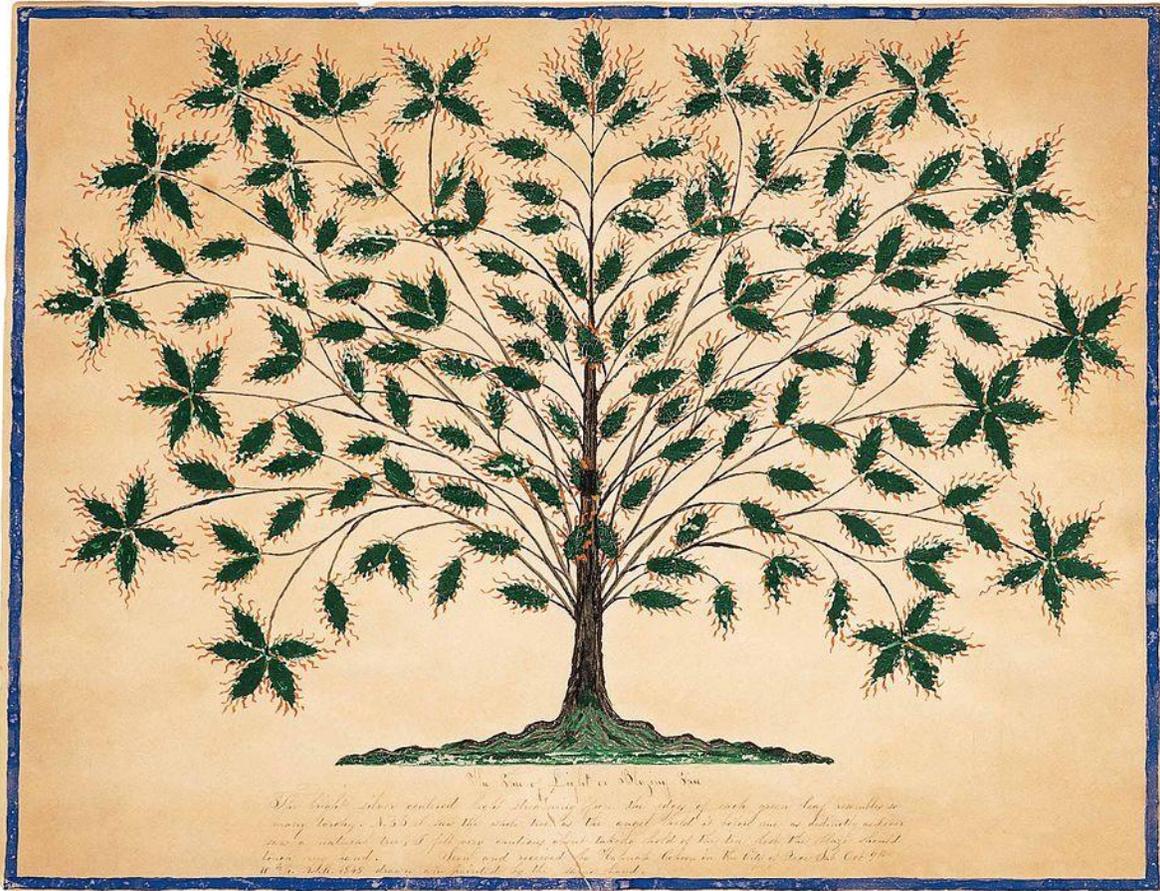


United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

*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*



July 24, 2022
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
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; ♪# = Red Hymnal Page; ♫# = Blue Hymnal Page*}



Free WiFi

Virtual Worship Service

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

If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610-621-5770 or Office@sprucc.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 WORSHIP^② *(Unison)*

Living God, we come as your children to be reclaimed and blessed. We need the inner strength that comes to us through worship. All week long we have wrestled with emptiness and deceit on every hand. Take away the noisy clamor that would make us captives of human traditions. Turn us toward the source of our salvation, toward your steadfast love and faithfulness. Amen.

PIANO PRELUDE

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN “Renew Thy Church”

UCC #183

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*INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of God the Father, and of God the Son, and of God the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP^②

Leader: God is eager to restore us to right relationships.
The Creator is waiting to claim us now as God’s own.

**People: We have come to meet the God who welcomes us.
We have gathered to experience God’s steadfast love.**

Leader: Listen, for God will speak to those who want to hear.
Turn your hearts toward the one who saves.

