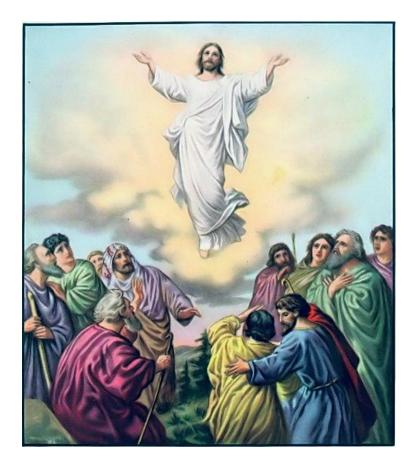
St. Paul's United Church of Christ Zion United Church of Christ

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

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May 29, 2022 Seventh Sunday of Easter Ascension Sunday 10:15 a.m.

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. For safety, during the COVID pandemic we temporarily ceased having supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, on Sunday, September 11, 2022. In the meantime, parents who would like to do so, are welcome to watch their own children in the nursery, where a closed circuit TV is located, so that you can still see and hear the worship service.

Junior Worship

For safety, during the pandemic we temporarily ceased offering Junior Worship. We will resume Junior Worship on Sunday, September 11, 2022. The option of Junior Worship is offered downstairs, on the 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month, following the children's sermon, for elementary age children to learn 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.

Prayer 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; S# = Red Hymnal Page; <math>J# = Blue Hymnal Page}







Virtual Worship Service

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

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP²

Our God, we come seeking a presence that shakes foundations and helps us build new ones. We come with all our wounds, asking for healing. We come, remembering our baptism and wanting to claim the difference that makes in our lives. We come through the shadowy clouds of our unbelief, seeking the brightness of your glory. O God, we want a faith to sustain us through times of trial and testing. Be powerfully present with us, gracious Spirit. Amen.

Prelude	"Hail the	e Day that Sees Him Rise"	Robert Williams arr. for piano by Cindy Berry				
		{Those who are able, please rise}					
		{Please remember to wear a mask whenever s	inging}				
*PROCESSION	IAL HYMN	"Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!"	NCH #257 One License #A-728042				
*Invocation Leader: I	n the name	of God the Father, and of God the S	Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper.				

ALL: Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP ②

Leader: God is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. All creation is subject to God's rule and reign.

People: We bring our prayers and praise to God most high. We lift our voices in hymns of celebration. Leader: Come, all who hunger, all who thirst;

Be nourished and renewed in this time of worship.

People: We bring joys and sorrows, fullness and needs. We come with successes and failures; we come seeking.

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 2 (Leader)

We who have fashioned idols to occupy our time and energy are invited to examine our priorities before God, who expects to be first in our lives. We who have used others for our own pleasure and gain are summoned before our Creator, who calls us to treat all our brothers and sisters with the love of Jesus Christ. Friends, we have much to confess, let us do so now before the altar of our Lord.

*CONFESSION OF SIN 2 (Unison)

O God, hear our individual confessions as we recall the ways we ignore you every day. Listen to our regrets over the abuse we have heaped on others by our words, actions, or neglect. We join together in asking forgiveness for the ways our church inflicts injury on members of the household of faith while excluding many who differ from us. We live by our own devices rather than taking risks to follow where Christ might lead us. Deliver us, O God, from empty forms to receive the fullness of your grace and the power to live as you intend. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ② (Leader)

Rejoice, O righteous ones, and give thanks to God's holy name. You are forgiven, saved from the wrath of one before whom mountains melt and the earth trembles. Through Christ, God's forgiving love is poured out on all who earnestly seek to be changed. We are drawn into a unity that transcends our differences and a faithfulness beyond our ability to achieve. Praise God! **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: Let us sing praise to our ascended Saviour. **People: We praise the name of Jesus.**

*SUNG PRAISE

"Alleluia"

☐ CEL #189 Music: Jerry Sinclair, Text: Benjamin Motz

He's ascended, alleluia; he's ascended, alleluia; He's ascended, alleluia; he's ascended, alleluia!

