

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.*



Laborers in the Vineyard *Matthew 20:1-16*

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

+ † +

Sunday, September 24, 2023
17th Sunday after Pentecost

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 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

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

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



www.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)*

Glory to your name, holy God. We rejoice in your wonderful works, in miracles you have caused among us, and in the wealth you have entrusted to our stewardship. You have called us to important work in your vineyard. Wherever we go, we represent your church and interpret your ways to those who observe our words and deeds. Enfold us in your presence and give us strength and courage to pass on the light you have sent to illuminate our journey through life. We are eager to be fed by your Word today. Amen.

HANDBELL PRELUDE

"The Solid Rock"

Arranged by Jason Krug

{Those who are able, please rise}

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

"Blessing and Honor"

*♪ Red #178
Public Domain*

***INVOCATION**

Leader: We worship in the name of God the Father, and of God the Son, and of God the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** [®]

Leader: Call on God with praise and thanksgiving.
Tell of God's wonderful works.

**People: Today we open ourselves to God's presence.
Let the hearts of all who seek God rejoice.**

Leader: We are guided by God's laws and statutes.
We benefit from God's generosity.

**People: Let all the people worship with joy!
Let all whom God has chosen sing together!**

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)

Like the Israelites in the wilderness, we have been heard to complain. God is often blamed for calamities more than praised for the sustaining presence that works for our good. It is easier for us to be jealous of others than to rejoice in the opportunities God gives them. Surely we need to repent. Let us confess our sins before God and before one another.

*CONFESSION OF SIN [®] (Unison)

O God, we are people of the flesh more than people of the spirit. Our lives are not worthy of the gospel of Christ. We admit our resentment when some people we deem unworthy benefit from your generosity. We confess our lack of attention to your laws, your loving Word, your prompting Spirit. You alone are our salvation, our healing, our high opportunity to serve. We choose to belong to you. Accept and change us, we pray. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY

*"Search Me O God"
Stanzas 1 & 3*

*W&R #385
Orr, Hopkins
Public Domain*

**Search me, O God, and know my heart today;
try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.
See if there be some wicked way in me;
cleans me from every sin and set me free.**

**Lord, take my life and make it wholly thine;
fill my poor heart with thy great love divine.
Take all my will, my passion, self, and pride;
I now surrender, Lord - in me abide.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON [®] (Leader)

God has offered us a presence we have not recognized, bread we have ignored, and compassion we have not deserved. The food from heaven is offered to us daily, freely given to all who are open to receive it. Let us rejoice in this moment of God's amazing generosity, opening our lives to the gifts of God, that we might share them with others. Praise God!
Amen.

***CALL TO PRAISE**

Leader: O Lord, open our lips

People: **And our mouths shall show forth your praise.**

***SUNG PRAISE**

"Sing Praise to God who Reigns Above"

Stanza 1

♩ Blue #97

Johann J. Schutz

One License #A-728042

**Sing praise to God who reigns above, The God of all creation,
The God of pow'r, the God of love, The God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul He fills, And every faithless murmur stills:
To God all praise and glory!**

{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

Old Testament Prophet: [Jonah 3:1-5,10 & 4:1-11](#)

New Testament Letter: [Philippians 1:21-30](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Gospel (Good News): [Matthew 20:1-16](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

W&R #61

One License #A-728042

MINI-MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S SONG

"This Is the Day"

W&R #652

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 Christ.*

WITNESSING/TESTIMONY

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

♪ *Red #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.**

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION [®]

Leader: God provides generously for all of us.

People: We are blessed with pure water and nourishing food.

Leader: We have found joy in the faith that sustains our spirits.

People: Let us now expand the circle of opportunity as we share what God has promised.

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](http://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

"Rejoice, You Pure in Heart"

*by Arthur H. Messiter,
arranged for chorus by Colin Curtis*

{Those who are able, please rise}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

We Praise Thee, O God"

Stanza 1

♪ *Red #19*
Julia Cory
One License #A-728042

**We praise Thee, O God, our Redeemer, Creator,
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.**

**We lay it before Thee, we kneel and adore Thee,
We bless Thy holy Name, glad praises we sing.**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER [®] (Leader)

Loving God, receive our tithes and offerings to your honor and glory. May fruitful results occur through and beyond our sharing. Call us all into the vineyard of meaningful labor and constructive leisure, that your Word, living through us, may call our neighbors to joyous reunion with you. May we help one another to live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

***CALL TO PRAYER**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray...

***PASTORAL 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.**

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: May you know joy and progress in your faith.
May this be a week of spiritual growth for you.

