

# The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

610-621-5770 -- [office@sprucc.org](mailto:office@sprucc.org) -- [www.sprucc.org](http://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*

+ † +

**Sunday, December 17, 2023**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Gaudete Sunday**

**Joy**

# 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<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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](mailto: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** <sup>®</sup> *(Unison)*

**Loving God, we rejoice in this season of anticipation as we remember your promises and look forward to ways that you reveal yourself to us. May your presence be real to us in this hour. Strengthen us for victories over temptation, for renewal of our love for you and one another, for leadership and service in your church. We give thanks that you have called us into community and commissioned us to make a difference in the world. Equip us here for the tasks you set before us. Amen.**

### **PIANO PRELUDE**

*"In the Bleak Mid-Winter"*

*Gustav Holst (1906);  
arranged for piano by John Purifoy*

*{Those who are able, please rise}*

### **\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

*"Hark the Glad Sound"*

*♪ Red #97  
Public Domain*

### **\*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** <sup>®</sup>

Leader: God is in our midst; do not fear.  
God rejoices to renew our lives in steadfast love.

**People: God gathers us for this time of worship.  
God claims us and promises us a home.**

Leader: Trust in God who is our strength and life.  
Give thanks to God, the source of our salvation.

**People: We will sing praises and exalt God's name.  
With joyous shouts, we will tell of God's glorious deeds.**

## 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 <sup>2</sup> (Leader)

God's winnowing fork separates faithful ones from the unfaithful, honest ones from the dishonest, gentle ones from those who vent their anger against the innocent. God seeks to remove the chaff from our lives that we might recognize our own true worth as God's children. Let us seek God's healing.

### \*CONFESSION OF SIN <sup>4</sup> (Unison)

**Almighty and most merciful God our Heavenly Father, we humble ourselves before thee, under a deep sense of our unworthiness and guilt. We have grievously sinned against thee, in thought, in word, and in deed. We have come short of thy glory, we have broken thy commandments, and turned aside every one of us from the way of life. Yet now, O most merciful Father, hear us when we call upon thee with penitent hearts, and for the sake of thy Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us. Pardon our sins; take away our guilt; and grant us your peace. Purify us, by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, from all inward uncleanness, and make us able and willing to serve thee in newness of life, to the glory of thy Holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### \*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

### \*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY      "God of Pity, God of Grace" vs. 1 & 5      ♪ Red #223 *Morris/Filitz; Public Domain*

**God of pity, God of grace, When we humbly seek Thy face,  
Bend from heaven, Thy dwelling place, Hear, forgive and save.**

**And what e'er our cry may be, When we lift our hearts to Thee,  
From our burden set us free: Heal, forgive, and save.**

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON <sup>2</sup> (Leader)

God has good news of freedom for oppressed and captive people, of comfort for the brokenhearted and mourning ones, of hope for those who are devastated. God offers salvation and welcomes us into a covenant relationship. Surely our hearts will know joy, and our voices will ring with laughter. God is faithful and will grant us hope, peace, and joy. **Amen.**

*{please be seated}*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE<sup>①</sup> - JOY

### INTRODUCTORY SENTENCES: *(Advent Reader)*

Soon we shall celebrate the birth of Jesus. We worship God with joy in our hearts as we are reminded of the words the angel said on that first Christmas Day: "Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people."

### READING OF SCRIPTURE: *(Advent Reader)*

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete." *(from John 15:9-11)*

### LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE: *(Advent Reader)*

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is joy, joy that is ours not only at Christmas but always.

*{Light the third pink/rose candle in the wreath}*

### PRAYER:

Advent Reader: Let us pray...

**ALL:** O Holy One, as Christmas draws near, there is a sense of excitement in the air. We can feel a joy in our lives and see it in those around us. Still, for some of us this is a sad time because of unhappy things that have happened in our lives. Help us to have the joy that does not depend on earthly happiness but on you. Help us to be filled with your joy so that we may share it with a joyless world. Amen.

### CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: Let us offer our praise to the Lord.

**People:** May Jesus Christ be praised.

### SUNG RESPONSE OF PRAISE

### "Gloria"

*Music: Jacques Berthier  
One License #A-728042*

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in G major, 6/8 time. The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: "Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!". The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: "Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!".

Dm Gm C F Dm Gm C F  
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!  
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

Dm Gm C F Dm Gm C F  
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## 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

The Old Testament Reading: [Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11](#)

Canticle: Mary's Magnificat - [Luke 1:39-55](#)

*{Mary's song of praise (Magnificat) to God}.*

Leader: Let us praise God with Mary's Magnificat....

Sung Refrain:

The image shows a musical score for a sung refrain. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style. Above the first staff, the chord 'D' is written, and 'Unison' is written below it. Above the second staff, the chord 'Am' is written, and above the third staff, the chord 'D' is written. The lyrics are: 'My spir - it re - joic - es in God my Sav - ior.'

Leader: In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my LORD comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the LORD."

