

The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org

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



*Welcome to our
Worship Service
In-Person & Streaming Online*

+ † +

March 12, 2023
Third Sunday in Lent
10:15am



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 welcome to participate in the entire worship service. For an additional option, we have a supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, located on the first floor. Please see Nursery Coordinators, Laurie Ostimchuk & Beth Miller if you are in need of the nursery.

Junior Worship

On the 2nd 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

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

Sunday School & Adult Faith Formation Classes

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

Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship is held at 10:15am.

Youth Group

Our Youth Group, for those in grades 5-12 (or ages 12-20 years old), meets on the 2nd and Last Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:00pm. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

Young Children & Family Ministries

This ministry's focus is on children younger than youth group and their families, and most of the monthly activities are welcoming of children of all ages. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

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 United Church of Christ of Robesonia. For more information about our church, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our church.

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}*

Virtual Worship Service

Online: **Live Stream** at sprucc.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on [Our YouTube Channel](#)

Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/> - Live or Watch & Listen Later

Phone Stream at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later



www.sprucc.org

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



Free WiFi

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP ⑩ (Unison)

Holy and living God, we thank you for water. Water is a symbol of life, a symbol of baptism, a necessity for life. We thank you for this water that quenches physical thirst. We also thank you for the water that quenches our spiritual thirst - the living water from Jesus. Amen

PRELUDE

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"
Handbell Choir

arr. by Douglas Smith

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"As The Deer"

*♩ Blue #548
One License #A-728042*

*INVOCATION

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

ALL: Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 23 (King James Version)*

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

People: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.

Leader: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul.

People: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Leader: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

People: I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;

Leader: Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

People: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.

Leader: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

People: Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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 ⑩ (Leader)

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

*CONFESSION OF SIN ⑩ (Unison)

Oh God, how thirsty we are for your forgiveness. Even more thirsty are we for the forgiveness of the people we have hurt. Pour your healing water on our wounds. Help us to feel good about ourselves. Help us to forgive each other and not let rivers of regret separate us from each other. Cleanse us, O God of mercy. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY

"Kyrie"

*♪ Red #518
Public Domain*

Leader (*spoken*): Lord, have mercy upon us.

People (*sung*): Lord, have mercy upon us.

Leader (*spoken*): Christ, have mercy upon us.

People (*sung*): Christ, have mercy upon us.

Leader (*spoken*): Lord, have mercy upon us.

People (*sung*): Lord, have mercy upon us.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ⑩ (Leader)

People whose thirst is quenched, know you are forgiven. Sing a new song quickly before the next sin comes forth when we are wanting to be free of sin. Now is the time to give freely: To give the living water to the person next to us in the grocery store or at the next basketball game. Let the living water from Jesus flow freely through us in a bubbly fashion, or in a gentle flow, or in a tumultuous roar, startling the person in our path. The more we share the living water of Jesus, the less we will find ourselves sinning. Praise the Lord!

{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: [Exodus 17:1-7](#)

Second Lesson: [Romans 5:1-11](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Lesson: [John 4:1-15](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

"As Water To The Thirsty"

W&R #432

One License #A-728042

MINI-MESSAGE

CONGREGATION SINGS

"This is the Day"

NCH #84

Les Garrett

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;

We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it;

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

SERMON

"Living Water"

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 Baptism ① Order for Reception Into Membership

*INVITATION (Leader)

We invite those who wish to affirm their baptism by uniting together in this household of faith to please rise, as you are able.

*QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

Leader: Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Leader: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Leader: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Candidates: I do.

Leader: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Saviour, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

Leader: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world.

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

Leader: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

*ADDRESS (Leader)

By our baptism we were made one in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in our pilgrimage of faith which has brought us to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been our spiritual home, and we celebrate our shared presence in this household of faith.

***MUTUAL MINISTRY**

Leader: Let us express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

Members: We welcome one another with joy in the common life of this church. We promise one another our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

***PRAYER (Leader)**

Let us pray...

