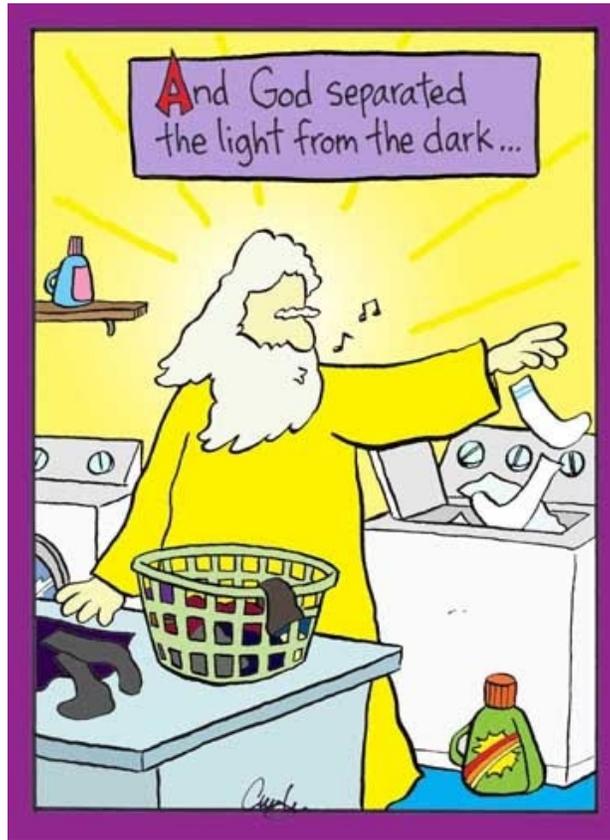


The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

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*

+++

Holy Humor Sunday
Second Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 16, 2023
10:15am

In-Person & Streaming Online

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 & Geri Gammel 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.*

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & 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[®] (Unison)

Amazing God, your Easter people gather to praise you. Continue to make your ways known to us. Fill us with your presence. We cannot live apart from you. Your counsel and instruction are with us day and night. We have only to open ourselves to your direction. Inspire in us fullness of joy, we pray, as we respond in faith to the risen Christ and embrace the tasks you set before us. Build up our sense of community that we may truly care for one another through all life's trials. Amen.

PRELUDE *"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"* *arr. by Robert Thygerson*

{Those who are able, please rise}

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"* **W&R #82**
Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper.

*INVOCATION

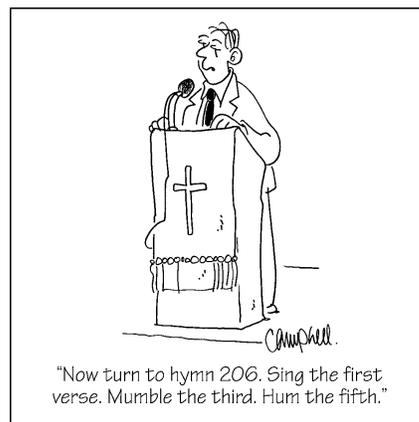
Leader: In the name of God the Father,
and of God the Son,
and of God the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP^①

Leader: Sing praises to God, O you saints of God.
Give thanks to God's holy name.

**People: Praise God for the joyous gift of a new day.
Praise God who hears our cries and answers
our prayers.**



***SUNG INVITATION**

"This is the Day"

Unison

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

Lord has made; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be

glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the

Lord has made; we will re-joice and be glad in it.

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

WORDS and MUSIC: Les Garrett (1944-); para. Psalm 118:24
Words and Music © 1967 Scripture In Song (a div. of Integrity Music)

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 ^① (Leader)

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Leader: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

*CONFESSION OF SIN ^① (Unison)

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.



*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ^①

Leader: God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life.

ALL: We believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.



*CALL TO PRAISE ^①

Leader: He is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

Leader: Through our baptism, we rise with Christ!

People: We give praise for the Good News of God's forgiveness, grace, & love!

***SUNG PRAISE**

"Alleluia"

Text and music: Jerry Sinclair, 1972; alt.