***Sung Refrain: My spirit rejoices in God my Savior***

Leader: And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the LORD,

**People: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

Leader: for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

**People: Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;**

Leader: for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

**People: and holy is his name.**

***Sung Refrain: My spirit rejoices in God my Savior***

Leader: His mercy is for those who fear him

**People: from generation to generation.**

Leader: He has shown strength with his arm;

**People: he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.**

Leader: He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

**People: and lifted up the lowly;**

Leader: he has filled the hungry with good things,

**People: and sent the rich away empty.**

***Sung Refrain: My spirit rejoices in God my Savior***

Leader: He has helped his servant Israel,

**People: in remembrance of his mercy,**

Leader: according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

**People: to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”**

***Sung Refrain: My spirit rejoices in God my Savior***

**The New Testament Letter: [1 Thessalonians 5:16-24](#)**

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Lesson: [John 1:6-8, 19-28](#)**

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**

*"My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise"*

**NCH #106**

Words - One License #A-728042  
Music - Public Domain

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

***A Lost Story of Christmas Morning***

A Playlet by *Pastor Bob Masenheimer* and *Sheri Rowe*

Music and lyrics by *Pastor Bob Masenheimer*

Players: *Children* and *Youth Department*

Narrators: *Linda Eiceman* and *Terry Pastor*

## We Respond with Thanks

*We have heard God's call and have come and worshiped,  
we have confessed our sins and been assured of our forgiveness, we have learned more  
about God's grace and God's will. We now respond by  
re-affirming our faith in God,  
praying with and for one another, trusting in God's providence in our world, and giving of  
ourselves for the sake of the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.*

*{Those who are able, please rise}*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (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, died, and was 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}*

### **CALL TO PRAYER**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

### **SILENT PRAYER**

### **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.**

**SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE**

*"Gloria"*

*Text: Benjamin Motz;  
Music: Jacques Berthier  
One License #A-728042*

**We uplift our prayers, we uplift our prayers,  
we uplift our prayers to you Lord.  
Hear our prayers, grant us peace, alleluia, alleluia!**

*{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}*

**OFFERTORY INVITATION** ②

Leader: Today God's voice is heard through the ministries we help to provide, here in our church, and in outreach to all the world's people.

**People: We bear witness to the light that is coming into the world through personal caring and corporate sharing.**

Leader: May all our giving be generous!

**People: We will not offer God sacrifices that cost us nothing. We give God our best.**

**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](#) 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**

*"The King Shall Come"*

*Based on the tune MORNING SONG  
by Austin Lovelace*

*{Those who are able, please rise}*

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

*"Gloria"*

*Text: Benjamin Motz;  
Music: Jacques Berthier  
One License #A-728042*

**Given to God, given to God, all we ha-ve is yours Lord!  
Lifted to God, lifted to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Receive our gifts, receive our gifts, all we ha-ve is yours Lord!  
Lifted in praise, lifted in praise, alleluia, alleluia!**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER** <sup>®</sup>(*Leader*)

O God, in our worthiness may we yet bring worthy gifts to honor the Messiah. May the brokenhearted be led to enriching new celebrations. May the lowly among us come to know their true worth as persons chosen by you to do great things. By your mercy, may the hungry be fed not only with bread but also with opportunities to feed others. We give ourselves as your servants, for no gift is complete without personal commitment. Thank you, God, for expecting great things of us. Our spirits rejoice in the coming of our Savior. **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** <sup>®</sup>

**Leader:** Rejoice always and pray without ceasing.  
Give thanks to God, whatever your circumstances.

**People:** **God has done great things for us.**  
**We rejoice that we are part of God's family.**

**Leader:** Listen for the word of the prophets.  
Be open to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **We are filled with joy as we go out to serve.**  
**We are thankful for the good news we carry.**

**ALL:** **Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

♪ *Red #558*  
*Public Domain*

**\*SENDING HYMN**

*“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”*

♪ *Red #21*  
*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 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.

- ① Reprinted with permission from *The New Century Hymnal* of the United Church of Christ. (1995). Cleveland, Ohio: The Pilgrim Press. and/or the *Book of Worship* of the United Church of Christ (1986). New York: United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership.
  - ① United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need (NIN) 2023 Resources.
  - ② *Led By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1996). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
  - ② *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
  - ③ Reprinted with permission from *Sundays and Seasons*. (2023). Augsburg Fortress.
  - ④ Reprinted with permission from the *Order of Worship for the Reformed Church in the United States*. and/or *The Hymnal of the Evangelical and Reformed Church*. (1985) New York: United Church Press.
  - ⑤ Reprinted with permission from *Sourcebook of Worship Services*
  - ⑤ scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America
  - ⑥ Reprinted with permission from *Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ*. (2013).
  - ⑦ *Sunday Sermons Preaching Resources*. (2017). Margate, NJ.
  - 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
- One License is our Church Copyright License #A-728042,, which is a subscription service giving us copyright permission to print the words and music found in the bulletin and to live stream music on the internet during the Worship Service.  
Cartoons are reprinted with permission from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*. (2023).



