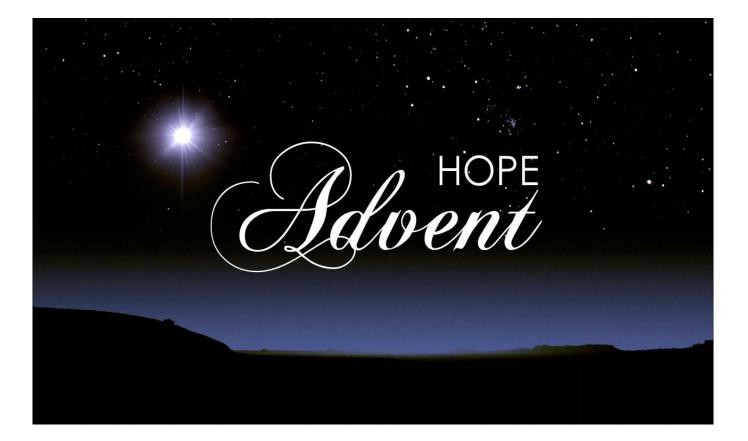
The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

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

+†+

November 27, 2022 First Sunday in Advent: Hope 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 an additional option, we have supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, located on the first floor.

Junior Worship

On the 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month, following the mini message, the option of "Junior Worship" is offered downstairs for elementary age children to learn more about today's scripture lessons with fellow youth.

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; $J# = Blue Hymnal Page}$







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 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

{If you have not already done so, please sign sand pass the pew welcome pad to the person next to you}

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP® (Unison)

God of hope, peace, justice, joy, and love, hope is our theme today. We hope for a more peaceful world in which we live. We hope for freedom from disease and other illness. We hope for more joy in our lives. We hope for more love everywhere we turn. We see glimpses. We yearn for the time when you will be revealed in the fullness of hope, peace, joy, and love. Amen.

PRELUDE

{Those who are able, please rise

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN	"Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"	W&R #176
		Public Domain

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 - from Psalm 43

Leader: O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me;

People: let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

Leader: Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy;

People: and I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.

Leader: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

People: Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

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) •

God of love and protection and forgiveness, hear now our confession of sins which separate us from you.

*Confession of Sin (Unison)

Forgive us O Lord when hope dwindles within us. Give it flame! Let your breath increase our hope. We hope for what our minds and eyes cannot see and ears cannot hear. The yearning comes from our hearts. How does it get there? O God, who keeps our very breath alive, you are the one who keeps hope burning in our hearts. May it always be so. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY "Lord, Thy Mercy, Now Entreating"

Red #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 (Leader)

Praise the Lord, O people. God forgives our lack of hope. Not only does God forgive, he replenishes! People, let us pass this hope to someone around us who needs it. Help us to pray to God to flame hope in the hearts that do not know hope. Let us ask Almighty God to change the circumstances of people who have no reason at all to hope.

*CALL TO PRAISE @

Leader: May we be filled with the Holy Spirit. **People: May we continually gather and sing praise to God.**

***SUNG PRAISE** *"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"*

NCH #403 Public Domain Mote, Bradbury

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' love and righteousness; I dare not trust this earthly frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ the solid Rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

(Please be seated)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE FOR HOPE - from Romans 5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our HOPE of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces HOPE, and HOPE does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

We light the candle of hope while we sing:

Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope. God brings hope to every heart, He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope. God brings hope to every heart, He comes! He comes!

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: Isaiah 2:1-5 Second Lesson: Romans 13:11-14 Leader: This is the word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON: <u>Matthew 24:36-44</u> Leader: This is the word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN *"As We Gather at Your Table"*

W&R #695 One License #A-714101 Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper.

MINI-MESSAGE

{Children may return to their pews and remain for the rest of worship, or 0-8 year olds may go downstairs to nursery, or on the 2nd & 3rd Sundays of the month, elementary age children may go downstairs at this time for the additional option of "Junior Worship") **CONGREGATION SINGS** "Jesus Loves the Little Children" Adapted Words of

apted Words of Traditional Chorus

Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world. Shy and quiet, glad and bright, They are treasures in his sight. Jesus blesses all the children of the world.

