balm in Gilead"

all 3 verses

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## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## SERMON

235

## There Is a Balm in Gilead

Jer. 8:22  
*Negro Spiritual*  
Refrain

THERE IS A BALM Irregular  
*Negro Melody*

There is a balm in GIL-e-ad To make the wound-ed whole,  
There is a balm in GIL-e-ad to heal the sin - sick soul.

1. Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged And think my work's in vain,  
2. If you can - not pray like Pa - ter, If you can - not pray like Paul,  
3. Don't ev - er feel dis - cour-aged, For Je - sus is your friend;

Repeat refrain after each stanza

But then the Ho - ly Spir - it Re - vives my soul a - gain.  
You can tell the love of Je - sus, And say, "He died for all!"  
And if you look for knowl - edge He'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

## We Respond with Thanks

*We have heard God's call and have come and worshiped,  
we have confessed our sins and been assured of our forgiveness, we have  
learned more about God's grace and God's will. We now respond by  
re-affirming our faith in God,  
praying with and for one another, trusting in God's providence in our world, and  
giving of ourselves for the sake of the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.*

*{Those who are able, please rise}*

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(Unison)*      *The Apostle's Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended to the dead;  
on the third day he rose again,  
ascended into heaven,  
and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,\*  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\* The word "catholic" means "relating to the church universal" and was the word used in the original version of the Creed. It does not mean the Roman Catholic Church, but the church, the body of Christ, as a universal fellowship.

*{Please be seated}*

### CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray....

### A LITANY OF INTERCESSION <sup>①</sup>

Leader: Gracious God, who loves all and forgets none, we bring to you our prayers for all your children.

For all whom we love, watch over, and care for;

People: **Hear us, O God.**

Leader: For all prisoners and captives, and all who suffer from oppression, that you will manifest your mercy toward them, and make all hearts as merciful as your own;

People: **Hear us, O God.**

Leader: For all who bear the cross of suffering, the sick in body or mind;

People: **Hear us, O God.**

Leader: For all those who are troubled by the sin or suffering of those they love;

People: **Hear us, O God.**

Leader: For all who are absorbed in their own grief, that they may be raised to share the sorrows of others, and know the saving grace of the cross;

People: **Hear us, O God.**

Leader: For all perplexed by the deeper questions of life and overshadowed with doubt, that your light may guide them;

People: **Hear us, O God.**

Leader: For all who are tried by temptations or weakness, that your mercy may be their strength;  
**People: Hear us, O God.**  
 Leader: For all who are lonely and sad in the midst of others' joy, that they may know you as their friend and comforter;  
**People: Hear us, O God.**  
 Leader: For the infirm and aged and for all who are dying, that they may find their strength in you and light at evening time;  
**People: Hear us, O God.**  
 Leader: For all forgotten by us, but dear to you;  
**People: Hear us, O God.**  
 Leader: O compassionate God, hear our prayers, answer them according to your will, and make us channels of your infinite grace; through Jesus Christ in whose name we pray....

**LORD'S PRAYER** *(Unison)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.  
 Thy kingdom come,  
 thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread,  
 and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,  
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom and the power,  
 and the glory forever. Amen.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**      *"Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good"*      vs 4      ♪Blue # 97

**I cry to God, in pain and grief,  
 "Please, God of mercy, hear me!"  
 My certain help provides relief,  
 faith, hope, and love to cheer me.  
 So let me sing, joyful and free:  
 ah, thankful Christians, sing with me:  
 to God give praise and glory!**

*Johann J. Schultz  
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**OFFERTORY INVITATION** ②

Leader: When we give of ourselves to meet the needs of others,  
**People: we are co-creators in the health of God's creation.**  
 Leader: As we have been given much,  
**People: let us give much in return.**

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

*{Those who are able, please rise}*



**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**      *“Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good”*      vs 2      ♪Blue # 97