**People: May Christ dwell in us and among us.
May the faith of the gospel empower us.**

Leader: In all your struggles, know that Christ is with you.
In all your labors, the love of God surrounds you.

**People: We go out to work in our Lord's vineyard.
Our labor is to share the Good News in word and deed.**

ALL: Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

♪ *Red #558
Public Domain*

***SENDING HYMN**

"Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant"

NCH #539

*{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

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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
 - ⑩ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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Staff & Leadership

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Sextons: Michael Pastor & Terry Pastor

Treasurer: Terry Pastor

Financial Secretary & Assistant Secretary: Geneva Aulenbach

Consistory President: Elsa Wertz

Consistory Vice President: George McLain

Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

About Today

Church Season: Pentecost -which is the season of the church in mission. It is the time between the ascension of Christ and his second coming, which is the time we are presently living in today, and as such is the longest season of the church year. The day of Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian church.

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

Green - symbolizing the life God brings, especially through our mission work.

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, September 24, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15 *and* Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 *or* Jonah 3:10 - 4:11 *and* Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

Jonah

The Book of Jonah is named for the prophet Jonah, who was sent by God to the Assyrians in Nineveh to prophesy repentance to them. The Assyrians had inflicted brutal violence upon the people of Israel, and therefore Jonah initially hoped for their destruction rather than for God's grace. This OT book is dated sometime during the postexilic period (after 539 BC).

Psalm 145

This OT song attributed to David, gives praise for the greatness and goodness of God. In its original Hebrew, it has an alphabetic acrostic form, which means that every other verse begins with a successive letter of the alphabet.

The Letter of Paul to the Philippians

This epistle (letter) (NT) was written by the Apostle Paul from prison in the 60s A.D. Paul and Timothy are sending this letter to the church in Philippi, thanking and rejoicing with them for their steadfast faithfulness, prayers, and support, cautioning them of missionaries who focus on physical wants and needs, and encouraging them to stay true and united to his and Timothy's teachings and example. Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and church leader, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. Paul wrote more of the NT than any other person.

The Gospel According to 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, October 1, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 17:1-7 *and* Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 *or* Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 *and* Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

Our Lord Jesus Christ

HORATIUS BONAR, 1808-1889

10. 10. 10. 10.

O QUANTA QUALIA
La Feillée's *Méthode du Plain Chant*, 1808*In moderate time and with majestic rhythm*


1. Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and power,
2. Sound - eth the heaven of the heavens with His Name;
3. Ev - er as - cend - eth the song and the joy;
4. Give we the glo - ry and praise to the Lamb;



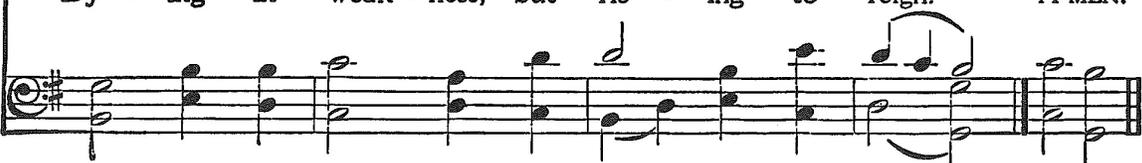

Wis - dom and rich - es and strength ev - er - more
Ring - eth the earth with His glo - ry and fame;
Ev - er de - scend - eth the love from on high;
Take we the robe and the harp and the palm;




Give ye to Him who our bat - tle hath won,
O - cean and moun - tain, stream, for - est, and flower
Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and praise—
Sing we the song of the Lamb that was slain,




Whose are the King - dom, the crown, and the throne.
Ech - o His prais - es and tell of His power.
This is the theme of the hymns that we raise.
Dy - ing in weak - ness, but ris - ing to reign. A-MEN.