**People: We bow down to receive God’s mercy.
We seek the good gifts only God can provide.**

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)

God judges the earth. God knows our disloyalty. Our grave sins against others are not unnoticed. Our haughty pretensions are noted. Surely God has every reason to be indignant with us, to pour out anger on us for the many ways we misuse the gifts we have been given. Yet God is eager to spare us from the horrible consequences of sin. Let us seek forgiveness.

*CONFESSION OF SIN ② (Unison)

O God, bring our evil to awareness so we can address it and be rid of its burden. Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sin. Turn us away from false pride and violence, from lies and hardness of heart. Erase the record that stands against us. Restore us to a right relationship with you and with those from whom we are alienated. Grant us also the capacity to extend forgiveness to all who have wronged us. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY “Lord, Thy Mercy, Now Entreating”

♪ E&R #216
Public Domain

**Lord, Thy mercy now entreating,
Low before Thy throne we fall;
Our misdeeds to Thee confessing,
On Thy Name we humbly call.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ② (Leader)

God forgives our trespasses and restores us to life. Our puffed-up pretenses are set aside so we can claim a far greater identity as children of the living God. Our sense of alienation is overcome as we are embraced by steadfast love. Friends, the doors of God are open wide to receive us. We are heard and known. The peace of God is ours to accept and cherish. Thank God with whole hearts! **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE ⑩

Leader: Uplift your voices in praise to God.

People: **We weekly gather to sing praise to the Lord.**

*SUNG PRAISE “All Creatures of Our God and King”

♪ E&R#15
One License #A-728042

**All creatures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, And praise the Spirit, Three in One
O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, Alleluia, 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: [Genesis 18:20-32](#)

Second Lesson: [Colossians 2:6-19](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON: [Luke 11:1-13](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"The Lord's Prayer"

W&R #740

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S SONG *"God Hears My Prayer"*

**God, our Father, hears my prayer
Anytime and anywhere,
He will listen when I pray,
Hear the loving words I say.**

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*) "Apostle's Creed"

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, 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: Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

Leader: Rooted and built up in Christ, we pray for the church. Embolden church leaders to take risks for the sake of the gospel, and equip all of the baptized to proclaim extravagant love for the whole world. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: Rejoicing in the works of your hands, we pray for the natural world. Make rivers and lakes, oceans and all waterways, sparkle with your radiance. Protect water sources and strengthen those who defend them. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: Interceding on behalf of the vulnerable, we pray for the peoples of the world. Inspire all rulers and governing authorities with your justice. Guide the work of legislators and public officials, that they advocate for the well-being of those they serve. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: Persistent in prayer, we pray for our neighbors in need. To all who have hunger, give daily bread. To all who have bread, give hunger for justice. Open us to the cries of those who suffer. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: Abounding in thanksgiving, we pray for our church. Bless the prayer and fellowship ministries in this place. Call us together in times of praise and blessing, trouble and sorrow, in your holy name. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: Buried with Christ in baptism and raised with him to new life, we give thanks for your saints who rest in your eternal presence. Join our voices with theirs as we sing of your great glory. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom, in whose name we 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**

"O Thou Who Hearest Every Heartfelt Prayer"

♪ E&R #503
Public Domain

**O Thou who hearest every heartfelt prayer,
With Thy rich grace Lord, all our hearts prepare;
Thou art our Life, Thou art our Love and Light,
O let this Sabbath hour with Thee be bright. Amen.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION ②

Leader: The faithfulness of God elicits our answering faithfulness.

People: The good gifts of our Heavenly Father call for an outpouring of gratitude,

Leader: May our offerings give evidence of abounding thankfulness.

People: We seek to give according to God's will in offering our first fruits.

{Those who are able, please rise}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

"Old Hundredth Doxology"

♪ E&R #551
One License #A-728042

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

{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 worshipping 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](#)
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)** ⑥ & ⑩

Holy God, whose name is above all names, we worship you with our tithes and offerings. They represent our labor, our investment of time and energy. We want them to be put to the best possible use. May they save many from the course of evil and turn them toward faithful discipleship. May they provide bread for body and soul, that your people may be preserved and strengthened for ministry. Bless and multiply our efforts, we pray. **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: With steadfast love and faithfulness, God strengthens you.
You will receive what you need for each day.

