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 10:15am Worship Service In-Person & Streaming Online

+ + +

Sunday, January 14, 2024 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Ordination/Installation of New Leadership

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. The third toilet stall in each of our four restrooms has a high toilet and handrails.

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 spruce.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on Our YouTube Channe

Facebook Live at https://www.facebook.com/www.spruce.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)

Our Lord and our God, we have come together because you have spoken your word of summons and welcome. We are drawn irresistibly to the promise of your presence and by the persistence of your call. Speak to your servants here in ways we can understand. We want to hear the message you intend for us. We want to listen, not because someone else needs to have it told to them, but because we ourselves are needy sinners. Your expectations of us are high and holy. We tremble before you, eager for the heavens to be opened in our midst for our transformation. Amen.

PIANO PRELUDE

"I Saw Three Ships" Traditional

Traditional English carol arranged by Lani Smith

(Please note: the three ships are the three camels bearing the wise men on their search for Jesus.)

{Those who are able, please rise}

*Processional Hymn

"Jesus Calls us; O'er the Tumult"

▶ Red #207
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 [®]

Leader: God is calling. Do you not hear?

You are being called by name, for a purpose.

People: God, you have searched us and known us.

You discern our thoughts from far away.

Leader: Your words and your deeds are known to God.

You were known to God before you were born.

People: Your knowledge of us is more than we can understand.

Your thoughts embrace us amid all you have created.

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 ² (Leader)

We can hide nothing from God, who knows our every thought. God is aware of sins we have not recognized. Whenever we have broken a solemn trust, whenever we have acted on selfish impulse, whenever we have trampled the feelings of others or ignored their need, God has noticed. We cannot be right with God unless we examine ourselves and repent. Let us confess our sins before God and before one another. Let us pray....

*CONFESSION OF SIN [®] (Unison)

O God, our lives are an open book to you. Help us to recognize in ourselves what you have seen there. Remove the distortions that keep us from acknowledging our sin. Awake in us a sorrow over the wrong we have done and the good we have neglected. Create in us an earnest desire to change. O God, we are in touch with the pain we have caused and the pain within us. Because of your love and care, we can face and overcome the sins we here confess. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*Sung Prayer for Mercy

"Kyrie"

▶ Red #518
Public Domain

Leader (spoken):

People (sung):
Leader (spoken):

People (sung):
Leader (spoken):

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Assurance of Pardon ² (Leader)

God has heard your cries and felt your pain. Your struggles to know yourself are prompted by God's love. God leads the community of faith beyond what is lawful to what is holy. We are not our own; we are members of Christ. We are one in the Spirit. By God's grace, we are turning from self-serving ways to selfless ministries. Above all else, we who were bought with a price seek to honor and glorify God. **Amen.**

{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 Lesson from the Prophet Samuel: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

New Testament Letter from Paul to the Church in Cornith: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Gospel (Good News) Lesson: John 1:43-51

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "Take My Life and Let It Be"

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MINI-MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S SONG "God, Our Father, Hears My Prayer"

God, our Father, hears my prayer,
Anytime and anywhere.
He will listen when I pray,
Hear the loving words I say.

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.

Service of Ordination & Installation 0 @

Reaffirmation of Ordination and Installed **Kirk Aulenbach** - Elder

Being Installed

George McLain - Deacon & Consistory President
Kirk Aulenbach - Elder & Consistory Vice President
Jon Henning - Deacon and Evangelism & Mission Committee VC
Diane McAllister - Deacon & Worship Committee 2nd Liaison
Brenda Conlon - Deacon & Christian Education VC
Georgiana Hildebrand - Elder & Fellowship Committee 2nd Liaison
Ray Trone - Trustee & Property Committee 2nd Liaison

Robin Henning - Evangelism & Mission Committee Chair Larry Hollahan - Worship Committee Chair Denise Unger - Christian Education Committee Chair Peggy Trout - Fellowship Committee Chair

Eric Ostimchuk - Investment Advisory Committee John Eiceman - Investment Advisory Committee Michael Clay - Cemetery Board Jon Henning - Association & Conference Delegate

Being Installed to the Pastor-Parish Relation Committees: Brenda Conlon, Joel Palmer, Sue Hiester, Laurie Ostimchuk, & Ricky Renschler

GREETING

Leader: Grace, mercy and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the head of the church in

heaven and on earth.

