St. Paul's United Church of Christ Zion United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

St. Paul's UCC: 610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org

Zion UCC: 610-659-2775 -- mestme@aol.com -- www.1Zion.org

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.



Welcome to our Combined 10:15am Worship Service In-Person & Streaming Online



Sunday, February 13, 2022 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome

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.

Children's Bulletins

Crayons and activity bulletins are available in the narthex.

The activities match today's Bible readings and are designed for 3-6 & 7-12 year olds.

Biblias en Español

Biblias Bilingües en Español y Inglés están disponible en el vestíbulo narthex en la mesa de visitantes azul. (Bilingual Bibles in Spanish & English are available in the narthex hallway on the blue visitors' table).

Nursery

Persons of all ages (including children) are very welcome to participate in the entire worship service. Due to the COVID pandemic, for the safety of children, we are currently not offering a nursery during worship. Normally, we have supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, located on the first floor.

Junior Worship

For the safety of children, we are not offering Junior Worship during the pandemic. Normally, the option of "Junior Worship" is offered downstairs, on the 1st & 2nd Sunday of the month, following the children's sermon, for elementary age children to learn more about today's scripture lessons.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located both on the first and second floors to the left of the elevator.

Changing Tables

All four of our restrooms have changing tables. Each restroom has two "child care protection seats" to keep toddlers safe and secure while their parents use the restroom.

Water Fountains

For the safety of all, our water fountains are disabled during the pandemic.

Sunday School & Adult Faith Formation Classes

Classes for all ages are held at 9:00am.

Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship is held at 10:15am.

Praver and Care

If you would like to add yourself or someone else to the prayer list, or request a pastoral call, please call or email the church office. You are welcome to take home with you a copy of *Our Daily Bread* daily devotional booklet, located on a table in the narthex hallway.

Looking for a Church to Call Home

If you are looking for a new church family home, we would be happy for you to consider St. Paul's or Zion United Church of Christ. For more information about St. Paul's, Zion, and the UCC, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our churches.

More Information....

Additional literature about our missions, ministries, and fellowship opportunities is located on the *Blue Visitor Table* in the narthex hallway, or contact us using the contact information on the front page of this bulletin.

Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you or if there is any way in which we can help make your worship experience more meaningful.

{Symbols used in this bulletin: *= if able please stand; \$\mathbb{J}\# = Red Hymnal Page; \$\mathcal{J}\# = Blue Hymnal Page}







Free WiFi

Virtual Worship Service

Online: Live Stream at spruce.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel
Facebook Live (St. Paul's) 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 1-301-715-8592) - Live Only

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

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.

Please Do Not move the red ribbons or sit where they are placed.

They are there for your safety and the safety of those around you to help designate social distancing.

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE "Depth of Mercy" & "Search Me, O God" Carl Maria von Weber and Edward J. Hopkins

GREETING AND WELCOME

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

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP (Silently Before Worship Begins)

Come, Holy God, to search our minds and try our hearts. Grant us in this hour, wise counsel and clear direction. Touch us, teach us; hear us, heal us. Send your Spirit to walk with us, as Christ walked with the disciples long ago, that your Kingdom may become for us a present reality as well as a future hope. Grant us living water to quench our thirst and sound preaching to feed our hunger. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN "God of Grace and God of Glory" verses 1,2 & 3 NCH 436
Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper.

*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: Blessed are those who trust in God,

who delight to meditate on God's law.

People: We long to hear the Word of God

and let the Word shape how we live our lives.

Leader: Blessed are all who seek the Kingdom of God, who hunger to find meaning in their lives.

People: We intend to give our best to our Lord,

bearing fruit in all we say and do.

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)

Come with your troubled spirits and confused values to seek forgiveness. Come form your misplaced trust and limited vision to open yourself to the transformation God offers. Come from the parched places where doubt and cynicism block God's revelation. Let us confess our sins before God and before one another.