(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: <u>Acts 16:16-40</u> Second Lesson: <u>Revelation 22:12-21</u> Leader: This is the word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 17:20-26 Leader: This is the word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

Hymn

"For the Healing of the Nations"

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EXTINGUISHING THE PASCHAL CANDLE

Ascension Sunday Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

{After the reading of the Ascension of Christ, the Paschal Candle is extinguished}

Ascension Praise

Leader: Christ goes up with shouts of joy!

People: Our Lord ascends to the sound of trumpets!

Sung Response (ALL):

I will praise you, alleluia; I will praise you, alleluia,

Leader: The Almighty rides in triumph.

People: The Almighty leads captivity captive.

Leader: Who shouts for joy? Who blows the trumpet?

People: The hosts of heaven sing the honor of his name; they praise him with an endless alleluia.

Text and Music: Jerry Sinclair

Sung Response (ALL):

I will praise you, alleluia; I will praise you, alleluia,

- Leader: The Lord has brought down death itself.
- People: The Lord has wiped away the stain of sin.
- Leader: The Lord has trodden the winepress of suffering; he has paid the price to rescue the lost.
- People: Now he returns to his throne of glory; the hour has come to reclaim his crown.

Sung Response (ALL):

I will praise you, alleluia; I will praise you, alleluia,

Leader: Jesus Christ, the Prince of Life,

now reigns in heaven with the Father.

People: Jesus Christ, the Prince of Life,

now rules in the congregation of the righteous.

- Leader: Ascended Lord, how can we honor you enough?
- People: Ascended Lord, how can we rightly praise the victory you have won?
- Leader: Prepare us for that welcome day

when we shall behold you in all your majesty.

People: Prepare us for that welcome day when we shall stand before you and rejoice forever.

Sung Response (ALL):

I will praise you, alleluia; I will praise you, alleluia, I will praise you, alleluia; I will praise you, alleluia!

> Adapted from David J. Diephouse 2007 "A Litany for Ascension Day". Based on Texts from J. S. Bach's Cantana "Gott fahret auf mit Jauchzen" (BWV 43). From Reformed Worship; Resources for Planning and Leading Worship

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING *"Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children"*

- 1. Praise him, Praise him, all ye little children, God is love, God is love. Praise him, Praise him, all ye little children,
- God is love, God is love.
- 2. Love him...
- 3. Thank him...

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 (based on Colossians 1:15-20)

Leader: Let us profess our faith, using Paul's words from his Letter to the Colossians...

ALL: Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;

for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible,

whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers-

all things have been created through him and for him.

He himself is before all things,

and in him all things hold together.

He is the head of the body, the church;

he is the beginning,

the firstborn from the dead,

so that he might come to have first place in everything.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven,

by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Amen.

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
- 7 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,

People: O God, help us to be worthy.

Leader: We pray in the name of the one 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.

***PRAYER RESPONSE** "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus"

S CEL #340 Music & Text: Martin Nystrom

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face; and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.

OFFERTORY INVITATION ②

Leader: Christians sometimes bring peace in the midst of turmoil.

People: At other times, we disturb the peace with our work and our championing of the oppressed.

Leader: As we pool the resources God has given us,

People: we become a powerful influence for good.

Leader: Our tithes and offerings proclaim our faith.

People: Let us give faithfully.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "You are My Hiding Place" Words & music by Michael Ledner

{Those who are able, please rise}

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"Alleluia"