**Creation thanks you, Holy One:  
You made us and renew us.  
Delighted at what you have done,  
you show your greatness through us.  
So may all living things proclaim  
the wonders of their Maker’s name:  
to God give praise and glory!**

*Johann J. Schultz  
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**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER** ②

Transforming God, we dedicate our gifts for the health of your creation. May those who receive these gifts be blessed by your love and inspired to give to others so that your creation will continue to be transformed by your love. **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:** Go out to witness to the good news you have heard.  
God is even now raising up prophets among us.  
**People:** **We thank God for this time of being together.  
We delight in ways we are able to help others.**  
**Leader:** God will supply us with words for our witness.  
We will be led to offer others appropriate help.  
**People:** **All honor and majesty and glory be to God!  
May we never stop praising God with our lives!**  
**ALL:** **Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*SENDING HYMN**

*“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*

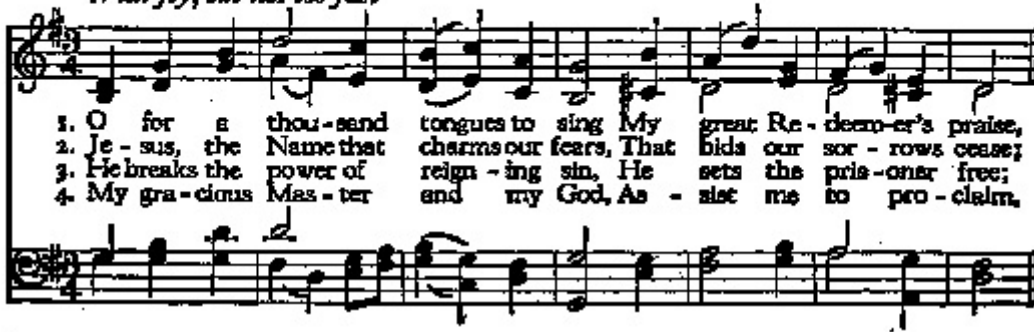
all 4 verses

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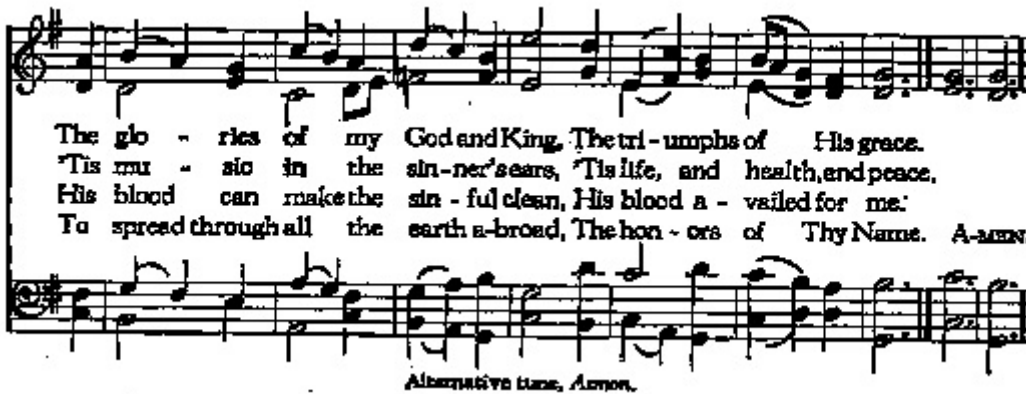
*{Acolyte carries the light back into the world, leading us,  
as we now go to carry God’s light and love back into the world}.*

CHARLES WHELEY, 1739

C. M.

RICHMOND  
T. HAWKES, 1734-1810  
Arr. S. WENZEL, the younger*With joy, but not too fast*


1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing My great Re-deem-er's praise,  
2. Je-sus, the Name that charms our fears, That bids our sor-rows cease;  
3. He breaks the power of reign-ing sin, He sets the pris-oner free;  
4. My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, As-sist me to pro-claim,



The glo-ries of my God and King, The tri-umphs of His grace.  
'Tis mi-sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'Tis life, and health, and peace.  
His blood can make the sin-ful clean, His blood a-vailed for me:  
To spread through all the earth a-broad, The hon-ors of Thy Name. A-MEN.