*Confession of Sin © (Unison)

Almighty God, our Lord, we confess that we have chased after wealth and physical security while neglecting matters of the spirit. We put our trust in things and in sinners' empty promises. We even deceive ourselves, shaping our words and actions to please other people. We have doubted the resurrection, surrendering to a sense of futility and skepticism. Turn us around, Lord; so we can learn to trust you and find strength in giving of ourselves. Help us to live faithfully that we might bear fruit in the lives of others. 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" \$\\$Red #518

Leader (spoken):

People (sung):
Leader (spoken):

People (sung):
Leader (spoken):

Leader (spoken):

Leader (spoken):

Leader (spoken):

Leader (spoken):

Leader (spoken):

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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*Assurance of Pardon (Leader)

The healing Jesus offered to disciples long ago is available to us. They were freed to love with generous abandon; so are we. They learned to care for others without first measuring the benefits to themselves; so have we. They were led to the mountain top to commune with God; so are we. They found hope and new life in Christ; this is also God's gift to us. When we confess our sins and live repentant lives that bear good fruit, we are forgiven. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: The Lord has been made manifest to us.

People: Illumined by the Spirit, we sing to the Lord our praise.

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*Sung Response of Praise "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee:

Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty! God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

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: Jeremiah 17:5-10

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:12-22

Leader: The word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL LESSON: <u>Luke 6:17-26</u>

Leader: The word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper.

HYMN "Let Justice Flow Like Streams" all verses NCH #588

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.

OPPORTUNITIES OF OFFERING TIME AND TALENT

Prayer Needs, Joys, Opportunities for Study and Service, and other Announcements

OFFERTORY INVITATION ^②

Leader: Baptized by living water, we are privileged to bear fruit.

People: Contributing our material riches, we discover unanticipated spiritual

rewards.

Leader: The blessings we share are multiplied in the service of God.

People: Let us give generously with joy.



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 St. Paul's UCC secure Online Giving option on our website at sprucc.org. St. Paul's UCC Click Here or Zion UCC's online giving at www.1Zion.org - Zion UCC Click Here
Offerings may also be mailed to St. Paul's UCC; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551 or Zion UCC; PO Box 97; Womelsdorf, PA 19567}.

OFFERTORY / ANTHEM

"Take Our Bread"

Joe Wise

{Those who are able, please rise}

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"I Surrender All"

All to Jesus I surrender, Humbly at His feet I bow, Worldly pleasures all forsaken. Take me Jesus, take me now. I surrender all, I surrender all, All to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

*Offertory Prayer ^② (Leader)

Thank you, God, for the consolation you offer. The hunger you satisfy, and the healing you produce in those who respond to your love. You have touched our lives in ways that make us rich. Now use what we have shared to provide fulfillment in other lives, among our neighbors, near and far. Enlist our best efforts in the extension of your Kingdom, that our offering of ourselves may bear fruit daily. Amen

Sacrament of Holy Communion ••

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is the central act of Christian worship, bringing us more fully together with one another and the Triune God, through the sacrifice of the body and blood of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 26:20-30, Mark 14:17-26, Luke 22:14-23, John 13:21-30)

*INVITATION

Leader: Dearly beloved in the Lord: Our blessed Saviour Jesus Christ instituted the Holy Communion of his Body and Blood, that it might be the abiding memorial of his atoning death; the seal of his perpetual presence in the Church through the Holy Spirit; the mystical representation of the sacrifice of himself on the cross; the pledge of his undying love for his people; and the bond of his living union and fellowship with them to the end of time.

ALL: The celebration of the Lord's Supper has ever been regarded by the Church as the innermost sanctuary of the whole Christian worship. What we do here is not merely with signs, but with the realities these signs represent. We seek to approach the Lord's Table rightly, striving to be devout and repentant, with a believing mind.

Leader:

We cordially invite to partake of this Sacrament all who are truly grieved and penitent for their sins, who look to the Lord Jesus Christ for righteousness and salvation, who abide in the fellowship of his Church, and who desire to possess his Spirit and walk in his ways. To all such the compassionate Redeemer himself says: Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

*COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you. Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader:

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Everlasting God, who created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, who made humankind in your own image, and whose tender mercies are over all your works.

We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none.

We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless.

We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory.

We give thanks to you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy and sing....

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*SANCTUS

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Seraphic Hymn

{Sanctus is Latin for "Holy." Scraphic Hymn refers to the song of the Scraphim Angels. Sabaoth is a Hebrew name for God, referring to God as both creator and ruler of the world}.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of thy glory, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord,

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

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WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader:

Lord, we remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.