**People: We will honor God's Word above everything.
We will be persistent in prayer.**

Leader: Reenter your world as children of the living God.
God will answer you and give you what is good.

**People: God sends us out as bearers of His Good News.
We rejoice in the opportunities to serve others that God gives us.**

ALL: Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

E&R #558
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***SENDING HYMN** "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

E&R #472
Public Domain

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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



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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 - ② *Gathered By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
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 - ⑦ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑧ 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
 - ⑨ Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑩ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
 - ⑪ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
 - ⑫ The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
 - ⑬ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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Consistory Vice President: Elsa Wertz

Consistory Secretary:

Treasurer: Terry Pastor

Acting Financial Secretary: Terry Pastor

Zion United Church of Christ

PO Box 97; Womelsdorf, PA 19567

www.1Zion.org

Consistory President: George McLain

Consistory Vice President: Cory Putt

Consistory Secretary: Yvonne Rentschler

Treasurer: George McLain 717-628-1875 or

610-507-7865

Financial Secretary: Janice Conner

Free WiFi: StPaulsUCC-Guest & StPaulsUCC-5G-Guest

Password (for both): iamheretoserve

Link to Website's **Upcoming Eve**



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. During this season we focus on how we, as disciples of Jesus Christ, are called by God to go out into the world and share his Good News through both our deeds and words.

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

Green –symbolizing the growth of the Christian church, as we go out into the world and share God’s Good News with both our words and actions, and invite others into the church of Jesus 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, July 24, 2022 -- Lectionary Reading for the 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:20-32

Psalm 138

Colossians 2:6-19

Luke 11:1-13

Genesis

The book of Genesis (OT) is a part of the Pentateuch (first five books of the OT, or Torah, or one of the five most central books in Judaism). Genesis means beginning. The book of Genesis tells about the creation of humankind and the entire universe by the will and power of God. Genesis creates a context for the reading of the entire rest of the Bible. The book is traditionally attributed to Moses, who led the Israelite people from Egyptian slavery to freedom, through the saving grace and divine providence of God.

Psalm 138

This is an OT song giving thanks for God’s deliverance, which is attributed to the authorship of King David.

The Letter of Paul to the Colossians

This NT Epistle (letter) was written to the gentile church in Colossae, was perhaps written in the mid-60s A.D. to deal with a controversy within this church and to support the teaching and leadership of Epaphras as their minister, who is also the founder of this congregation. Persons were drifting away from being centered in the word of truth of the gospel, and instead were following deceitful philosophy, familiar traditions, and Greco-Roman notions of celestial powers. This letter reasserts the importance of turning to Christ, who is the sole head of the church, which is his body, and the need for the members of the congregation to devote themselves more fully to prayer. 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, July 31, 2022 -- Lectionary Reading for the 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Psalm 49:1-12

