St. Paul's United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551 610-621-5770 -- office@spruce.org -- www.spruce.org Worship 10:15am

> 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, September 26, 2021 18th 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

"A Little Talk With Jesus Makes It Right" Handbell Choir arr. Patricia Cota

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP²

God, of majesty and power, may all your people find favor with you this day. Turn our sorrow into gladness and our mourning into a holiday, a holy day, in which to praise you and find ways to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Lift us from our daily preoccupations that we may pray with earnest intent, both to thank you and to be challenged by you. Let our prayers be powerful and effective. May our worship be alive and life-changing. May the service we extend find favor in your eyes, blessed God. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"God of Grace and God of Glory" vs 1 & 4 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 WORSHIP²

| Leader: | Come one and all to meet God here. |
|---------|---|
| | Let all who are suffering find hope in this place. |
| People: | We have come that God might raise us up. |
| - | Our only hope is the Maker of heaven and earth. |
| Leader: | Come, all who are weary and oppressed. |
| | God offers relief and enlists our mutual helpfulness. |
| People: | God hears our prayers and answers us. |
| • | God equips us to be helpful to one another. |
| | |

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 CONFESSION [©] (Leader)

Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so you may be healed. Prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective. We seek that right relationship with God that empowers our prayers and our service.

***CONFESSION OF SIN** $^{\circ}$ (Unison)

All-powerful God, we confess our devious ways. Even when prayers for others are on our lips, we seek ways to secure our own advantages. We put our trust in things we can accumulate rather than aligning ourselves with your will and way. Our behavior creates enemies and multiplies divisions among your people. Then we want you on our side against those who are different from us. We confuse our preferences with your intentions. O God, we need healing, but we are afraid to lose the illusions of control that are so much a part of us. We fear the very changes that would give us integrity. Help us, gracious God. Amen.

***SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

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

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

| *PRAYER FOR MERCY | "Kyrie" | <i>▶Red #</i> 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[®] (Leader)

The snares that entrap us are broken. Our help is in the name of God, who made heaven and earth. Prayers of faith make a difference. They are powerful and effective. We are changed in the hands of a loving God. We have much to give, beginning with the simplest of gifts, like a cup of cold water offered to one who is thirsty. Praise God, who is transforming us. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE [®]

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord has filled the world. **People:** We give God praise, for our souls are in the hand of the Lord.

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*PRAISE RESPONSE

"Awesome God " vs 1

♬Blue #179

Our God is an awesome God; He reigns from heaven above With wisdom, pow'r and love; Our God is an awesome God!

Text & Music: Rich Mullins 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: Second Lesson: Gospel Lesson: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

Hymn

"Here I Am, Lord" vs 1 & 2

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

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)

Apostles' 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.

{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} We pray for the church and its ministry. Bless the newly baptized and encourage them Leader: in their journey of faith. Sustain all members of the body of Christ in lives of prayer, service, and worship. Lord, in your mercy, People: hear our prayer. Leader: We pray for natural wonders of your creation. Restore damaged forests, waterways and natural habitats and lead us to be good stewards of what you have provided. Lord, in your mercy, **People:** hear our prayer. Leader: We pray for those in authority. Give them wise minds and compassionate hearts. Strengthen in them a desire to protect the vulnerable and care for those underserved. Lord, in your mercy, People: hear our praver. Leader: We pray for those who are struggling with cancer, dementia, or any other disease. Provide them with peace and resilience for the days ahead. Sustain caregivers with energy and patience. Lord, in your mercy, People: hear our prayer. We pray for the worship leaders of this congregation: musicians, readers, acolytes, and Leader: ushers. Bless us through their ministry and grant them the passion to continue in their service. Lord, in your mercy, **People:** hear our prayer. Leader: We give thanks for all your saints, those we have loved and known and those from every time and place. Continue to guide us by their example and reassure us of your promised salvation. Lord, in your mercy, People: hear our praver. Leader: Receive these pravers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us when we pray to say....

LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come,

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power,

and the glory forever. Amen.

"Thy Word" refrain. vs 1. refrain

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE

Refrain: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Verse 1: When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way, Still You're there right beside me. Nothing will I fear as long as You are near. Please be near me to the end.

Repeat Refrain

Text: Amy Grant Music: Michael W. Smith Reproduced with permission under One license #A-728042

OFFERTORY INVITATION[®]

- Leader: We come now before the altar of the Lord our God.
- **People:** We have received an inheritance from our Lord, which we did not earn.
- Leader: Our Lord God is a jealous god.
- We will put away all the false gods that have divided our time, resources, and People: fidelity, that we might fully and faithfully serve the Lord as disciples of Christ. Leader: What will you bring?
- People: What will we bring?