Leader: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come a

Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Ordained Minister:

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We offer you these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service in behalf of all people.

Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, the gifts of bread, wine, and grape juice, bless these before us here in this place and bless those being shared in homes this day, and bless us all as we receive them. May we offer you our faith and praise, through the Holy Spirit may we be united in communion with Christ and with one another, experience oneness with all Christians during this Christmas season and throughout the year, no matter the physical distance, and may we continue faithful in all things.

ALL: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen.

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.

LAMB OF GOD

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People: grant us peace.

CALL TO THE SUPPER

Leader: The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come, for all things are ready.

BREAKING THE BREAD, RAISING THE CUP, AND SHARING THE ELEMENTS

{For those who have the pre-filled cups: open the first seal - unleavened bread wafer}

Pastor: The Body of Christ broken for you. Take and eat.

People: Amen.

{You may eat the bread}

{For those who have the pre-filled cups: open the second seal - the fruit of the vine - grape juice}

Pastor: The Blood of Christ shed for you. Take and drink.

People: Thanks be to God.

{You may drink the wine or grape juice}

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **People:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table

by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace,

rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

We Are Sent Out

In response to God's love and grace, we go out into the world to share God's Good News through our words and actions.

*COMMISSION ²

Leader: Go forth into a parched and needy world

to share the water of life with others.

People: We go out with renewed faith and hope in Christ.

We seek to bear fruit in all we say and do.

Leader: Be assured that the Kingdom of God is ours.

God knows us, loves us, blesses us in Christ.

People: Christ us the first fruits of those who have died.

We shall rise with Christ to new life.

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING HYMN

"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" all verses

Cel # 429

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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.}

POSTLUDE

TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

ALL are invited

to share in a time of Refreshments and Fellowship in the downstairs Miller Fellowship Hall



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
- (9) We experience greater oneness with God and each another through Communion



Worship Service Resource Credits

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- Miller, Earl D. (1994). Consecrating Stewards. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
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St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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Acting Financial Secretary: Terry Pastor

Zion United Church of Christ

PO Box 97; Womelsdorf, PA 19567

www.1Zion.org

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610-507-7865

Consistory Secretary: Yvonne Rentschler

Financial Secretary: Janice Conner

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

Link to Website's Upcoming Events



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 the 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 C**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Luke.

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). The first four books of the NT are called the "Gospels," which Christians consider the most central books of the Bible.

This Sunday, February 13 -- Lectionary Reading for Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-22 Luke 6:17-20

Jeremiah

The OT book of Jeremiah is attributed to the major prophet Jeremiah and written around 600-500 B.C. (B.C.E.). A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct. Jeremiah's ministry extended over the last tragic forty years of the kingdom of Judah to the destruction of Jerusalem and the deportation of the Jewish people to Babylon.

Psalm 1

This OT song, gives praise to God's law, and proclaims the blessings of following God's law.

The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

This NT Epistle (letter) was written by the Apostle Paul between 53-54 A.D. to a gentile congregation he had founded several years earlier in Corinth (the capital city of the Roman province of Achaia, a large and prospering urban center that was ethnically, culturally, and religiously diverse). This letter is in response to issues within the Corinthian church, in particular fractions caused by one-upmanship and privatization of faith. Paul encourages humility, unity within diversity, and witnessing to God's grace. Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and church leader, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. Paul wrote more of the NT than any other person.

The Gospel According to Luke

The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles is attributed to Luke "the beloved physician," written around 59-90 A.D. (C.E.). Not having met Jesus personally, Luke undertook the task of "investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account" of Jesus Christ, "so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed."

Next Sunday, February 20 -- Lectionary Reading for 7th Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-15 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38

OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION IN SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA

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CHURCH

Communitas

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
1441 Laura Lane, Suite 100, Pottstown, PA 19464
484-949-8774

February 13, 2022

The Necessity of Black History Month

I recently was privy to a conversation around the necessity of Black History Month. There are some people who believe that our society has moved beyond setting aside time to focus on the history of any one group, because after all we live in a post-racial America. I, however, believe that the exact opposite is true, especially for people of faith. I believe that Black History Month, along with every other designated time to focus on marginalized communities, is more vital than ever, but not for those communities.