Colossians 3:1-11

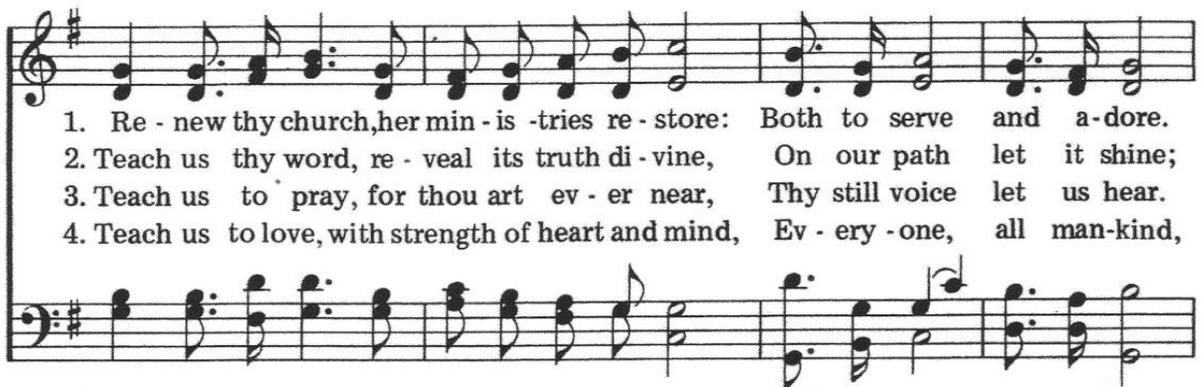
Luke 12:13-21

Renew Thy Church

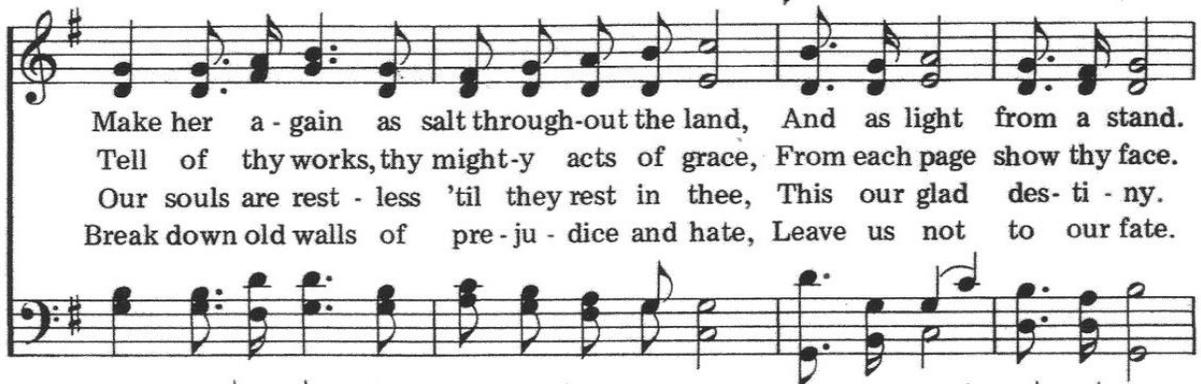
ALL IS WELL 10.6.10.6.8.8.8.6.

Kenneth L. Cober, 1960

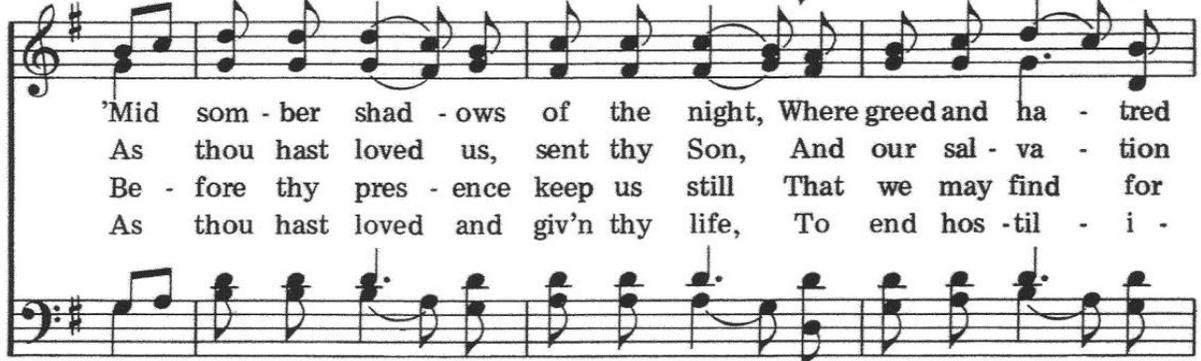
Old English Melody



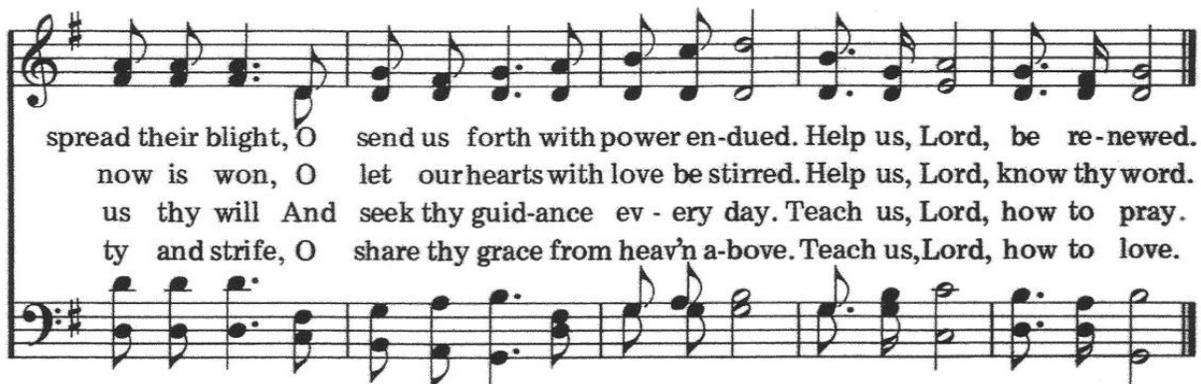
1. Re - new thy church, her min - is - tries re - store: Both to serve and a - dore.
2. Teach us thy word, re - veal its truth di - vine, On our path let it shine;
3. Teach us to pray, for thou art ev - er near, Thy still voice let us hear.
4. Teach us to love, with strength of heart and mind, Ev - ery - one, all man - kind,



