St. Paul's United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551 610-621-5770 -- office@spruce.org -- www.spruce.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.

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Sunday, May 30, 2021 First Sunday after Pentecost *Trinity 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

"Come Thou Almighty King"

arr. by Cindy Berry Used with Permission One License #A-728042

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[®]

O God, you are beyond our wildest imagining. When we speak of you, there are no words to describe your majesty and power. We know you best in Jesus of Nazareth who shared your love with all he met. He called for our rebirth as your children, cleansed by water and the spirit. We come together seeking renewal of the vows made at our baptism. We want to be faithful as Christ was faithful. We want to be fruitful in the work you give us to do. Bless our worship that we may be a blessing to others. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

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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 WORSHIP²

Leader:	Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength;	
	Worship the Lord in holy splendor.	
People:	The splendor of the Lord meets us here.	
-	We are filled with awe before the Lord.	
Leader:	Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.	
	The whole earth is full of God's glory.	

People: The universe is the Lord's dwelling place. There is no place from which we can run from the Lord.

Virtual Worship Service

Online: Live Stream at spruce.org - Live or Watch & Listen on <u>St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel</u> Later Facebook Live at https://www.facebook.com/www.spruce.org/ - Live or Watch & Listen Later Phone Stream at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later 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@spruce.org

Adoration and Praise



-3-

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)

In the midst of a time of grieving, the prophet Isaiah went to the temple to pray. There he had a vision of God's majesty, that moved him to recognize his unworthiness and sin. Sometimes we think we have nothing to confess, until we are confronted by the awesome presence of the Creator of all things. In awe before God, we come to seek forgiveness and reconciliation.

*Confession of Sin[®] (Unison)

God of all worlds, we confess that we are too much people of the flesh, living in slavery to our possessions and our fears. We are so attached to our little corner of the world that we find it difficult to identify with people whose experience is far different from our own. We do not want to suffer with the homeless, the hungry, the refugees, the oppressed. We turn away from the suffering of Jesus to pursue temporary advantages. Too often we act like just another human organization, not the body of Christ making a difference in the world. O God, forgive us and reclaim us as your children. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*PRAYER FOR MERCY

Leader (spoken): **People (sung):** Leader (spoken): **People (sung):** Leader (spoken): **People (sung):** *"Kyrie"* Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us. *▶Red* #518

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*Assurance of Pardon² (Leader)

God always claims us and loves us. When we confess our lostness and seek new birth in the Spirit, putting to death our selfish pursuits, we can receive what God always offers, participation in God's kingdom. We are born anew to life which already partakes of eternity. The cleansing coals of forgiveness touch our lips, taking away our guilt and blotting out our sin. Receive this gift from God. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE *

Leader: Let us give thanks and praise to our Triune God. **People: We sing in praise of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

*PRAISE RESPONSE

NCH #283

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

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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: Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalter: Psalm 29 Leader: Let us praise God with the Psalm...

> {The 1st time, the organist will play through the response without singing - that we may hear the tune; the 2nd time, the congregation will sing the response together}.

Refrain - Organ 1st: The voice of God is full of majesty. *Sung Refrain - ALL 2nd:* The voice of God is full of majesty.



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- Leader: Ascribe to God, O heavenly beings,
- People: ascribe to God glory and strength.
- Leader: Ascribe to God the glory of God's name;
- People: worship God in holy splendor.
- Leader: The voice of God is over the waters;
- People: the God of glory thunders, God, over mighty waters.
- Leader: The voice of God is powerful;
- People: the voice of God is full of majesty.
- ALL: The voice of God is full of majesty.
- Leader: The voice of God breaks the cedars;
- People: God breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- Leader: God makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
- People: and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- Leader: The voice of God flashes forth
- People: in flames of fire.
- Leader: The voice of God shakes the wilderness;
- People: God shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- ALL: The voice of God is full of majesty.

Leader:The voice of God causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare;People:and in God's temple all say, "Glory!"Leader:God sits enthroned over the flood;People:God sits enthroned as ruler forever.Leader:May God give strength to the people!People:May God bless the people with peace!ALL:The voice of God is full of majesty.

