St. Paul's United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551 610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org Worship 9:30am

> 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, August 22, 2021 13th Sunday after Pentecost

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

"What a Friend"

by Charles Converse; piano arrangement by John Turner

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 WORSHIP²

O God, we come together in this house of prayer, trusting you to give us everything we need. As you provide for the birds of the air, you supply life's necessities for your children to share. We choose to respond to your promises by identifying ourselves as your servant people who seek to be guided by your word. We gather to remember and reclaim your covenant with us. Fleeing from tents of wickedness, we gather to do the tasks you entrust to us here, praying for strength to do our daily work as a ministry in your name. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Blessed Assurance" vs 1 & 2 ß Blue #572 Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper. 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:	With profound happiness, we welcome one another. How good it is to approach the courts of our God!			
People:	ple: Happy are those who live in the house of the Lord			
	Singing our praise to God fills us with joy.			
Leader:	Here we welcome both friend and stranger.			
	All peoples of the earth are God's children.			
People:	We greet one another by name in Jesus' name. We will be ambassadors for God wherever we go.			

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

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)

God has called us. We are drawn to the Spirit whose will for us is life at its fullest, attuned to all that is good and true. We are embraced by the gospel of peace. We come now to confess that we have not attuned our hearts to the will of God. Let us offer our confessions to the LORD....

*CONFESSION OF SIN[®] (Unison)

Alert us now, eternal Spirit, to your presence among us in this place. Together, we confess that we have been busy with so many things that we have often forgotten you. We have made little gods out of buildings and furnishings and programs. Sometimes our pet beliefs and interpretations have been all-consuming as we do battle to correct others and presume to defend you. We have forgotten that your love is stronger than any force on earth. Forgive our mistrust of its power, and draw us back into the company of disciples who are learning and growing in love. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*Assurance of Pardon[®] (Leader)

Happy are those who daily find their strength in the living God, seeking to walk uprightly. Happy are those who trust in God, who sincerely and truthfully seek to serve where God needs them most. God redeems us, whatever our circumstances, lifting our spirits, even when our bodies are in chains. May we serve boldly as ambassadors for Jesus Christ. Amen.

*CALL TO PRAISE *

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

*PRAISE RESPONSE "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation " vs 4 *▶* Red #324 Laud and honor to the Father, Laud and honor to the Son, Laud and honor to the Spirit, Ever Three and ever One, One in might, and One in glory, While unending ages run!

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 Reading:
Second Reading:
Gospel Reading:

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69

Hymn

▶ Red #282 Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper. Used with Permission One License #A-728042

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE: KIRK AULENBACH

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)

UCC Statement of Faith: The Revision of 1981: A Doxology We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify: You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death. You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself. You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races. You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory. You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace. your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

{Please be seated}

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray....

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Leader)

Leader: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

{A time of silent prayer}

Leader: God of courage, bless all leaders of your church. Make them ready to proclaim the gospel of peace and strengthen them to preach your loving word. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: God of creation, bless fields and orchards. Protect the land from drought and bring lifegiving rain to support growth. Instruct your people in wise treatment of the world you have provided for all your creatures. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: God of community, bless all who seek justice between nations and peoples. Give guidance to bridge-builders, heal divisions, and inspire cooperation in times of crisis, disaster, and war. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: God of compassion, bless all who are in any need. Accompany all who are lonely and feeling abandoned and remind them of your abiding presence. Accompany all who are persecuted and exploited and open us to their cries. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: God of change, bless our transitions. Guide all who are embarking on new stages in life such as a new job, new school, or new community. Sustain enduring friendships and kindle new relationships and interests. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: God of comfort, bless all who mourn the deaths of their beloved ones. We give you thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Renew our confidence in your promise of resurrection and life in the world to come. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to 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.

SUNG PRAISE "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation " vs 3 ♪Red #324 Here vouchsafe to all Thy servants What they ask of Thee to gain, What they gain from Thee forever With the blessed to retain, And hereafter in Thy glory Evermore with Thee to reign.

OFFERTORY INVITATION²

Leader: The church is not a private club that we maintain for our own benefit.