I CEL #189 Music & Text: Jerry Sinclair

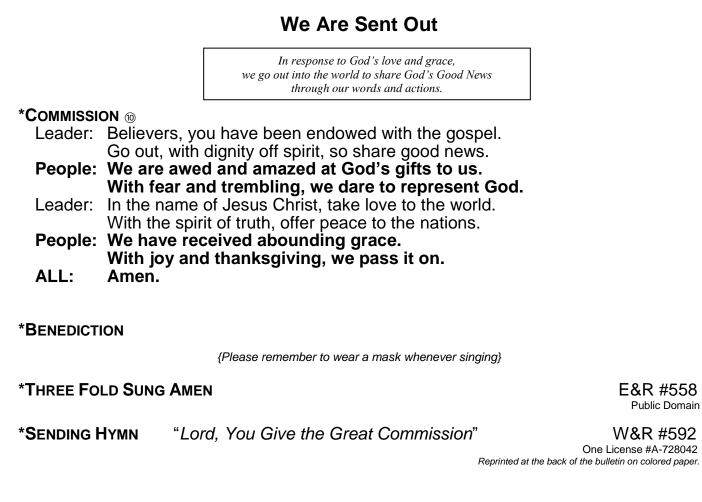
You are worthy, alleluia; you are worthy, alleluia; You are worthy, alleluia; you are worthy, alleluia!

{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 <u>Online Giving</u> option on our website at **sprucc.org**. <u>St. Paul's UCC Click Here</u> 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 PRAYER (Leader) ②

O Lord, with joy and gladness we dedicate our gifts to the service of Jesus Christ. May the abused find solace and courage; abusers be led to new awareness, sensitivity, and change; prisoners know release from bondage; and all humankind be led to accept the saving grace of Jesus Christ. To this end, we offer ourselves with these gifts. Use us as ambassadors of your love.



{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

"God Bless America" Congregation singing Irving Berlin

TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

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

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.

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¹ Lecturn Resource. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.

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

[®] The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
 Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).

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St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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Zion United Church of Christ PO Box 97; Womelsdorf, PA 19567

www.1Zion.org Consistory President: George McLain Consistory Vice President: Cory Putt Treasurer: George McLain 717-628-1875 or 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: Easter – The Easter Season begins on Easter Sunday, and continues for seven weeks until Pentecost. 40 days and six Sundays before Easter; a season of penitence as we reflect upon our personal sins, which led to the need for the sacrifice of Jesus' life for us upon the cross.

The root word of "Lent" means to "lengthen", referring to the lengthening of days as we anticipate spring and the new life granted through the resurrection – moving form darkness to light.

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

White – symbolizing the defeat of death and darkness of sin with the resurrection to eternal life, and the light of the resurrected Christ.

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; the rest of the NT takes place after his ascension into heaven.

This Sunday, May 29, 2022 -- Lectionary Reading for the Seventh Sunday of Easter

1010 + 0 $1010 + 0$ $1000 + 0$ $1000 + 0$ $1000 + 0$ $1000 + 0$	Acts 16:16-40 Psalm 97 Revelation 22:12-21 John 17:20-20
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The Acts of the Apostles

The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles (NT) are attributed to Luke "the beloved physician" written around 59-90 A.D. This is essentially volume 2 of the Gospel of Luke. The Book of Acts records the ministry of the early church after the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven, and guides us how we are to live, act, work, and be the church.

Psalm 97

This is an OT hymn of praise to God for God's rule as our king. This is one of the "enthronement psalms", which includes Psalms 47, 93, and 95-99, which were probably used by ancient Israel on those festival occasions that celebrate God as our king.

The Revelation to John (Apocalypse)

This is the last book in the NT, which is a prophetic book written by a person named "John" who was probably born into the Jewish faith in Palestine and moved to Asia Minor between 66-73 A.D. This is probably not the same John who wrote the Gospel of John or the Letters of John. This book is believed to be written between 64-96 A.D. Some scholars believe that this book developed over a period of time, with 1:4-11 and 4:1-22:5 being written around 64 A.D., and the rest of the book being written sometime between 81-96 A.D. The genre of this book is apocalypse (revelation). Biblically, an apocalypse is usually a first-person narrative (generally written under a pen name of a noted Biblical character) where the author retells a vision about the future, heaven, or both.

The Gospel According to John

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 and orderly account" of Jesus Christ, "so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed."