Second Lesson:	Romans 8:12-17
Gospel Lesson:	John 3:1-17

HYMN SING



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, died, 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 "*the universal church*" and was the word used in the original version of the Creed. It does not refer here to the particular denomination of the Roman Catholic Church, but rather the whole Christian church of all denominations, 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....

MEMORIAL SUNDAY PRAYER[®]

- Leader: Gracious God, on this Memorial Day weekend,
- People: we remember and give thanks for those who have given their lives in the service of our country.
- Leader: When the need was greatest,
- People: they stepped forward and did their duty to defend the freedoms that we enjoy, and to win the same for others.
- Leader: O God, you yourself have taught us
- People: that no love is greater than that which gives itself for another.
- Leader: These honored dead gave the most precious gift they had,
- **People:** life itself, for loved ones and neighbors, for comrades and country and for us. Leader: Help us to honor their memory
- People: by caring for the family members they have left behind,
- Leader: by ensuring that their wounded comrades are properly cared for,
- People: by being watchful caretakers of the freedoms for which they gave their lives,
- Leader: by working towards peace in all lands,
- People: so that one day no other young men and women follow them to a soldier's grave.
- Leader: Holy One, help us to remember that freedom is not free.
- People: There are times when its cost is, indeed, dear.

Leader: Never let us forget those who paid so terrible a price People: to ensure that freedom would be our legacy. Leader: Though their names may fade with the passing of generations, People: may we never forget what they have done. Leader: Help us to be worthy of their sacrifice, O God, help us to be worthy. People: We pay in the name of the one who taught us to pray.... Leader:

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 PRAISE "Alleluia" You're my Savior, alleluia; you're my Savior, alleluia; You're my Savior, alleluia: vou're my Savior, alleluia!

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OFFERTORY INVITATION⁽²⁾

As a sign of our rebirth in the Spirit, Leader:

- We offer back to God all that we have received in this life. People:
- This time of giving is a sacred symbol of our intent to live as God intends. Leader:

We lift up our tiny tokens of thanksgiving, entrusting to the ministry of this People: church, here and around the world, not only these gifts but ourselves as well.

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

{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 option on our website at spruce.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**

Giving, loving, holy God, receive our gifts we pray. Giving, loving, holy God, receive our gifts we pray. Take them, bless them, use them, grow them. Giving, loving, holy God, receive our gifts we pray.

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*OFFERTORY PRAYER[®] (Leader)

Receive our offering, God of glory, that our church may come alive in the Spirit. May these gifts, and the way we live our lives each day, proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. Strengthen us in our giving. Help us to be generous enough to experience the joy you find in showering us with more than we can ever give away. Thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ. Amen.

NCH #283

Online Giving

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:	Together, we catch a glimpse of God's glory.
Loudon.	
	Scattered, we carry that vision into the world.
People:	We are people of the Spirit, released from slavery.
i copic.	
	We are children of God, bearing witness every day.
Leader:	God asks: "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?
Leauer.	
	Who will tell of my love for all the world?"
People:	God has touched our lips and our hearts.
reopie.	
	We dare to say: "Here am I; send me!"
AII.	
ALL:	Amen.

*BENEDICTION ^①

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Savior Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do God's will, working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

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*SENDING HYMN

"God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand"

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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.}

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United Church of Christ (1986). New York: United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership. ^a Taught By Love by Lavon Baylor. (1998). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.

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 Miller, Earl D. (1994). Consecrating Stewards. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
- [®] The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
- ^e Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).

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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

Medical Concerns & Healing:

Sam B. Lori & Ryan B. Rich D. Jacob E. Jaden G. Ann H. Leigh H. Rev. David K. Jim & Donna K. Janice L. Ella L. Amy M. Diane M. George M. Starr M. Medical Concerns & Healing: Terry O. Paul P. Fred R. Julie R. Jim S. Rob & Jodi S. Martha W.

Mourning:

Family & Friends of Ron S. Family & Friends of Barb B. Family & Friends of Marilyn W.

Social Concerns:

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@spruce.org.

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 email the VCT at <u>CareTeam@sprucc.org</u>. For more information, go to our "<u>Visitation Care Ministries</u>" page at <u>www.sprucc.org</u> under the "ministries" tab.