People: It is a mission outpost, constantly enlisting us and our resources for the spreading of good news and the increase of God's reign of love.

Leader: Our offerings are one measure of how seriously we take our call as ambassadors for Christ.

People: Our offerings reveal the depth of love and faith in our hearts.

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 <u>Online Giving</u> option on our website at **sprucc.org**. <u>Click Here</u> Offerings may also be mailed to St. Paul's UCC; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.

OFFERTORY

"Meditation on How Great Thou Art (Then Sings My Soul)"

piano arrangement by John Carter

{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. *♦ NCH #283*

Text: Benjamin Motz Used with Permission One License #A-728042

*OFFERTORY PRAYER [©] (Leader)

O Lord, may our giving add strength to the witness of your church as we humbly seek your truth and lovingly share it. Ready us to proclaim the gospel of peace in our homes, in our places of work and leisure, throughout our community and the world. Keep before your people the awesome mystery of faith. May its power overcome the cynicism of our skeptical, self-serving age, uniting us in disciplines that are freeing and discipleship that is amazingly fulfilling. **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.

*COMMISSION²

Take a prayerful spirit into your everyday world.
God will listen and respond to your prayers.
We pray for all God's saints engaged in ministry.
All of us are ambassadors for Jesus Christ.
You have good news to share with a needy world.
God will open up to you the mystery of the gospel.
We trust in God to lead and guide us in truth.
We will do our part to extend God's reign.
Amen.

Online Giving

*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**

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

*SENDING HYMN

"O Jesus I Have Promised "

vs 1, 3 & 4 *▶Red* #271 Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper. 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.

[®] 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.

[®] Taught By Love by Lavon Baylor. (1998). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.

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

® Reprinted with permission from Sourcebook of Worship Services

e scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America

Reprinted with permission from Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ. (2013).

⁶ Ecturn Resource. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
⁶ 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
⁸ Reprinted with Permission from Lecturn Resource. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
⁹ 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).

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.

* The Love Feast liturgy was primarily designed and written by United Methodist pastor, the Rev. Dr. Cynthia A. Wilson (2018) at umcdiscipleship.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. 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

የት Worship Participants የትት

Thank you to all who have made this worship experience possible.

	Today	Next Sunday
	August 22 nd	August 29 th
Greeter/Usher	Terry P.	Geri G.
Greeter/Usher	Mike P.	Elsa W.
Greeter/Usher	-	-
Acolyte	Geri G.	Geri G.
Welcome	Elsa W.	Sheri R.
Layreader/Lector #1	Elsa W.	Sheri R.
Layreader/Lector #2	-	-
Children's Message	Elsa W.	Pastor Ben
Cantor	Brian K.	Sheri R.
AV Tech	Kirk A.	Kirk A.

† 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: Terry B. Sam B. Norman B. Lori & Ryan B. Rich D. Jacob E. Jaden G. Ann H. Leigh H. Richard H. Rev. David K. Jim & Donna K. Janice L. Ella L. Edmund L.

Medical Concerns & Healing:

Amy M. Diane M. George M. Starr M. Gary N. Terry O. Paul P. Fred R. Julie R. Sharon R. Jim S. Rob & Jodi S. Spencer Family Martha W. Ash & Annie W.

Mourning:

Family & Friends of Sandra B. Family & Friends of Joyce R. Family & Friends of Jason R. Family & Friends of Ron S Family & Friends of Sarah S.

Social Concerns:

Those impacted by COVID-19 Those working on a vaccine for COVID-19

Celebration: Birth of Jenkins Ellis H.

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 <u>office@sprucc.org.</u>

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 CareTeam@sprucc.org. For more information, go to our "Visitation Care Ministries" page at www.sprucc.org under the "ministries" tab.

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



Link to Website's Upcoming Events

ትትት General Announcements ትትት

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.

Guest Messenger Today

Today our guest messenger for the worship service will be our own Kirk Aulenbach. Kirk is President of our Consistory and is also our AV tech person who makes possible our Sunday broadcasts. Thank you Kirk for sharing with us today.

Sunday School Materials

Sunday school music, videos, and an assortment of other materials are available for downloading over the summer. Click on this link for <u>Sunday school for youth</u>.