For the alory of the skies.

Over and around us lies: Lord of all. to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the love which from our birth

- What will you bring to the altar of the Lord your God? Leader:
- We will bring our best and first to the Lord God, holding nothing back, seeking People: to love and serve God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength; and giving of ourselves in self-sacrificing Christ-like love, to love and minister to our fellow humankind in word and in deed, especially those in the greatest need.

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}.

OFFERTORY

"Near to the Heart of God" Soloist - Sheri Rowe

by Cleland B. McAfee

{Those who are able, please rise}

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** "For the Beauty of the Earth" vs 1 For the beauty of the earth,

> Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint Music: Conrad Kocher Used with Permission One License #A-728042

∄Blue #182

∄Blue #184

Online Givina

*OFFERTORY PRAYER ² (Leader)

O Lord, we dedicate ourselves, our tithes, and our offerings to the work of your church. For those who are sick, who are suffering, who are grieving, who are lost, we have words of hope and acts of caring. We stand with all who face discrimination, oppression, and confusion, seeking to work with them for justice and a meaningful existence. As you have accepted us, we reach out to include all your children in the family of mutuality, self-revelation, and growing in love. **Amen.**



{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.}

ትትት Worship Participants ትትት

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

| | Today | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| | September 26 th | October 3 rd |
| Usher Captain | Barb O. | Elsa W. |
| Usher Co-Captain | Georgi H. | Geri G. |
| Usher/Greeter | - | - |
| Usher/Greeter | - | - |
| Acolyte | Geri G. | Geri G. |
| Welcome | Sheri R. | TBD |
| Layreader/Lector #1 | Sheri R. | John E. |
| Layreader/Lector #2 | - | - |
| Children's Message | Pastor Ben | Geri G. |
| Cantor | Sheri R. | TBD |
| AV Tech | Kirk A. | Kirk A. |
| | | |

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- ² Taught By Love by Lavon Baylor. (1998). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
- ¹ 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 Sundays and Seasons. (2020). Augsburg Fortress
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- scouting.org resources for Boy Scouts of America
- Reprinted with permission from Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ. (2013).
- [®] Lecturn Resource. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
 ⁹ 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
- Reprinted with Permission from Lecturn Resource. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
- [®] 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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* The Love Feast liturgy was primarily designed and written by United Methodist pastor, the Rev. Dr. Cynthia A. Wilson (2018) at uncediscipleship.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

† 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: | Medical Concerns & Healing: |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Terry B. | Edmund L. |
| Sam B. | Amy M. |
| Lori & Ryan B. | Diane M. |
| Deb D. | George M. |
| Rich D. | Nate, Jenny, Luke & Teddy M. |
| Jacob E. | Gary N. |
| Jaden G. | Terry O. |
| Ann H. | Paul P. |
| Leigh H. | Fred R. |
| Richard H. | Earl S. |
| Rev. David K. | Jim S. |
| Jim & Donna K. | Rob & Jodi S. |
| Ella L. | Spencer Family |
| | Martha W. |
| | |

Mourning: Family & Friends of Robert G. Jr. Family & Friends of R. Lynn H. Family & Friends of Starr M. Family & Friends of Sharon R.

Social Concerns:

Those impacted by COVID-19 Those working on a vaccine for COVID-19 Those who serve in the armed forces

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.

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.

Sunday School Materials

Sunday school music, videos, and an assortment of other materials are available for downloading. 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.

Following Worship Service

After worship, there will be a fellowship time outside (if the weather permits) and in the Miller Fellowship Hall with Zion UCC.

Sunday School

Sunday school for adults and youth is scheduled to resume on **Sunday**, **October 10 at 9:00am**. Both adult and youth classes will be shared with Zion UCC.

World Communion Sunday - October 3

St. Paul's UCC and Zion UCC will have a combined World Communion Sunday worship service in the sanctuary next Sunday, October 3 at 10:15am.

Neighbors in Need (NIN) Special Offering - October 3

In 2021 the NIN "Unfailing Love" offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. Most churches will collect the offering on the first Sunday in October as part of World Communion Sunday, but contributions can be made at any time. A special offering envelope may be found on the table in the hallway leading up to the sanctuary, and also in the October Herald. NIN is one of the UCC's Five for Five Special Mission Offerings.