There's a Wideness in God's Mercy 61

B♭ $\frac{F7sus}{C}$ $\frac{F7}{C}$ $\frac{F7}{A}$ F7 B♭2 B♭ E♭ $\frac{B♭}{D}$ $\frac{F7}{C}$ B♭ G7 C C7 F

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2 There is wel-come for the sin-ner and more grac-es for the good;
 3 For the love of God is broad-er than the meas-ure of our mind;
 4 If our love were but more sim-ple, we would take him at his word,

F7 B♭ $\frac{F7}{A}$ F7 B♭ Gm $\frac{E♭m}{G♭}$ $\frac{B♭}{F}$ $\frac{D}{F\#}$ Gm E♭ Fsus F F7 B♭

there's a kind-ness in his jus-tice which is more than lib-er-ty.
 there is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in his blood.
 and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
 and our lives would be il-lu-mined by the pres-ence of our Lord.

WORDS: Frederick W. Faber (1814-1863)
 MUSIC: Lizzie S. Tourjée (1858-1913)

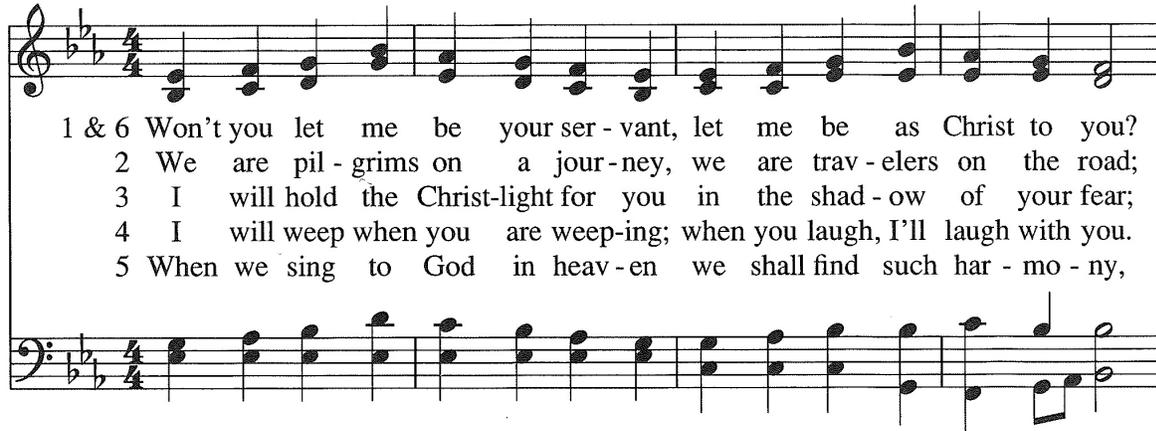
WELLESLEY
 8.7.8.7.

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

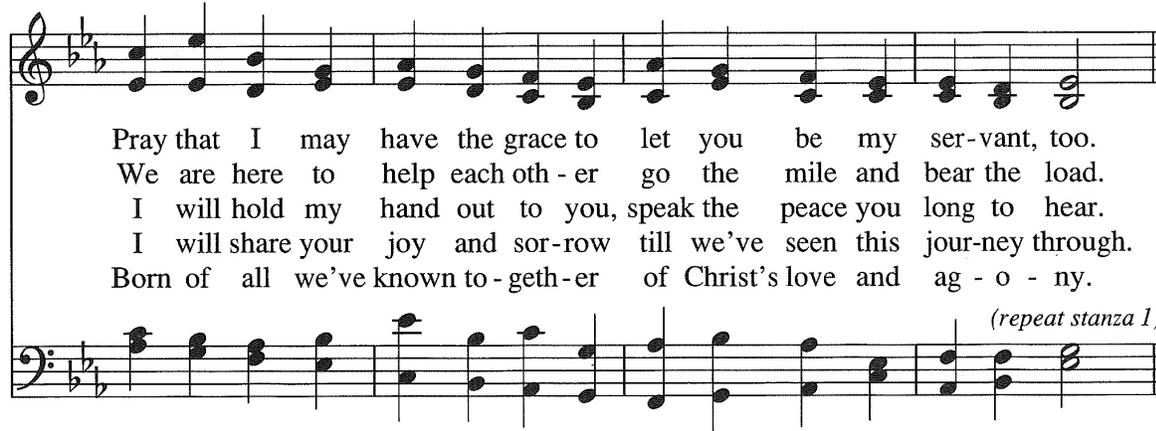
539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29



1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,



Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
I will share your joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.
Richard Gillard, 1977
Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.