Make her a - gain as salt through - out the land, And as light from a stand.
Tell of thy works, thy might - y acts of grace, From each page show thy face.
Our souls are rest - less 'til they rest in thee, This our glad des - ti - ny.
Break down old walls of pre - ju - dice and hate, Leave us not to our fate.



'Mid som - ber shad - ows of the night, Where greed and ha - tred
As thou hast loved us, sent thy Son, And our sal - va - tion
Be - fore thy pres - ence keep us still That we may find for
As thou hast loved and giv'n thy life, To end hos - til - i -



spread their blight, O send us forth with power en - dued. Help us, Lord, be re - newed.
now is won, O let our hearts with love be stirred. Help us, Lord, know thy word.
us thy will And seek thy guid - ance ev - ery day. Teach us, Lord, how to pray.
ty and strife, O share thy grace from heav'n a - bove. Teach us, Lord, how to love.

The Lord's Prayer

B \flat *Unison* $\frac{F7}{B\flat}$ $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ Cm7 F7 $\frac{B\flat}{D}$

Our Fa - ther, who art in heav - en,

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat major/D minor) and a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a half note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The bottom staff is in bass clef and provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: B-flat, Unison, F7/B-flat, B-flat/D, Cm7, F7, and B-flat/D.

Gm Cm7 F7 B \flat Gm $\frac{E\dim}{G}$

hal - low - ed be thy name. Thy king - dom

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth staves of music. The top staff continues the melody with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) followed by a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. The bottom staff continues the accompaniment. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: Gm, Cm7, F7, B-flat, Gm, and E-dim/G.

Dm Gm $\frac{E\dim}{G}$ D D7 Gm E \flat $\frac{B\flat}{F}$

come, thy will be done on earth as it is in

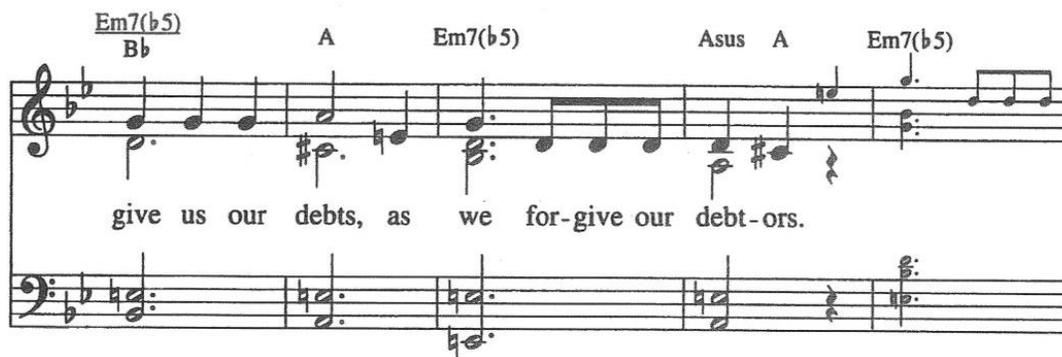
Detailed description: This system contains the fifth and sixth staves of music. The top staff continues the melody with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The bottom staff continues the accompaniment. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: Dm, Gm, E-dim/G, D, D7, Gm, E-flat, and B-flat/F.