SERMON "Is There Hope at the Table"

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 - from The Heidelberg Catechism, Question #1 Leader: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

People: That I belong, both body and soul, in life and in death, not to myself but to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ who with his precious blood has totally paid for all my sins and completely liberated me from the power of the Devil. Who takes care of me so well that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven. I believe everything will work together for my salvation. Besides this, by his Holy Spirit, he assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready to live on for him.

(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: God, in your mercy, **People: hear our prayer.**

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

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

Blue #501 George Whelpton Public Domain

Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord, and grant us Thy peace. Amen.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Leader: What does hope have to do with our giving?

People: We see life through the lens of hope.

Leader: Does life look better this way?

People: Yes, life looks more positive, more hopeful.

Leader: Does trust increase with hope?

People: Yes, our sense of generosity increases because we trust God's provisions.

OFFERTORY

{Those who are able, please rise}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

W&R #688 Public Domain How/Foley

We give thee but thine own whate'er the gift may be. All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

{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 **spruce.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) ®

Thank you for your goodness in providing our needs. We stand here before you to acknowledge your provisions and to seek your guidance in our stewardship of these provisions. Help us to share our abundance. In the holy name of Jesus, we pray, **All: Amen.**

Service of Holy Communion^o

- One: We welcome all believers to the table of our Lord. The inner rings have white grape juice. The outer rings have purple wine.
- One: God be with you.
- All: And also with you.
- One: Lift your hearts in thanksgiving.
- All: We lift them toward God.
- One: Let us offer our thanks to Almighty God.
- All: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.
- One: With all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name singing:

*SANCTUS

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

NCH #795 Public Domain Alonzo P. Howard

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, hosanna in the highest!

{Please be seated}

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (Pastor)

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (*Pastor lifts bread and breaks it.*)

After supper, Jesus took the cup and said, "This is the new covenant in my blood, which was shed for you and for all people, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me," (*Pastor pours wine from the flagon to the chalice.*)

INVITING THE HOLY SPIRIT

- One: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.
- All: Holy Spirit, do not leave. Blow through this place; reveal yourself in this bread and this cup; make your dwelling within this congregation. Join us to one another and transform us by your presence, that we may be the sign of your life in this world. Amen.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

Pastor: The Body of Christ given for you.

Pastor: The Blood of Christ shed for you.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- One: May the body and blood of Jesus Christ strengthen us until eternal life.
- All: Almighty God, we give you thanks for this refreshing and healing gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would increase our faith in you and our fervent love for one another. For the sake of Jesus Christ, 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 ®

Leader: May we allow the Holy Spirit to blow through us;

- People: to lead our feet, to open our eyes;
- Leader: to speak words of invitation;
- People: to open the window a bit;
- Leader: to open the door fully;
- People: to find the waiting person!

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

*SENDING HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Public Domain Blue #245

Red #558

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Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper. {During the hymn, today's Greeters & Ushers may return to the rear of the sanctuary, to help greet after worship.}

{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) We experience the greater oneness with God and each other through Communion.
- (9) God sends us into the world to share His love and grace with others

Worship Service Resource Credits

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- Lecturn Resource. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
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Miller, Earl D. (1994). Consecrating Stewards. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.

[®] The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

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St. Paul's United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue; Robesonia, PA 19551 610-621-5770 *** office@sprucc.org www.SPRUCC.org

Consistory President: Sheri Rowe 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 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 Úpcoming Events



About Today

Church Season: Advent – is a season of preparation for the coming of Christ: (1) the second coming of Christ; (2) the preparation for the anniversary of Jesus' birth on Christmas; and (3) the reminder to be daily aware of Christ's presence for the Kingdom of God is near.

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

Blue – symbolizes the hope found in the anticipated coming of Christ

Violet – symbolizes royalty and penitent preparation for Christ our King, who offers forgiveness

Rose/Pink – symbolizes joy, as expressed by Jesus' mother Mary

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 A**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Matthew.