People: To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations,

forever and ever. Amen.

Introduction

Leader: Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church

of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings

in the life of the world.

Leader: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

People: There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

Leader: There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability

to each of us for our particular service.

People: The Spirit's presence is shown in some ways in each person for the good

of all.

Leader: Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

People: It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.

Leader: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is

praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

People: All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.

{Those who are being ordained and/or installed as Elders & Deacons of Consistory please come forward}

{Those who are being installed to new leadership positions please come forward}

PRESENTATION (Leader)

These people have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of this church, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

COVENANT (Leader)

Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church.

Elders shall assist and support the Pastor in the spiritual affairs of the church. Elders shall take heed of themselves that they may be examples unto others, watch faithfully over the spiritual interest of the congregation, aid in visiting the sick, and minister according to their ability to the edification and comfort of all the members of the congregation. Elders are to be the advisers and counselors of the Pastor, and are to be to the Pastor as hands and eyes, acting with the Pastor and for the Pastor, and representing the Pastor's presence throughout the congregation

The office of **Deacons** has regard especially to the wants of the poor. Deacons shall assist and support the Pastor in those ministrations which pertain to the more outward needs of the congregation. They shall aid in securing the funds necessary for the support of the congregation in its various activities, foster the principles of stewardship, and dispense the charity of the congregation. They must not lose sight of the true spiritual character of their office, which is a proper branch of the Christian ministry.

Trustees are called to the ministry of care of the church building, the House of the Lord, and its property, enabling the worship, study, prayer, mission, and other ministries to occur within the church's facility, and to symbolize well the presence of this house of faith and sanctuary of Christ within and for our local community.

Those serving on the **Evangelism & Mission Committee** are called to lead all members to be connecting people in a living relationship with the loving God in both word and deed.

Those serving on the **Worship Committee** are called to lead all members to be participating in worship and increase the number of not-yet-members in worship.

Those serving on the **Christian Education Committee** are called to lead all members to be studying scripture and increase the number of not-yet-members learning scripture.

Those serving on the **Fellowship Committee** are called to lead all members to be well connected with each other in supportive Christian relationship..

Those serving on the **Property Committee** are called to lead all members to be caring for this House of Worship.

Those serving on the **Pastor-Parish Relations Committee** are called to help facilitate a good, healthy, and Godly relationship between the Pastor and the parishioners.

Those on the **Investment Advisory Committee** have the responsibility of discerning the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in the stewardship of the long-term investments of the church.

Those on the **Cemetery Board** have the responsibility of the long-term care of the Heidelberg Cemetery and the reverent care of the mortal remains interned there.

Those serving as **Delegates** to the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference and the Covenant Association are called to help foster good relationships and communications between the congregation and the Conference, Association, and wider United Church of Christ, to attend the annual Conference and Association meetings, and to share information from those meetings with the congregation.

Leader: Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Newly Elected: I am.

Leader: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Newly Elected: I do, relying on God's grace.

Leader: Do you promise with the help of God and the guidance of his Holy Spirit to discharge to the best of your knowledge and ability the service for which you have been chosen?

Newly Elected: I do, with the help of God.

COVENANT WITH CONGREGATION

Leader: Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

{Those who are able please rise}

*Congregation:

We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

*Prayer (Leader)

Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name. We pray in the name of our Lord and Saviour, who taught us when we pray to say....

*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.