F7sus F7 B \flat $\frac{E\flat}{B\flat}$ B \flat $\frac{E\flat}{B\flat}$ B \flat Gm Cm7 F7 B \flat

heav - en. Give us this day our dai - ly bread, and for -

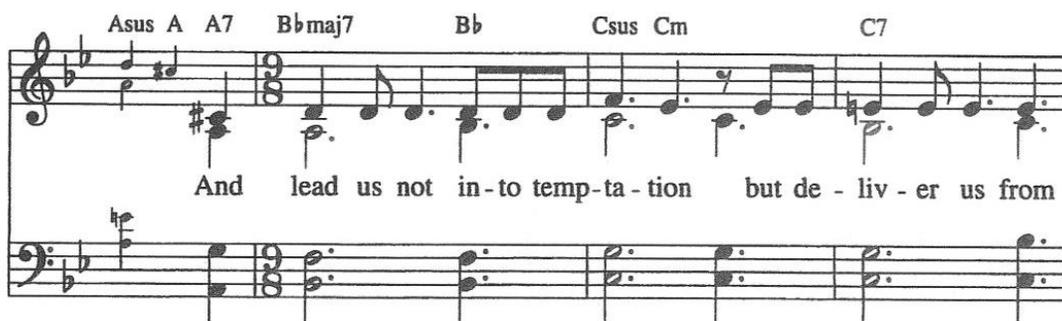
Detailed description: This system contains the seventh and eighth staves of music. The top staff continues the melody with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The bottom staff continues the accompaniment. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: F7sus, F7, B-flat, E-flat/B-flat, B-flat, E-flat/B-flat, B-flat, Gm, Cm7, F7, and B-flat.

Em7(b5) A Em7(b5) Asus A Em7(b5)



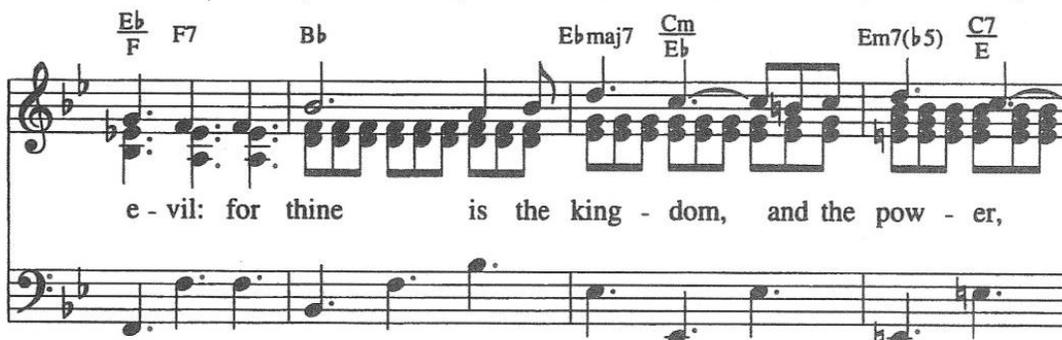
give us our debts, as we for-give our debt-ors.

Asus A A7 Bbmaj7 Bb Csus Cm C7



And lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion but de-liv-er us from