Black History Month, at its best, is not just a time for black people to focus on their history and heritage; we do that 24/7/365. It's actually best when others use this as an opportunity to get to know a community other than their own. This is love to me, agape. God's love says, "you matter to me. Your history matters. Your voice matters. Your culture matters." I pray that the churches of our conference will not see Black History Month as something just for African Americans, but as an opportunity to embody God's love by better understanding the embodied experience of people of the African Diaspora.

Rev. Cean James

PSEC Associate Conference Minister for Congregational Development

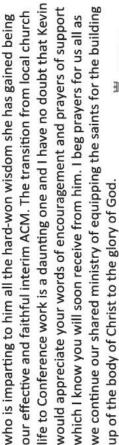


Welcoming Rev. Kevin McLemore WEW Associate Conference Minister of Search & Call

Dear PSEC Friends,

I hope you will join me in welcoming our new Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call Rev. Kevin McLemore

(mclemore@psec.org) . Kevin began his work with our Conference this week under the helpful turnover tutelage of Rev. Dr. Susan Minasian



Pastor Bill

Rev. William P. Worley, PSE Conference Minister



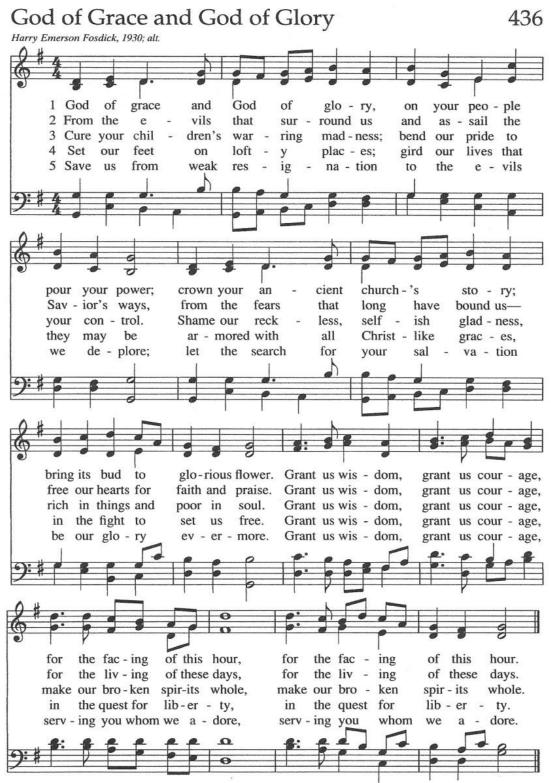
Last Weekend for...



For

Disaster Relief The Susquehanna Area Mission Council CHALLENGED ALL Pennsylvania Southeast and Penn Northeast Conference churches to invite EVERY member to donate just \$5 to your Conference office earmarked for Disaster Relief between January 16th & ending TODAY, February 13th.

*All monies will remain in their respective conferences specifically for Disaster Relief Services and a celebratory virtual worship will be Live Streamed on February 27th.



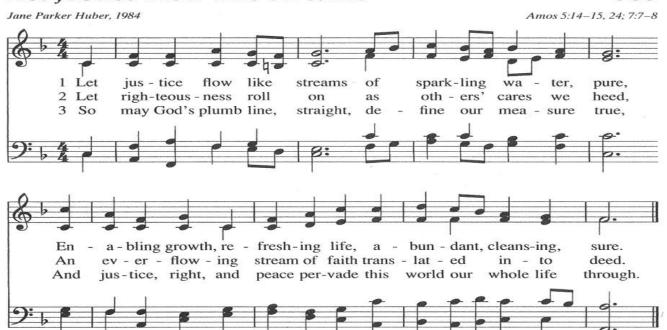
Harry Emerson Fosdick, a prophetic preacher and writer, taught at Union Theological Seminary from 1915 to 1946. This hymn was written for the opening service and dedication of Riverside Church, New York City, which he served for twenty years.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

John Hughes, c. 1907

Let Justice Flow like Streams

588



This is one of two hymns Jane Parker Huber wrote for special events emphasizing economic justice for women at the time of the reunification of two Presbyterian denominations in 1983. The text's brevity underscores the urgency of Amos' pronouncements against injustice.

Tune: ST. THOMAS S.M. Aaron Williams' New Universal Psalmodist, 1770

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love



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