For the week of May 30 the Primary VCT is Sheri Rowe, the Secondary VCT is Kirk Aulenbach. For the week of June 6 the Primary VCT is Geri Gammel, the Secondary VCT is Beth Miller.

Welcome!

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

Trinity Sunday

Celebrated on the first Sunday after Pentecost, Trinity Sunday is a Feast Day celebrated by Christians all over the United States and the world. The purpose of this holiday is to celebrate the symbolic nature of the Trinity – which is God, the father; Jesus, the son; and the Holy Spirit. All of which are separate entities upon themselves but are also one and the same entity. This is also known as the Christian Godhead as God incarnate in one person.

Sunday School

Sunday school has ended for the summer months. It will resume on September 12. However, Sunday school music, videos, and an assortment of other materials are available for downloading over the summer. Click on this link for Sunday school for youth.

Devotional Music

Devotional music for all ages, courtesy of Pastor Bob, is available on our website. Click on this link for Devotional Music.

Weekly Lectionary Bible Study

Every Tuesday morning Zion UCC of Womelsdorf offers a Zoom Bible Study based on the scripture passages for the coming Sunday. You may use any version of the Bible. The study goes from 9:00 to 9:45am. We would be happy to have you join us! Zoom login information may be found on our <u>website</u>.

Summer Schedule

Today we switch to our summer schedule. The worship service will begin at 9:30am. An outdoor hymn sing in the parking lot is planned. In the event of inclement weather, the service will be indoors. There will be no Zoom, but we will have Live Streaming, Phone Steaming, and Facebook Live.

Community Blood Drive - June 12

The next Community Blood Drive will take place at St. Paul's Church on Saturday, June 12 from 8:00am to 1:00pm. For more information contact Terry Pastor at 610-693-5024. To schedule an appointment to donate, call 1-800-223-6667 or schedule online at www.giveapint.org.

Community Vacation Bible School (VBS) - June 14 to June 17

In-person VBS will take place from Monday, June 14 to Thursday, June 17, from 6:00-8:00pm at St. Daniel's Lutheran Church. The theme is "*Christmas in June*". VBS is open to children 3 years old and up to and including Grade 6. This event is sponsored by St. Daniel's, St. Paul's and Zion churches. Online registration is required. Go to the church's website, <u>www.sprucc.org</u>, to register.

Strengthen the Church Offering

On Sunday, June 20, during worship we will receive the Strengthen the Church Offering. The Strengthen the Church Offering furthers the work of local UCC Conference, as well as the National UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.

Reading Phillies - June 24

We would like to organize a group outing to a Reading Phillies game. We are looking at Thursday, June 24. The game would begin at 7:05pm. If you are interested in going, please contact the church office and let Geri know. We are hoping to get group discount tickets.

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.

About Today

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

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

White - used on Trinity Sunday - symbolizing the holiness of our Triune God

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, May 30, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8 and Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

Isaiah

The book of Isaiah (OT) is attributed to three prophets. The first of whom is from where the book gets its name, and is about Isaiah's call to become a prophet and his prophecy that Jerusalem will face God's judgement regarding its immorality in order to be God's Holy City (chaps. 1-39, written 738-688 B.C.), the second is about living in exile in Babylon (chaps. 40-55, written 597-539 B.C.), and the third is about the return from exile to Judah and the rebuilding of the Temple (chaps. 56-66, written 520-515 B.C.). A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct.

Psalm 29

This OT song of praise is attributed to King David, sung in honor of God's power and glory as revealed in a great thunderstorm.

The Letter of Paul to the Romans

This epistle (letter) is addressed "to all God's beloved in Rome." It was dictated by the Apostle Paul to Tertius in 58 A.D. in Corinth and delivered to Rome by Phoebe (she was appointed by Paul as a deacon, teacher, and leader of the church). Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and church leader, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. Paul, a highly educated man, wrote more of the NT than any other person.

The Gospel According to 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, June 6, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Second Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15) and Psalm 138; Genesis 3:8-15 and Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 4:13 - 5:1; Mark 3:20-35



Link to Website's Upcoming Events