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, November 27, 2022 -- Lectionary Reading for the First Sunday in Advent: Hope

|--|

Isaiah

The book of Isaiah (OT) is attributed to three prophets. The first of whom is from where the book gets its name, and is about Isaiah's call to become a prophet and his prophecy that Jerusalem will face God's judgement regarding its immorality in order to be God's Holy City (chaps. 1-39, written 738-688 B.C.), the second is about living in exile in Babylon (chaps. 40-55, written 597-539 B.C.), and the third is about the return from exile to Judah and the rebuilding of the Temple (chaps. 56-66, written 520-515 B.C.). A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct.

Psalm 122

This OT song expresses joy to be on a spiritual pilgrimage with other persons of faith. 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.

The Letter of Paul to the Romans

This epistle (letter) is addressed "to all God's beloved in Rome." It was dictated by the Apostle Paul to Tertius in 58 A.D. in Corinth and delivered to Rome by Phoebe (she was appointed by Pail as a deacon, teacher, and leader of the church). 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, a highly educated man, wrote more of the NT than any other person.

The Gospel According to Matthew

Matthew's Gospel was written around 80-90 A.D. in Antioch, Syria by a Greek-speaking Jewish Christian. The first writing was probably by a Christian scribe who wrote in the name of Matthew. Matthew was a disciple who knew Jesus personally.

Next Sunday, December 4, 2022 -	- Lectionary Reading	g for the Second Sunday in Advent
Isaiah 11:1-10	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12

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OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION IN SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA WWW.PSEC.ORG



November 27, 2022

Discussion on the movie "TILL"

484-949-8774

The Racial Justice Team will lead a conference wide discussion of the movie

conference wide discussion of the movie TILL, exploring the powerful truth-telling, justice-seeking spirit of Mamie Till, and what we can do as people of faith to thwart, change and dismantle the culture of white domination (white supremacy) and its' centuries long systemic oppression of, and violence against, Black people and Black communities.

We encourage congregations to coordinate a "Movie Night" viewing of TILL at your local theater and then join us for a time of thoughtful, faithful discussion and introspection, and an opportunity to explo

and introspection, and an opportunity to explore what social justice campaigns or truth-telling topics your faith community is willing to actively engage in.

Register at: https://psectill.eventbrite.com



The Addiction & Recovery Task Force will lead a Book Study beginning in January on Richard Rohr's book, Breathing Under Water.

More details in next week's Communitas!

Recap of PSEC Fall Meeting

From the Conference Moderator and Conference Minister:

More than two hundred thirty delegates and friends met in person and on-line Sunday for our Fall Conference Meeting at Salt and Light Community Church UCC in Philadelphia. Their gracious hospitality created a wonderful welcome and spiritually alive setting for our gathering! This was our first attempt at a hybrid event, and we ran into several tech issues that required grace and patience (and the quick problem-solving skills of many people including Revs. Zack Jackson and Cean James). We'll keep working at that, so our meetings continue to be meaningful (tech issue free) experiences for as many participants as possible. The meeting opened with inspiring music by the Salt and Light praise and worship team and pastors from the Philadelphia Association. Rev. Cean James shared the stirring story of church resurrection and renewal in Salt and Light's partnering/merging with their Presbyterian church neighbors. Dr. Joe Birli, Chief Executive Officer of Bethany Children's Home, offered uplifting news of the good work that he and the Bethany staff have done to provide emergency shelter for homeless children, address child sex trafficking, and solidify the financial footing on which Bethany's ministry stands. We conferred the title Conference Minister Emeritus on Rev. Dr. Russ Mitman and celebrated with him and Ruth their long and faithful service to the church. We heard reports from our three Conference Ministry Task Forces (Addiction, Environmental Justice, and Racial Justice) and from Disaster Ministries. Our Conference Stewardship Team attempted to share a video introducing the Conference to local churches. The link to that wonderful video is at the bottom of this article. Conference Treasurer Rev. Dr. Bob Fogel shared the good news that we are ahead in OCWM contributions and behind on Conference expenses. We received \$1,400 from the meeting offering for our church's wider mission — a mission that includes responding to the needs of migrant families being bused to Philadelphia from Texas. Finally, we passed our 2023 Conference spending plan.

