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.

Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. John 14:1

Welcome to our Worship Service In-Person & Streaming Online

+ 🕇 +

Fifth Sunday of Easter Sunday, May 7, 2023 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 & Geri Gammel if you are in need of the nursery.

Junior Worship

On the 2^{nd} 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

WWW.sprucc.org

Online: Live Stream at spruce.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



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

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)

O God, our Creator, open your heavens to us. We long for the pure spiritual milk you provide so we may grow into salvation. We are your people, sisters and brothers of your Chosen One. Let us this day be built into a spiritual house, a community of your faithful people. Keep us from judging those whose views differ from our own, or from throwing stones at those with whom we disagree. Incline your ear to us and rescue us from ourselves, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRELUDE		"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"	by J. S. Bach, arranged by John Carter
		{Those who are able, please rise}	
*PROCESSIONAL HYMN		"Welcome Happy Morning!"	♪ Red #170 Public Domain
*INVOCATION			
Leader:	and of God t	of God the Father, he Son, he Holy Spirit.	
ALL:	Amen.		
*CALL TO WORSHIP [®]			
Leader:	Gaze into heaven and see the glory of God. Lift up your eyes to behold the risen Christ.		
People:	God is our rock of refuge, a strong fortress.		
		s us and guides us every day.	
Leader:	-	r troubles at Christ's feet.	
Deepler		the sanctuary God prepares for us.	the life

People: We have come to find the way, the truth, and the life. We are here to ask and to receive and to serve.

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)

We, who use our doubts and questions as excuses for irresponsibility, are called to account. We have disobeyed God's word and rejected the One who revealed God's love. Because we do not believe, we cannot see the goodness of God. Let us seek God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us pray....

*CONFESSION OF SIN ² (Unison)

We confess that sometimes we have covered our ears so we cannot hear your word of judgement, holy God. We seek to isolate ourselves from a world in pain. We become enemies and persecutors of Christ, who identified with poor, needy, and oppressed people. We reject the One you sent as the way, the truth, and the life. We do not pray, as Jesus prayed, trusting that you hear and respond. O God, deliver us from ourselves. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*Assurance of Pardon [®] (Leader)

Let not your hearts be troubled. Whoever believes in God will not be put to shame. If your truly believe, you will show care for others. When you care, you will join in doing the things Jesus did to help all the people God loves. You are chosen to proclaim the mighty acts of One who called you out of the shadows into God's marvelous light. Rejoice! You have received the mercy of God. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: Let us sing praise to our risen saviour. **People: We praise God's holy name.**

*SUNG PRAISE

"Alleluia"

Blue #189 *Music* & Text: Jerry Sinclair

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

{please be seated}

We Hear the Word of God

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

PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

First Lesson: <u>Acts 7:55-60</u> Second Lesson: <u>1 Peter 2:1-10</u>		
Leader: This is the word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.		
Gospel Lesson: <u>John 14:1-14</u>		
Leader: This is the word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.		
Нумм "Christ Will Come Again"		

NCH #608 One License #A-728042

MINI-MESSAGE

Music

"This is the Day"

Text & Music: 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

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 (Unison) "Apostles' 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} {Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION[®]

- Leader: There are moments when the heavens seem to open to us, and we sense the vast possibilities for life that God offers.
- People: We long to reach our God-given potential and to offer that opportunity to others. The tithes and offerings we bring are devoted to that purpose.

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 <u>Online Giving</u> option on our website at spruce.org (<u>Click Here</u>), or you may mail your offering to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}. "O Living Bread from Heaven"

on the tune "Wedlock" from The Sacred Harp arranged by Gary Matheny

{Those who are able, please rise}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"Alleluia"

Blue #189 Music & Text: Jerry Sinclair

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

*OFFERTORY PRAYER [®] (Leader)

We commit ourselves to you, gracious God, as we dedicate material gifts that represent our labor. When we ponder the amazing wonder of life, we are filled with awe. When we remember Jesus as the cornerstone of the spiritual house you are seeking to build in our midst, we are eager to help. Let your face shine on us and on this offering that your mighty acts may be proclaimed to all the world. **Amen.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion 1.4

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is the central act of Christian worship, bringing us more fully together with one another and the Triune God, through the sacrifice of the body and blood of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 26:20-30, Mark 14:17-26, Luke 22:14-23, John 13:21-30)

