

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.*



He was transfigured before them ...
and his clothes became dazzling white ...
Mark 9:2-3, 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, February 14, 2021
Last Sunday after Epiphany
Transfiguration 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 ^②

Speak to us, Mighty One, for we are eager to listen. Bless us, as we cry out to you for strength and vision. You have acted in times past to save your people. Save us now. You have sent prophets to change the world. Change us now. You have granted light in Jesus Christ. Shine on us now. Let us see your glory. Lift us to the mountaintop in this time of prayer. Stay close to us to melt away our doubts, and do not leave us, we pray, through Christ. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN “We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding”

vs 1 & 3

*Reprinted on the following page.
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 ^②

Leader: God summons us from the sun’s rising to its setting.

Listen, for our Almighty God speaks to us.

People: **Our God comes and does not keep silence.**

Through fire and tempest, God is with us.

Leader: Open your ears to the good news of the gospel.

Open your eyes to the glory of God.

People: **We have come to share knowledge of Jesus Christ.**

We gather, seeking transformation and empowerment.

Virtual Worship Service

Online: [Live Stream](#) at www.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

[Zoom](#): Meeting ID: 104 401 368; Passcode: 301301 (or call 1-646-558-8656) - Live Only

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

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

Mat. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36

Carl P. Dove, Jr., 1988

1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and
 2 Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows, splen - dor bathes the
 3 Strength - ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our

ho - ly place, Where we wait with hope and long - ing for some
 flesh - joined Word, Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel as the
 faith de - cline, We, like Pe - ter, find it tempt - ing to re -

to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray for new as -
 heav - enly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with
 main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us

sur - ance that our faith is not in vain, Search - ing
 won - der how the Law and Proph - ets meet: Christ with
 cour - age to pro - claim what we pro - fess, That our

like those first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.
 gar - ments drenched in bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com - plete.
 dai - ly lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.

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 CONFESSION² (Leader)

The whirlwind pace of our lives becomes so all-consuming that we may forget our origins. Our busyness separates us from knowledge of God's glory in the face of Christ. Now in these quiet moments apart from our everyday distractions, we seek to renew our relationship with God and be restored to wholeness. Let us confess our sins before God and before one another.

*CONFESSION OF SIN² (Unison)

Almighty God, when the gospel is veiled from us we feel alone. How easy it is to lose our direction and go the wrong way! At times, we feel as if we are perishing under the demands of our day, unable to see clearly what is most important. We become enslaved to our routines and enticed by shallow distractions. We fill all our hours with doing so there is no time for reflection and prayer. Forgive us, O God, and restore balance to our lives. 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 PARDON² (Leader)

God promises light for our nighttime and guidance on our way. In Christ, God lifts the veil so we can catch a glimpse of glory. There is peace to be found in the midst of turmoil. There is freedom and quiet even amid our busyness. We are released from our slavery to things, and lifted up beyond the limitations of our habits. God forgives us and offers new meaning to our lives. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE (*adapted from Psalm 50*)

Leader: Our God comes and does not keep silence
People: **We give praise to God the LORD, who speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.**

*SUNG PRAISE "*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*" refrain

♪ Blue # 139

**Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

*Text: Thomas O. Chisholm; Music: William M. Runyan
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:** 2 Kings 2:1-12
Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 4:1-18
Gospel Lesson: Mark 9:2-9

HYMN

"Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain"

vs 1 & 2

*Reprinted below.
 Used with Permission One License #A-728042*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain 183

Jerome J. Vajda, 1991; alt.

*Matt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36;
 John 19:30; Matt. 27:51-54; Mark 15:37-39*

Unison



1 Je - sus, take us to the moun-tain, where, with Pe - ter, James, and John,
 2 What do you want us to see there, that your close com-pan - ions saw?
 3 What do you want us to hear there, that your dear dis - ci - ples heard?
 4 Take us to that oth - er moun-tain where we see you glo - ri - fied,
 5 We who have be - held your glo - ry, ris - en and as - cend - ed Christ,



We are daz-zled by your glo - ry, light as blind-ing as the sun.
 Your di - vin - i - ty re - vealed there fills us with the self - same awe.
 Once a - gain the voice from heav - en says of the In - car - nate Word:
 When you shout-ed, "It is fin - ished!" where for all the world you died.
 Can - not help but tell the sto - ry, all that you have sac - ri - ficed;



There pre-pare us for the night by the vi - sion of . that sight.
 Clothed in flesh like ours you go - matched to meet our dead - liest foe.
 "Lis - ten, lis - ten, ev - ery - one, this is my be - lov - ed One!"
 Hear the stunned cen - tu - ri - on: "This was God's be - lov - ed One!"
 Say with Pe - ter, James, and John: "You are God's be - lov - ed One!"



Both text and tune were copyrighted by St. Luke Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, Maryland, to commemorate its fifty-fifth anniversary. The hymnwriter, Jerome Vajda, tells of being "as much at a loss for words contemplating the glory of the transfigured Christ as were the disciples."

Tune: SILVER SPRING S.7.8.7.7.
 Carl F. Schalk, 1991
 Alternate tune: IREBY

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....