Next Sunday, June 5 -- Lectionary Reading for the Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104	Romans 8:14-17	John 14:8-17

Strengthen the Church Offering	The last two years have told a remarkable story about the resilience of our churches and their leaders. This has been hard. Leaders are tired. Leaders are anxious. Leaders are beleaguered. Leaders are traumatized.		But every day, and in countless ways, leaders in the church demonstrate the power of faith in the risen Christ as they embody the spirit of Paul himself who wrote that we will 'rejoice in all circumstances' and 'we do not grieve as those	who have no hope.' Two years into this pandemic, we struggle to name a more devastating season through which we have all lived. And yet still we see signs of life and	resilience and ingenuity and growth and enduring hope. There are stories of how college students left for college and for the first time since anyone can remember they were still able to worship every week with their home church.	One church noticed their members were struggling with a variety of mental health issues. They brought a counselor on to their staff who set up an office in the church to provide therapeutic care to them. The	pastor noticed that neighbors who had never been to the church were also suffering - and the counselor began to meet regularly with them as well. Now, there is a full time mental health specialist on staff who serves not just the church, but the neighborhood.	Many of our settings are reporting that their giving rose in 2021, a sign that even in the midst of deep sorrow our better angels emerge with a	desire to support those who suffer and those who care for the suffering. Churches that feared losing all their members when we all quarantined learned how to connect virtually for pastoral visitation, prayer, worship, and fellowshin. They not only didn't lose their members, many grew by	finding an audience who were only ever going to be found in the virtual	spaces they occupy and into sare. Our churches remain strong in the Lord. All that we do to Strengthen Our Churches extends the kingdom of God.	Preaching the gospel is our collective calling. Even a raging global pandemic cannot suppress either our desire or ability to preach that gospel, nor the Spirit's ability to change lives when we do.	Won't you please help sustain the mission of the risen Christ, and Strengthen the Church with your offering of love, prayer, and generosity?	- <i>Rev. John Dorhauer,</i> General Minister & President of the United Church of Christ
WIDER MISSION IN SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA	CHURCH C CONTINUENT CONFERENCE PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE May 29, 2022 May 29, 2022	From the PSEC Racial Justice Initiative	Celebrating Asian American &	Pacific Islander Heritage Month	During May, the Racial Justice Initiative of PSEC invites congregations to celebrate and recognize the unique gifts of Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) people and cultures. and to hold them in praver.	Erina Kim-Eubanks is Co-Pastor and Director of Advocacy at Bethel Communities. Pastor Kim-Eubanks is Korean American and states: "In the last	decade, as I ve grown in maturity and explored my sense of personal voice and identity, I've come to realize that to live into my Korean American identity is an act of resistance in this country, which was founded on white supremacy. And part of this resistance is to assert our dignity by making intentional space to	remember our history, celebrate our cultures, and honor our ancestors and homelands".	We invite you to explore and celebrate the complex diversity of histories, cultures, languages, peoples and traditions that fall under the AAPI umbrella.	A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters	BEAUTIFUL MUSICANS COME THE CONDUCTOR! BEAUTIFUL MUSIC?		A loyer and lower an	May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, - Rowwes 15:5 MV

JUSTICE AND PEACE

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For the Healing of the Nations



Fred Kaan's most widely published text was first sung at Pilgrim Church in Plymouth, England, at a service of worship marking Human Rights Day in 1965. It has been used for many subsequent occasions, including the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations. une: WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7. Henry Purcell, c. 1680 Arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1842

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ASCENSION

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William C. Dix, manager of a marine insurance company, was also a gifted writer who made a significant contribution to hymnody. This hymn was written to fill a need for communion hymns in Church of England hymnals. Tune: HYFRYDOL .8.7.8.7.D. Rowland H. Prichard, 1844 Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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WORDS: Jeffery Rowthorn (1934-) MUSIC: Cyril V. Taylor (1907-1991) Words © 1978 Hope Publishing Company Music © 1942, Ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company ABBOT'S LEIGH 8.7.8.7.D.

MINISTRY & SERVICE