*INVITATION

- Leader: Dearly beloved in the Lord: Our blessed Saviour Jesus Christ instituted the Holy Communion of his Body and Blood, that it might be the abiding memorial of his atoning death; the seal of his perpetual presence in the Church through the Holy Spirit; the mystical representation of the sacrifice of himself on the cross; the pledge of his undying love for his people; and the bond of his living union and fellowship with them to the end of time.
- ALL: The celebration of the Lord's Supper has ever been regarded by the Church as the innermost sanctuary of the whole Christian worship. What we do here is not merely with signs, but with the realities these signs represent. We seek to approach the Lord's Table rightly, striving to be devout and repentant, with a believing mind.
- Leader: We cordially invite to partake of this Sacrament all who are truly grieved and penitent for their sins, who look to the Lord Jesus Christ for righteousness and salvation, who abide in the fellowship of his Church, and who desire to possess his Spirit and walk in his ways. To all such the compassionate Redeemer himself says: Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

*COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader:

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Everlasting God, who created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, who made humankind in your own image, and whose tender mercies are over all your works.

We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none.

We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless.

We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory.

We give thanks to you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy and sing....

*SANCTUS

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Seraphic Hymn One License #A-728042

{Sanctus is Latin for "Holy." Seraphic Hymn refers to the song of the Seraphim Angels. Sabaoth is a Hebrew name for God, referring to God as both creator and ruler of the world}.

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!

Alonzo P. Howard One License #A-728042

{Please be seated}

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: Lord, we remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.

Leader: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Ordained Minister:

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We offer you our gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service in behalf of all people.

Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, both here at this table in this sanctuary and in the homes of those who are gathered as the church; even though separated by physical distance, we are one in your spirit, and bless us that as we receive them, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united in communion with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things.

ALL: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. Amen.

BREAKING BREAD AND RAISING CUP (Leader)

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.

LAMB OF GOD

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People: grant us peace.

CALL TO THE SUPPER

Leader: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

{This morning we will be partaking of communion in the pews.

The Elders will first distribute the bread, Gluten free bread is in the center, and regular bread is in the outer ring. The Pastor will then instruct the congregation to eat the bread at the same time.

The Elders will distribute the wine and grape juice. The **wine is red** in the outer rings, and the **grape juice is white** in the inner ring. The Pastor will then instruct the congregation to drink of the cup at the same time.}

{We invite <u>all</u> baptized Christians who profess a belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour to participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion. You do <u>not</u> need to be a member of this congregation or of the UCC to participate in Communion.}

Youth & Children:

Children of Members who have not yet professed their Christian faith through the Rite of Confirmation are to participate in communion and refresher classes prior to communing, and follow the "Children & Communion Guide."

Children of Visitors - if you commune at your home church, you are welcome to commune here.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

- Leader: Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 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 ²

- Leader: Jesus sends us out into paths of service. We are summoned to greater works than Jesus did. People: How is it possible for us to do more than Jesus did?
- **Can we preach and pray and heal as Jesus did?** Leader: We are chosen as Christ's representatives.

We are the church, the body of Christ on earth.

- People: Together we can make a difference. God is at work in us to heal our world.
- ALL: Amen.
- *BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

*Sending Hymn

"The Church's One Foundation"

Red #322 One License #A-728042

♪ Red #558 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): 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) We experience greater oneness with God and each another through Holy Communion
- (9) 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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- Decturn Resource. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
 Edmonds, Robert Lee (Editor). (2008). In Our Own Way; Living a Scouting Life Through Faith; A Handbook of Prayer and Devotion. Dallas, TX: Red Honor Press
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- In The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
- The Rev. Mary Etta Mest

@ Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).

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United Church of Christ of Robesonia

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Consistory President: Elsa Wertz Consistory Vice President: George McLain Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

About Today

Church Season: Easter - The Easter Season begins on Easter Sunday, and continues for seven weeks until Pentecost. 40 days and six Sundays before Easter; a season of penitence as we reflect upon our personal sins, which led to the need for the sacrifice of Jesus' life for us upon the cross. The root word of "Lent" means "to lengthen", referring to the lengthening of days as we anticipate spring and the new life granted through the resurrection - moving from darkness to light.

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, and the light of the resurrected Christ.

The suggested scripture lessons are from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), which selects passages throughout the Bible over a three year cycle. The RCL is the most common lectionary used by Christian churches. We are in **Year 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, May 7, 2023, Lectionary Reading for Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

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 31

This is an OT song, which offers a prayer to God for deliverance from enemies and then gives praise for that deliverance. This was written by King David.

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, May 14, 2023, Lectionary Reading for Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21





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hope with present action."

understood literally or symbolically, would connect ultimate

The Church