Devotional Music

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

Neighborhood Mission Work

Before we know it September will be here and it will be time for our stay-near-home Mission trip with Zion UCC (Womelsdorf). Scheduled for Saturday, September 18, we are still looking for local projects to consider and people to help on that day. Please let us know ASAP so that the projects and the availability of help may be firmed up. Please contact the church office either by calling or emailing. Information and a form may be found on our website. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, September 18, with a rain date of Saturday, September 25. We will be meeting at the church at 1:00pm.

Concert Series

Bethany Children's Home has their 6th Annual Summer Concert Series with the following shows:

Friday, August 27 - Stephanie Grace at 7:00pm

Friday, September 10 - Jeff Krick Jr.: Elvis Tribute at 7:00pm

Saturday, September 25 - Ringgold Band at 1:00pm

All shows are rain or shine. Suggested donation is \$5/car. Concessions and food trucks will be available. Proceeds benefit Bethany's mission. No weapons, pets, tobacco or alcohol. Lawn seating only. Bring your favorite chair or blanket!

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):

Green - symbolizing the life God brings, especially through our mission work.

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, August 22, 2021, Lectionary Reading for 13th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43 and Psalm 84; Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 and Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

The Book of First Kings

During the Middle Åges, 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.), through the reign of King Solomon, to the division of Israel into the two kingdoms of Israel and Judah, to the death of King Ahab, to the rule of his son Ahaziah (850 B.C.).

Psalm 84

This OT song proclaims the joy of worshiping in God's temple. It is set to the melody of "The Gittith of the Korahites." The Korahites were singers and one of the four divisions of the priestly Levite tribe of Israel.

Joshua

Following the death of Moses, Joshua becomes the leader of the Jewish people. The OT book of Joshua tells the story of the Israelites who since having been freed from Egyptian slavery, have been following Moses to the "Promised Land." In Joshua, they make the final part of this journey, crossing the Jordan River into the land of Canaan, the land promised to them by God.

Psalm 34

In 1 Samuel 21:10-15, King David feigned madness before King Achish. This is an OT song of thanksgiving to God written by King David for escaping Achish. It instructs the community to know the goodness of God.

The Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

The Epistle (letter) to the Gentile church in Ephesus is attributed to the Apostle Paul, written in the first century A.D. This is an open letter to many churches in response for the life-changing radical transformation in our personal and social life as we become a part of Christ's family. Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and leader in the Christian church, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. He wrote more of the NT than any other person. The title of this letter "Hebrews" presumably refers to the original audience of this letter as primarily Jewish-Christian.

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, August 29, 2021, Lectionary Reading for 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Song of Solomon 2:8-13 *and* Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9; Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 *and* Psalm 15; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

WALKING WITH GOD **Blessed Assurance** 572 Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith. Hebrews 10:22 D D B \odot 1. Bless-ed Je-sus is mine! O what a fore-taste of as - sur - ance, 2. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per-fect de - light! Vi-sions of rap-ture now 3. Per - fect sub - mis - sionall is at rest, I in my Sav-ior am 9:#<u>#</u> \$ 8 Б GD D D ŧ, glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur-chase of God, burst on my sight; An gels de - scend - ing bring from a - bove Watch-ing and wait - ing, and blest; look - ing a - bove, hap - py 5 Optional descant A This is my sto ry, Em G D A D G A 7 D Refrain -9 Born of His Spir it, washed in His blood. -This is my sto - ry, Ech - oes whis-pers love. of mer сy, of Filled with His good - ness, los<u>t</u> His love. in this is my Prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long; This is my song, <u>A</u> 7 D F# D G AE Ε G Α ø #2 Prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long; this is my song, This is my 10 11 12 TEXT: Fanny J. Crosby MUSIC: Phoebe P. Knapp; Descant by James C. Gibson ASSURANCE 9.10.9.9. with Refrain ASSURANCE AND TRUST sto - ry, this is my Prais-ing my Sav all the day long. song, ior Em G DA GD G D D F# Α7 D D D G D sto - ry, this is my song, Prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

15

16