## Staff & Leadership

*Pastor & Teacher:* The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz - PastorMotz@sprucc.org - 610-621-5770 (O)

*Pastor & Teacher:* The Rev. Mary Etta Mest - mestme@aol.com - 610-659-2775 (C)

*Music Minister:* The Rev. Robert Masenheimer

*Bell Choir Director:* Miriam Borkert

*Office Secretary:* Geri Gammel - Office@sprucc.org - 610-621-5770 (O)

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

**Gaudete Sunday:** This "Sunday of Joy" is the third Sunday of Advent. It is also known as "Refreshment Sunday." For those who are fasting during the Advent season, this is a day to break from that fast.

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

**Blue** - symbolizes the hope found in the anticipated coming of Christ

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

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

The suggested scripture lessons are from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), which selects passages throughout the Bible over a three year cycle. The RCL is the most common lectionary used by Christian churches. We are in **Year B**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Mark.

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, December 17, 2023, Lectionary Reading for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 *or* Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

#### **Isaiah**

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

#### **1 Thessalonians**

This epistle (letter) is the oldest book in the NT. It was written by the Apostle Paul in Corinth around 51 A.D. to the church in Thessalonica, which is the Roman capital of the Macedonian province, a port city on the northern shore of the Aegean Sea. Timothy, Paul, and Silvanus founded this church. Timothy went back to Thessalonica and reported to Paul that the people there were anxious because Paul had not returned, and in response Paul wrote this pastoral letter. 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 Luke**

The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles is attributed to Luke "the beloved physician," written around 59-90 A.D. (C.E.). Not having met Jesus personally, Luke undertook the task of "investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account" of Jesus Christ, "so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed."

#### **The Gospel According to John**

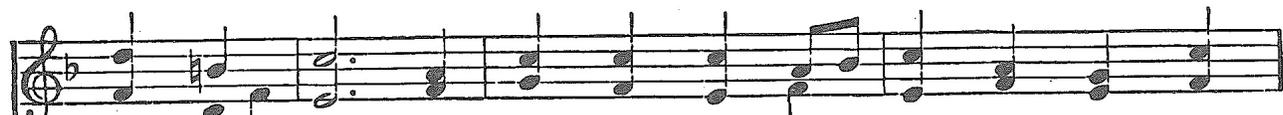
John is the latest of the four Gospels, written around 80-90 A.D. probably in Ephesus, and attributed to John the son of Zebedee, the beloved disciple of Jesus. This Gospel was "written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and through believing you may have life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

### **Next Sunday, December 24, 2023, Lectionary Reading for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 *or* Luke 1:46b-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

*Joyfully*


1. Hark, the glad sound, the Sav - iour comes, The Sav - iour  
2. He comes the pris - oners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3. He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4. Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long: Let ev - ery heart pre - pare a throne, And  
bond - age held: The gates of brass be - fore Him burst, The  
soul to cure, And would with treas - ures of His grace En -  
shall pro - claim; And heaven's e - ter - nal arch - es ring With




ev - ery voice a song, . . . And ev - ery voice a song.  
i - ron fet - ters yield, . . . The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
rich the hum - ble poor, . . . En - rich the hum - ble poor.  
Thy be - lov - èd name, . . . With Thy be - lov - èd name. A-MEN.



## My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

106

Ruth Duck, 1985

Luke 1:46-55

A D A/E E7 A

1 My heart sings out with joy - ful praise to God who rais - es me,  
 2 The arm of God is strong and just to scat - ter all the proud.  
 3 The prom - ise made in a - ges past at last has come to be,

A D A/E E7 A

Who came to me when I was low and changed my des - ti - ny.  
 The ty - rants tum - ble from their thrones and van - ish like a cloud.  
 for God has come in power to save, to set all peo - ple free.

E A D E7 A E

The Ho - ly One, the Liv - ing God, is al - ways full of grace  
 The hun - gry all are sat - is - fied; the rich are sent a - way.  
 Re - mem - bering those who wait to see sal - va - tion's dawn - ing day,

A D A/E E7 A

To those who seek their Mak - er's will in ev - ery time and place.  
 The poor of earth who suf - fer long will wel - come God's new day.  
 Our Sav - ior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears a - way.

The "Magnificat," a traditional text for evening prayer as well as Advent, is paraphrased here by Ruth Duck. She developed it to make the ancient rite of evening prayer available to her own worshipping communities.

Tune: MARIAS LOVSÅNG C.M.D.

Swedish folk melody

Alternate tunes: ELLACOMBE, TALLIS' THIRD

## Adoration and Praise

HENRY VAN DYKE, 1907  
*With exultation*

8. 7. 8. 7. D.

HYMN TO JOY  
LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN, 1824

1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,  
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,  
4. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.  
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!  
Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us, Broth - er love binds man to man.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er, All who live in love are Thine;  
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.  
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the Joy di - vine.  
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us Sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life. A - MEN.

Words used by permission of Chas. Scribner's Sons.