1 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in 4/4 time and the key of D major. The lyrics are: "1 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"

{please be seated}

ASTRONAUT TRAINING

OUT OF THIS WORLD HUMOR

We Hear the Word of God

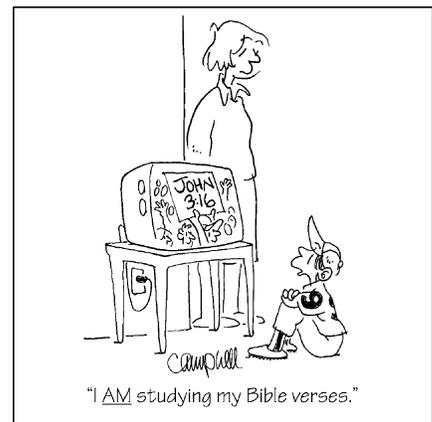
*We seek to learn more about God's love and grace, and how we are to live our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Bible is our primary text on faith, which we consider to be scripture - sacred writings.
We believe the Bible to be the "inspired word of God."
Gospel (which means "Good News") refers to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which are Christians' most central books of the Bible.*

PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Old Testament Prophecy: [Amos 5:5-15, 20-24](#)

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



Old Testament Song: [Psalm 8](#)

Leader: Let us praise God with the Psalm....

*{The 1st time, the organist will play through the response without singing - that we may hear the tune;
the 2nd time, the choir will sing the response - that we may hear the words; &
the 3rd time, the congregation & choir will sing the response together}.*

{Sung Refrain}:

**Our God is an awesome God;
He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom, power, and love;
Our God is an awesome God!**

Rich Mullins

Leader: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

People: You have set your glory above the heavens.

Leader: Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark
because of your foes,

People: to silence the enemy and the avenger.

{Sung Refrain}:

**Our God is an awesome God;
He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom, power, and love;
Our God is an awesome God!**

Rich Mullins

Leader: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,

People: the moon and the stars that you have established;

Leader: what are human beings that you are mindful of them,

People: mortals that you care for them?

Leader: Yet you have made them a little lower than God,

People: and crowned them with glory and honor.

Leader: You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;

People: you have put all things under their feet,

Leader: all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

**People: the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the
paths of the seas.**

Leader: O LORD, our Lord,

People: how majestic is your name in all the earth!

{Sung Refrain}:

**Our God is an awesome God;
He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom, power, and love;
Our God is an awesome God!**

Rich Mullins

GOSPEL LESSON: [John 20:19-31](#)

Leader: This is the Good News.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN *“How Majestic Is Your Name”*

♫ *Blue # 121*
Michael W. Smith

CHILDREN’S SERMON

ASTRONAUT TRAINING

MUSIC *“This is the Day”*

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.**



OUT OF THIS WORLD HUMOR

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*

{Those who are able, please rise}

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

{Adapted from: 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 & Colossians 1:15-20}

Leader: This is the good news
which we have received,
in which we stand,
and by which we are saved:

**ALL: Christ died for our sins,
was buried,
was raised on the third day,
and appeared first to the women,
then to Peter and the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe Jesus is the Christ,
the Anointed One of God,
the firstborn from the dead,
in whom all things hold together,
in whom the fullness of God
was pleased to dwell
by the power of the Spirit.**

**Christ is the head of the body, the church,
and by the blood of the cross
reconciles all things to God. Amen.**

{please be seated}

ASTRONAUT TRAINING

OUT OF THIS WORLD HUMOR

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray....

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER



"Wireless communication is nothing new.
I've been praying for 75 years!"

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.**

INVITATION ②

Leader: As the apostles filled Jerusalem with their teaching about Jesus, we are called to bring good news to the world.

People: Our witness is in word and deed, in time and treasure.

Leader: Give thanks in all things, for God is good.

People: With our gifts we express thanks for God's steadfast love which endures forever.

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

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

CHORAL OFFERTORY *"When Long Before Time"* music & text by Peter W. A. Davison (1936)

{Those who are able, please rise}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

"Alleluia"

**You are worthy, alleluia, You are worthy, alleluia,
You are worthy, alleluia, You are worthy, alleluia!**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** ② *(Leader)*

O God, we rejoice in the inheritance you have given us and delight in sharing it with others. You have given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. You have touched our lives with eternity, with indescribable and glorious joy. We want others to experience what we have begun to realize in company with one another and with you. To that end, bless all the offerings of this day. **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: Jesus says to us: Peace be with you.
As God has sent me, so I send you.