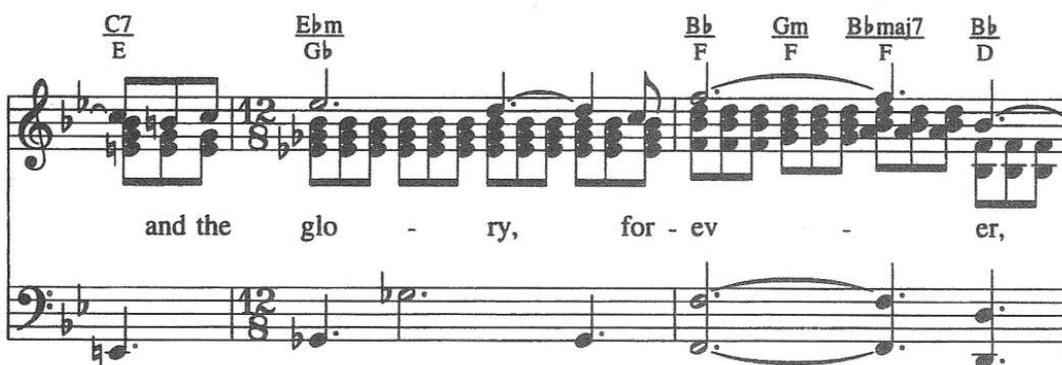
Eb F7 Bb Ebmaj7 Cm Eb Em7(b5) C7 E



e-vil: for thine is the king-dom, and the pow-er,

C7 Ebm Bb Gm Bbmaj7 Bb

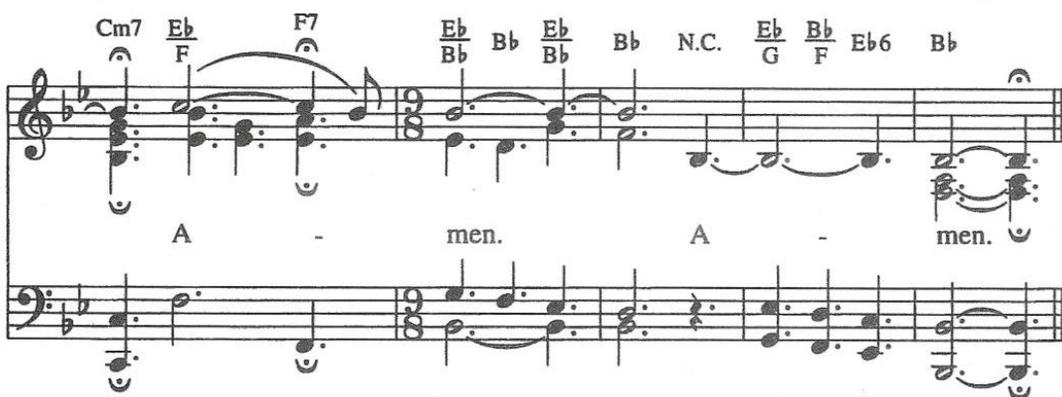
E Gb F F D



and the glo-ry, for-ev-er,

Cm7 Eb F7 Eb Bb Eb Bb N.C. Eb Bb Eb6 Bb

F G F



A-men. A-men.

Miscellaneous Hymns

472

JOSEPH SCRIVEN, 1855

8. 7. 8. 7. D.

WHAT A FRIEND (ERIE)
C. C. CONVERSE, 1868

1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear;
2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there troub - le an - y - where?
3. Are we weak and heav - y - la - den, Cum - bered with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged, Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Pre - cious Sav - iour, still our ref - uge! Take it to the Lord in prayer!

Oh, what peace we oft - en for - feit, Oh what need - less pain we bear,
Can we find a friend so faith - ful, Who will all our sor - rows share?
Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer;

All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - ery - thing to God in prayer.
Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness, Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.



July 24, 2022

From the Addiction & Recovery Taskforce: Step Six

We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Oftentimes addicts will seek rewards without doing the work. We strive for the willingness to work this step and our desire for change will be proportionate to how seriously we work it! Many addicts cling to fears, doubts, self-loathing, or hatred because the pain is familiar and comfortable. However, indulging in our character defects clouds our ability to think clearly and drains us of all our time and energy.

We should approach our defects with an open mind. We become aware of them, yet still make the same mistakes. We learn that we are growing when we find that we are making new mistakes instead of repeating old ones. It is important to remember that we are human and should avoid placing unrealistic expectations on ourselves.

Rebellion is a character defect for addicts that can produce indifference or intolerance but this can be overcome with persistent effort. This step can put our faith to the test because we are not sure that God will relieve us of them. We continue to pray for willingness and share our feelings with others in recovery. Even if we are not entirely ready, we follow the simple suggestions of the program.

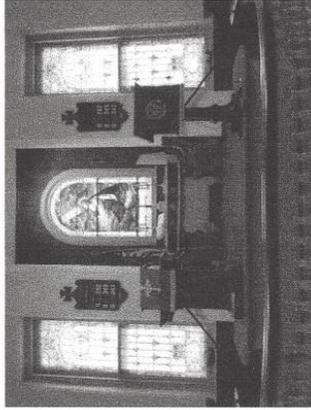
Eventually faith, humility, and acceptance replace pride, fear, and rebellion. We begin to feel better about ourselves and our willingness grows into hope. With a vision of our new life, we put willingness into action and move on to Step Seven.

Lifting Up Our 2022 Anniversary Churches Celebrating 175 Years of "Being Church"

Trinity UCC, Rehrersburg

Pastor since 2020- Rev. Karen Nuscher-Creasy

Trinity United Church of Christ formerly known as the New Union Lutheran and Reformed Congregation, was established in 1847. Trinity became a UCC congregation in 1959 and continues within the historic tradition of the German Reformation. The church bell and steeple are the oldest west of the Schuylkill River.



Celebrating 150 Years of "Being Church"

Saint Peter's UCC, Topton

Our mission, as a combined ministry, includes the common purpose to live as God's people by sharing the faith with our community and beyond. Through service, spiritual growth, fellowship, preaching, teaching, caring and love, we strive to honor our traditions while looking to the future.