Eternal God, we praise you for calling us to be your servant people and for gathering us into the body of Christ. May we work together in serving the needs of others. Confirm in us the power of your covenant that we may live in your Spirit, share regularly in worship, and so love each other that we may have among us the same mind which was in Christ Jesus, to whom be all honor and glory.

Amen.

***WELCOME AND RECEPTION**

Leader: Welcome into the United Church of Christ of Robesonia.

People: Thanks be to God.

{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: Merciful God,

People: receive 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.

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE “O Thou Who Hearest Every Heartfelt Prayer”

♪ **Red #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.**

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ⑩

Leader: Are we responsible for our neighbor having enough water?

People: **Are we responsible for our neighbor having food, and warmth, and a house?**

Leader: Are we responsible to God for maintaining a place of worship?

People: **Yes, and yes, and yes!**

Leader: We shall love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

People: **And we shall love our neighbors as we love ourselves and as much as Jesus loves us!**

RETURNING GOD’S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

*{Today, for the first time since the outbreak of COVID, we will be passing the offering plate in person.
You may also offer your tithe and offering to God
through our secure Online Giving option on our website at sprucc.org (Click Here), or
mail your offering to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.*

CHORAL OFFERTORY

"My Saviour and My God"

*Text by Ralph Hudson (1843-1901);
Musical setting by Jay Althouse*

{Those who are able, please rise}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** “Because I Have Been Given Much”

♪ **Red #259**
Public Domain

**Because I have been given much, I, too must give:
Because of Thy great bounty, Lord, each day I live,
I shall divide my gifts from Thee with every brother that I see
Who has the need of help from me.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** ⑩ *(Leader)*

Some of this money may be given to rebuild homes for people in Syria & Turkey or in Ukraine. Some of this money may be designated for our local food pantries. Next Sunday, money for One Great Hour of Sharing to help people around the globe including our own United States will be placed here. Money for warmth in our church. Money for spiritual leaders in our church. Money for running water in our church. Living gifts. As we try to give even one extra dollar each month, we find ourselves gathered in your arms, O God. What wonderful arms you have! Thank you, God.

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 ⑩

Leader: It is time once again to step into the world where opportunity for fellowship continues.

People: May we send love flowing ahead of us;

Leader: and the Holy Spirit's wind pushing behind us;

People: blowing us ever forward to meet other children of God.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"Jesus, Lover Of My Soul"

♪ *Red #316*
Public Domain

*{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

Join Us For Fellowship and Food in Miller Fellowship Hall

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



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 worshipping 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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 - ⑧ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑨ Edmonds, Robert Lee (Editor). (2008). *In Our Own Way; Living a Scouting Life Through Faith; A Handbook of Prayer and Devotion*. Dallas, TX: Red Honor Press
 - ⑩ Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑪ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
 - ⑫ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
 - ⑬ The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
 - ⑭ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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Consistory President: Elsa Wertz

Consistory Vice President: George McLain

Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

About Today

Church Season: Lent - 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 from darkness to light.

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

Purple - Symbolizing the passion (suffering) of Christ our King that led to his crucifixion.

Sunday, March 12th - Lectionary Reading for 3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

Exodus

The book of Exodus (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), and is named for the exodus (leaving/escape) of the Israelite people from Egyptian slavery through the divine saving providence of God and the leadership of Moses and his brother Aaron.

Psalm 95

This is an OT hymn of praise and admonition, which most likely was a part of the temple liturgy. Verses 1-5 would have been used for the procession into the sanctuary, verses 6-7a involves humbly prostrating before God's holy presence, and verses 7b-11 are penitential words of admonishment to prepare worshipers to hear the reading of the Torah (the first five books of our OT).

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 Paul 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 John

John is the latest of the four Gospels, written around 80-90 A.D. probably in Ephesus, and attributed to John the son of Zebedee, the beloved disciple of Jesus. This Gospel was "written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and through believing you may have life in his name" (20:31).