Alternative tune, Amen.



## 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.

- <sup>1</sup> 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.
  - <sup>2</sup> *Led by Love* by Lavon Bayler. (1996). Cleveland, OH: United Church Press.
  - <sup>3</sup> *Occasional Services: A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. (1995). Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis and Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, Philadelphia.
  - <sup>4</sup> Reprinted with permission from *Sundays and Seasons*. (2020). Augsburg Fortress.
  - <sup>5</sup> 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.
  - <sup>6</sup> Reprinted with permission from *Sourcebook of Worship Services*
  - <sup>7</sup> scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America
  - <sup>8</sup> Reprinted with permission from *Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ*. (2020).
  - <sup>9</sup> *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
  - <sup>10</sup> Sunday Sermons Preaching Resources. (2017). Margate, NJ.
  - <sup>11</sup> 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
  - <sup>12</sup> Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
  - <sup>13</sup> Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
  - <sup>14</sup> The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
  - <sup>15</sup> The Love Feast liturgy was primarily designed and written by United Methodist pastor, the Rev. Dr. Cynthia A. Wilson (2018) at [umcdiscipleship.org](http://umcdiscipleship.org), with adaptations from: the Rev. Tamie Scalise, Richard Stowe (author of *The Love Feast*), [moravianmusic.org](http://moravianmusic.org), [moravian.org](http://moravian.org), and 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 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) God sends us into the world to share His love and grace with others

## † Prayer List †

*Please lift up those listed here in your prayers this week.*

*"Pray for one another, so that you may be healed.*

*The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." ~ James 5:16b*

B. & S. Blatt	R. Koch
R. DiGirolamo	N. Miller
D. DiGirolamo	S. Rowe
L. Laumeister	P. Porter
D. Laumeister	M. McCloy
R. & J. Seifrit	R. Lamm
J. Seifrit	Rev. B. Weiser
K. Long & D. Long	Alex
G. Merkel III	L. & R. Burkhart
A. Robertson	A. Heck
F. Rahmanian	L. Hainley
A. Snyder	M. Unger
D. Logic	Veterans
J. Altrechter	Students and Teachers
Those impacted by storms and hurricanes	Family & Friends of E. Phillips
Those battling forest fires	Family & Friends of S. Walker
Victims of forest fires & their loved ones	Family & Friends of E. Himlin
Efforts to reduce & eliminate racism	Family & Friends of A. Robertson
Those impacted by COVID-19	Family & Friends of B. Gechter
Those working on a vaccine for COVID-19	Family & Friends of L.J. Neuen

*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](mailto: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](mailto:office@sprucc.org). For more information, go to our "[Visitation Care Ministries](#)" page at [www.sprucc.org](http://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):

**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 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.

### **Deuteronomy**

The book of Deuteronomy (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). This book is traditionally attributed to the authorship of Moses. Much of the book is another listing of the laws to the Israelites when they arrived at the eastern edge of the Jordan River before entering the promised land, previously given to them on Mt. Sinai (also known as Mt. Horeb). The word Deuteronomy means “second law-giving”, and is dated between 721-535 B.C.

### **Psalm 111**

In this OT song, we give praise and thanksgiving to God for the wonderful deeds of God for humankind. It is also meant to teach people about the deeds of God. In its original Hebrew, it has an alphabetic acrostic form, which means that every other verse begins with a successive letter of the alphabet.

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> century, reported that this Gospel’s author is Mark, a follower of Peter who wrote this Gospel after Peter’s death.

**Next Sunday, February 7, 2021, Lectionary Reading for the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany.**

Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39.



Link to Website's  
Upcoming Events