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE[®]

Leader: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

{A time of silent prayer}

Leader: For the gospel proclaimed in word and deed, for communities of faith far and near, and for all who show the face of Christ throughout the world, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Leader: For creation: sun, moon and stars; life forming in the dark earth and ocean deep; mountains, clouds and storms, and creatures seen and unseen, and for the Holy Spirit's guidance in our stewardship of God's creation, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Leader: For those responsible for safety and protection: for emergency responders and security guards, attorneys and advocates, civil servants and leaders of governments, that they witness to mercy and justice throughout the world, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Leader: For all who suffer this day, that Christ our healer transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into peace, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Leader: For companions on life's journey in this worshiping community, for loved ones who cannot be with us this day, and for guidance during struggles we face, that God's glory is revealed around and among us, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Leader: In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their earthly pilgrimage, that their lives of service and prayer inspire us in our living, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Leader: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior, 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

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

vs 3 & refrain

♩Blue # 139

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,

Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide.

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -

Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

*Text: Thomas O. Chisholm; Music: William M. Runyan
Reproduced with Permission One License #A-728042*

OFFERTORY INVITATION ^②

Leader: Through our offerings, we support prophetic leadership, provide possibilities for mountaintop experiences, and enable the teaching ministry of our church.

People: Our generosity can make a difference in the lives of people we will never know and in our own lives as well.

Leader: Let us give from our hearts in deep thanksgiving.

People: We give of our first and our best to our God.

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

*{As we share in 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, or mailed in to the church.*

*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](#) 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 "We Give Thee But Thine Own" vs 1

♪ Red # 258

**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.**

*William W. How
Reproduced with Permission One License #A-728042*

*OFFERTORY PRAYER ②

Mighty God, use our gifts to bring light where there is gloom, hope where there is despair, peace where there is turmoil. May righteousness and justice prevail in spite of differences. May we inherit a double portion of the prophets' spirit to discern clearly the ways you would have us go. We dedicate ourselves, our tithes, and our offerings to these ends. **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: It has been good for us to be together.
Now we scatter to share good news.

**People: We depart with confidence and joy.
We will carry the knowledge of Christ in our hearts.**

Leader: Light from the gospel has been revealed to us.
We are becoming lights to the world.

**People: It is an awesome responsibility to reflect God's glory.
Ours is a wonderful opportunity to show God's love.**

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING HYMN "You Are Salt for the Earth, O People"

vs 1 & 2

*Reprinted on the following page.
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}.*

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

181

Paraphr. by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt.

Matt. 5:13-15

Unison

D (allow to ring off)

1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!
 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!
 3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!
 4 We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!

Share the fla-vor of life, O peo-ple: life in the Cit-y of God!
 Shine so ho-ly and bright, O peo-ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!
 Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!
 Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!

Refrain

Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;

Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!

During a residency at Holden Village, a retreat center in the state of Washington, Marty Haugen wrote this hymn to be used as a "processing song" for outdoor worship. The lectionary readings focusing on Jesus' teaching about the "reign of God" provided the basis for the text.

Tune: BRING FORTH Irr. with refrain
 Marty Haugen, 1986

Copyright © 1986 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc.



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
 - ⑮ The Love Feast liturgy was primarily designed and written by United Methodist pastor, the Rev. Dr. Cynthia A. Wilson (2018) at umdiscipleship.org, with adaptations from: the Rev. Tamie Scalise, Richard Stowe (author of *The Love Feast*), moravianmusic.org, 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 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

† 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
S. Miller	Family & Friends of E. Rhone (mother of B. Davis)
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.*

††† 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.

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Please join us virtually Wednesday, February 17 at 6:30pm for our [Ash Wednesday service](#). Use the following information to join the service (it's the same that we use for our Sunday morning worship services):

Online: [Live Stream](#) at www.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*

[Zoom](#): Meeting ID: 104 401 368; Passcode: 301301 (or call 1-646-558-8656) - *Live Only*

Lenten Bible Study Series

This year, St. Paul's UCC in Robesonia and Zion UCC in Womelsdorf, will be having a combined study series during the Sundays in Lent. The topic is "*Making Sense of the Bible*". It will be held via Zoom on Sunday evenings (Feb. 21, 28, March 7, 14, & 21) at 6:30pm. There is no cost, no minimum number of sessions that you must attend, and you need not be a member of either church. All are welcome. Detailed information may be found on our [website](#).

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, February 14, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Transfiguration Sunday.

2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9.

The Book of Second Kings

During the Middle Ages, the Book of Kings was divided into two parts. The first book provides a history of the Israelite people and their theological struggles from the death of King David (970 B.C.). The first book continues through the reign of King Solomon; to the division of Israel into the two kingdoms of Israel and Judah; and to the death of King Ahab and the beginning of the rule of his son Ahaziah. The second book begins with Ahaziah’s rule (850-849 BC); to the Assyrian’s destruction of Samaria (721 B.C.), which was the capital of the Northern Kingdom; to the invasion of the Babylonians and the fall of Jerusalem (586 B.C.), which was the capital of the Southern Kingdom, resulting in a period of Jewish exile.

Psalm 50

This OT song admonishes the people in liturgical form for failing to act and speak justly and righteously. The people need to repent, act rightly, and live thankful lives to God, before God will hear their prayers, accept their sacrifices, and offer salvation. This psalm is attributed to Asaph, who was one of King David’s chief musicians.

The Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

This NT Epistle (letter) was written by the Apostle Paul between 50-56 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 believed to be a compilation of fragments of multiple letters. This letter is in response to Titus’ glowing reports and other negative reports Paul has received about this 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 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, February 21, 2021, Lectionary Reading for the First Sunday in Lent.

Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15.