Weekly Morning Bible Study

Every Tuesday morning at 9:00am, Zion UCC offers a Zoom Bible Study based on the scripture passages for the coming Sunday. The study goes from 9:00-9:45am. All are invited! The same Zoom numbers are used each week.

To join the Zoom meeting use the following: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87452124156?pwd=RzI3dTI4Uy8vWGpBQnRzOGV2bnlrdz09

Meeting ID: 874 5212 4156 Passcode: 783249

For people joining with telephone, choose one of these numbers: +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC) +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

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.

Sexton Position

Epler's UCC located at 1151 West Leesport Road, Leesport, PA 19533 is currently looking for someone to fill their sexton position. If you would like to contact them please call their church at 610-926-1006, or email them at office@eplerschurch.org.

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, September 26, 2021, Lectionary Reading for 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 and Psalm 124; Numbers 11:4-6,10-16, 24-29 and Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13 -20; Mark 9:38-50

Esther

The Book of Esther is included as one of the Five Scrolls in the Hebrew Bible read on festivals of the Jewish year. Esther is read at Purim, in celebration of the deliverance of the Jews from a time when they were violently persecuted somewhere between 486-359 B.C. by Haman, who was the chief advisor to the Persian King Ahasuerus. Queen Esther, who was raised as a Jew by her adopted father Mordecai, cunningly (particularly through letter writing) saves the Jewish people from persecution and leads them to decisively defeat their enemies.

Psalm 124

In this OT song attributed to David, thanksgiving is given to God for delivering God's people from their enemies. Psalms 120-134 are a part of the collection known as "A Song of Ascents." These songs were most likely sung by people on religious pilgrimages.

Numbers

The book of Numbers (OT) is the fourth book in the Pentateuch (first five books of the OT, or Torah, or one of the five most central books in Judaism). The title of the book in Greek is *Arithmoi*, referring to the many census "numbers" found in chapters 1 and 2. The book's title in Hebrew is *Bemidbar*, which means "in the wilderness", as this book begins with the Israelite nation in the wilderness of Sinai after fleeing Egyptian slavery, spans the 40 years of wanderings in the wilderness - struggling with a lack of faith, and ends as they are about to enter the land of Canaan.

Psalm 19

In this OT song, we sing proclaim that we and the heavens give praise and glory to God for creation and the perfect law of the LORD.

James

This NT Epistle (letter) is commonly attributed to James, the brother of Jesus, who was a leader in the Christian church from 36AD until his martyrdom in 62AD. This letter is written not to one particular church in a particular area but a number of Christian churches in general. James addresses a number of topics in his letter including: being faithful in times of trial, that real faithfulness involves putting words into practice, the importance of helping the poor and not seeking earthly riches, speaking appropriately, choosing God's wisdom over Earthly wisdom, and the importance of actively being in a Christian community of faith in support of one another.

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, October 3, 2021, Lectionary Reading for 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Job 1:1, 2:1-10 and Psalm 26; Genesis 2:18-24 and Psalm 8; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

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WALKING WITH GOD 589 Here I Am, Lord "Whom shall I send?" I said, "Here am I. Send me." Isaiah 6:8 $Am Am^{7}_{4} D^{7}_{sus} D^{7}_{5} G$ $\frac{G}{R}$ DC Em Еm D G_{Unison} Em of I have heard My peo-ple cry. 1. I, the Lord sea and sky, of snow and rain, 2. I. the Lord I have borne My peo-ple's pain. I will tend the poor and lame. 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, 2 3 1 $\frac{G^6}{B}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ D F♯ Em⁷ D Bm Em Em⁷ Am⁷ С Am Ĝ All who dwell deep est sin My hand will save. in I have wept for love of them, They turn a - way. for them, My hand will save. T will set а feast 6 Am Am $\stackrel{7}{4}$ D⁷_{sus} D⁷ <u>G</u> B Em G Em Em D G will make their dark-ness bright. I who made the stars of night, I I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a - lone. sat - is - fied. Fin-est bread I will pro-vide Till their hearts be 10 <u>G6</u> B $\frac{G M^7}{B} = \frac{G}{B}$ $C^{6} \frac{G^{2}}{B} Am^{7} C^{6} D^{4}_{2} D$ $\frac{G}{B}$ С Am Am⁷ $Em Em^7$ Bm Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send? will speak My word Whom shall I send? to them. Ι Ι will give My life to them. Whom shall I send? 15 13 14 16 17



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HERE I AM, LORD

7.7.7.4.D. with Refrain



EPIPHANY SEASON



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

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