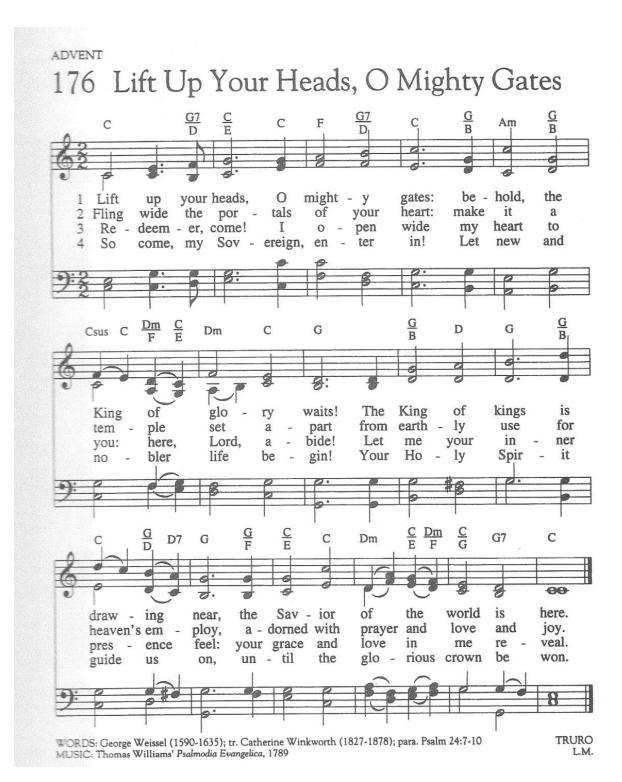
To all those who traveled from near and far to Salt and Light and those who joined on line, to the Annual Meeting Planning Team, the Conference Consistory, the Conference staff and especially to Rev. Cean James and the brothers, sisters, and siblings of Salt and Light, and to everyone who generously supports the work of their local church and the United Church of Christ, we say thank you and bless you!

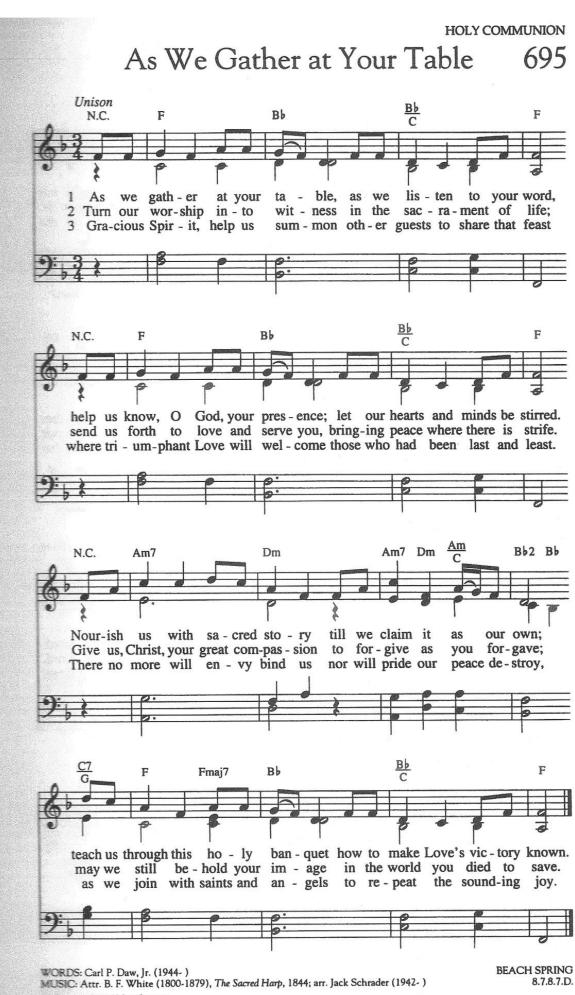
In the Spirit of the Risen Christ,

Mr. Charles Kuthuru Conference Moderator

Rev. Bill Worley Conference Minister







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MUSIC: Adapted from Plainsong by Thomas Helmore, altered