People: **We receive God's peace into our lives.
We will go where Christ sends us.**

Leader: Feel the wind, the breath of God.
Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice.
We are empowered and sent as disciples and
apostles.**

ALL: **Amen.**



*BENEDICTION

- Psalm 121

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills-- from where will my help come?

People: **My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

People: **He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

Leader: The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and
forevermore.

ALL: **Amen.**

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ Red #558

*SENDING HYMN

"How Great Thou Art"

♫ Blue #147

One License #A-728042

*{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): iamheretoserve





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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 - ⑦ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑦ 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
 - ⑧ Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑨ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
 - ⑩ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
 - ⑩ The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
 - ⑫ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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Treasurer: Terry Pastor

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Consistory President: Elsa Wertz

Consistory Vice President: George McLain

Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

About Today

Church Season: Easter - Easter is the 50 days from the Saturday of Holy Week to Pentecost. Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and is the most joyful season of the church year. The first Sunday of Easter, Resurrection Sunday, is the highest and holiest day of the Christian Church.

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

White - symbolizing the defeat of death and the darkness of sin with the resurrection to eternal life.

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, April 16, 2023, Lectionary Reading for Second Sunday of Easter: Holy Humor Sunday

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

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 16

This is an OT sung prayer for God's continual help, where the one who is praying also expresses their trust in God's divine providence.

The First Letter of Peter

This NT Epistle (letter) is attributed to the Apostle Peter, who's name means "rock." Jesus appointed Simon Peter to lead the church after his ascension. Peter was a fisherman at the time Jesus called him to be a disciple. This letter is believed to be written pseudonymously in Rome around 70-90 A.D. This letter particularly addresses social tensions being felt within the Greco-Roman culture that are being attributed to the spread of the Christian faith.



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, April 23, 2023, Lectionary Reading for Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven 82

D A7 E D F# G2 D G B D G A

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, to his feet your
 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to all peo - ple
 3 Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; all our hopes and
 4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him, you be - hold him

Bm Em A7 F#7 A# Bm F#7 C# Bm B7 D# Esus E7

trib - ute bring; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
 in dis - tress. Praise him, still the same for - ev - er,
 fears he knows. In his hands he gent - ly bears us,
 face to face. Sun and moon, bow down be - fore him;

F#m E A D F# Bm D E7 A D F# G A7

ev - er - more his prais - es sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 slow to chide and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
 res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia!
 all who dwell in time and space. Al - le - lu - ia!

Bm A7 C# Bm D A E G Em G D F# A7 D

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

WORDS: Henry F. Lyte (1793-1847), alt; para. Psalm 103
 MUSIC: John Goss (1800-1880)

LAUDA ANIMA
 8.7.8.7.8.7.

How Majestic Is Your Name 121

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! Psalm 8:1

Chords: C C_{sus} D E C_{sus} D E F Dm^7 G C C_{sus} D E C_{sus} D C E

1 2 3

Chords: G G B C C E F FM^9 F C E Dm^7 G G^7 C C E

4 5 6 7 8 9

Chords: F FM^9 F C E Dm^7 G Am^7 G^7 B C B B^7 $\text{D}\sharp$ Em D D^7 $\text{F}\sharp$

10 11 12 13 14

Chords: G G F C E F Am G sus G G B C C G B C D.S. C G B C G B C G B C

15 16 17 18 19 20

TEXT: Michael W. Smith
MUSIC: Michael W. Smith

HOW MAJESTIC
Irregular meter

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Optional transition to "Glorious Is Thy Name"

Tempo: $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ A little slower

Chords: Dm C F Bb C C_{sus} C Bb C F

21 22 23 24

32 How Great Thou Art

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised. Psa. 48:1

O STORE GUD 11 10 11 10 Ref.

Carl Boberg, c. 1885
Trans. by Stuart K. Hine, 1949

Swedish Folk melody
Arr. by Stuart K. Hine, 1949

1. O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der Con - sid - er
2. When thro' the woods and for - est glades I wan - der And hear the
3. And when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me

all the worlds^{*} Thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees, When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in, That on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -

Refrain
thun - der, Thy pow'r thro' - out the u - ni - verse dis - played.
gran - deur, And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze. Then sings my
bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin.
ra - tion, And there pro - claim, my God, how great Thou art.

soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art! Then sings my

soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee: How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

*Translator's original words are "works" and "mighty."

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GOD THE FATHER: HIS PRAISE