Next Sunday, March 19th - Lectionary Reading for 4th Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

548 As the Deer

As the deer pants for water, so my soul pants for You. Psalm 42:1

Harmony optional

D A C# F#m A7 Bm G6 G D G6 D G A7sus A7 D2 D

1. As the deer pant-eth for the wa-ter, So my soul long-eth af - ter Thee.
 2. You're my friend and You are my broth-er, E-ven though You are a King.
 3. I want You more than gold or sil-ver, On-ly You can sat - is - fy.

D A C# F#m A7 Bm G6 G D G6 D G GM7 A G A D D C#

You a - lone are my heart's de - sire, And I long to wor - ship Thee.
 I love You more than an - y oth - er, So much more than an - y - thing.
 You a - lone are the real joy giv - er, And the ap - ple of my eye.

Refrain Bm Bm A G A9 D F# G Bm F#

You a - lone are my strength, my shield; To You a - lone may my

Em Em7 F#sus F# E D A C# F#m A7

spir - it yield. You a - lone are my

Bm G6 G D G6 D G GM7 A G A D

heart's de - sire, And I long to wor - ship Thee.

TEXT: Martin Nystrom
 MUSIC: Martin Nystrom

AS THE DEER
 Irregular meter

As Water to the Thirsty

432

Unison F6 Fmaj7 F6 Gm7/F Fsus F

1 As wa - ter to the thirst - y, as beau - ty to the eyes, as
 2 Like calm in place of clam - or, like peace that fol - lows pain, like
 3 As sleep that fol - lows fe - ver, as gold in - stead of gray, as

Gm9 C Fmaj7 F6 Asus/E A A7 Dm

strength that fol - lows weak - ness, as truth in - stead of lies, as
 meet - ing af - ter part - ing, like sun - shine af - ter rain, like
 free - dom af - ter bond - age, as sun - rise to the day, as

Gm C₂ C Am D₂ Dm B \flat maj7 Gm/B \flat C₂ C7

song - time and spring - time and sum - mer - time to be, so
 moon - light and star - light and sun - light on the sea, so
 home to the trav - eler and all we long to see, so

Am Dm2 Dm Gm C2 C B \flat F/A Gm7 C7 F

is my Lord, my liv - ing Lord, so is my Lord to me.

WORDS: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-)
 MUSIC: T. Brian Coleman (1920-)

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OASIS
 7.6.7.6.6.6.4.4.6.

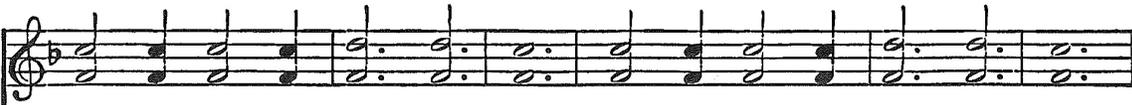
CHARLES WESLEY, 1740

7.7.7.7. D.
First TuneMARTYN
SIMEON B. MARSH, 1834*In moderate time*

1. Je - sus, Lov - er of my soul, Let me to Thy bos - om fly,
2. Oth - er ref - uge have I none; Hangs my help - less soul on Thee;
3. Thou, O Christ, art all I want; More than all in Thee I find:
4. Plen - teous grace with Thee is found, Grace to cov - er all my sin;



While the near - er wa - ters roll, While the tem - pest still is high:
 Leave, ah! leave me not a - lone, Still sup - port and com - fort me.
 Raise the fall - en, cheer the faint, Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
 Let the heal - ing streams a - bound; Make and keep me pure with - in.



Hide me, O my Sav - iour, hide, Till the storm of life is past;
 All my trust on Thee is stayed, All my help from Thee I bring;
 Just and ho - ly is Thy Name; I am all un - right - eous - ness;
 Thou of life the foun - tain art, Free - ly let me take of Thee;



Safe in - to the ha - venguide; O re - ceive my soul at last!
 Cov - er my de - fense - less head With the shad - ow of Thy wing.
 False and full of sin I am, Thou art full of truth and grace.
 Spring Thou up with - in my heart, Rise to all e - ter - ni - ty. A - MEN.