{Congregation please be seated}

LAYING ON OF HANDS (Leader)

{All those with Standing as an Ordained Elder within our church please come forward, and join in the laying on of hands (right hand if possible)}

ELDERS:

The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognizes God's call to ministry in the lives of faithful women and men and asks the Holy Spirit to confer upon them the gift's of ministry. We lay hands upon you, **Kirk Aulenbach** for reaffirmation of your ordination for the position of Elder.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for the ministry of Elder in Christ's church and equip you with everything good to do God's will. Receive authority to execute the office of Elder in the name of Christ.

ALL: Amen.

PRAYER (Leader)

Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

DECLARATION (Leader)

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of the United Church of Christ of Robesonia, I rejoice to announce you are installed and affirmed in your ministry.

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

Leader: In accordance with the faith and order of this church, I extend to you the hand

of Christian love.

People: Thanks be to God.

{Installed Leaders & Congregation may be seated}

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Leader: We have been bought with a price.

People: God has made a costly investment in humanity.

Leader: For love's sake, God sent Christ among us.

People: For love's sake, we make the offering of ourselves and our resources the

high point of our worship.

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 **sprucc.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}.

CHORAL OFFERTORY "The Light Shines On" Text by Rob Little; Music by David Catherwood

{Those who are able, please rise}

One License #A-728042

Genevan Psalter, Thomas Ken, Louis Bourgeois

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*Offertory Prayer [®](Leader)

Loving God, in gratitude for your love which never lets us go, we bring you our gifts. Help us to give with generous grace and to love lavishly as you have so loved us. We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ who came that we might know what a life of love looks like. **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 said, "Follow me," so Philip followed.

Jesus says to us, "Follow me!" Will we follow?.

People: We do not always know where Jesus will lead.

But we hear the call, and we intend to follow.

Leader: Philip found Nathaniel and led him to Jesus.

There are many we know whom Jesus is seeking.

People: It is often difficult to share our faith with friends.

But we hear the call, and we intend to invite all into a loving relationship

with God.

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

▶ Red #558
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*SENDING HYMN

"Here I Am, Lord"

*♬ Blue #589*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

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United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need (NIN) 2023 Resources.

- 2 Led By Love by Lavon Baylor. (1996). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
- 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.

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6 scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America

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- ® Reprinted with Permission from Lecturn Resource. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
- Miller, Earl D. (1994). Consecrating Stewards. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.

The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

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The Rev. Mary Etta Mest

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Bell Choir Director: Miriam Borkert

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Sextons: Michael Pastor & Terry Pastor

Treasurer: Terry Pastor

Financial Secretary & Assistant Secretary: Geneva Aulenbach

Consistory President: George McLain Consistory Vice President: Kirk Aulenbach Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

About Today

Church Season: Epiphany - Season of the manifestation of God incarnate to the world. In Greek "phan" is "shine" or "manifest," and "epi" is "upon." The season of Epiphany continues from January 6 until Ash Wednesday.

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

Red - symbolizing the tongues of fire of the Holy Spirit imparting the spiritual gifts of discipleship.

Green- symbolizing this season of mission - the incarnate Christ has been made manifest to us on Epiphany and we are to go into the world and share his Good News.

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, January 14, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

The First Book of Samuel

The First Book of Samuel describes the transition of the nation of Israel from their time of being ruled by the judges to that of being ruled by their first king, Saul. The end of First Samuel and the beginning of Second Samuel describe the transition to Israel's second king, David. First Samuel begins with the birth of the prophet Samuel, who is a priest, judge, seer, military leader, and the one who anointed both Saul and David as king. First Samuel covers the time span of about 1100 BC to 1000 BC, and Second Samuel covers the time from about 1000 BC to 960 BC.

Psalm 139

This is an OT prayer in the form of a song seeking help against certain adversaries, from our almighty and inescapable God, who knows us fully and completely. The psalmist claims innocence and confidently offers to have their innocence and faithfulness tested and judged by God.

The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

This NT Epistle (letter) was written by the Apostle Paul between 53-54 A.D. to a gentile congregation he had founded several years earlier in Corinth (the capital city of the Roman province of Achaia, a large and prospering urban center that was ethnically, culturally, and religiously diverse). This letter is in response to issues within the Corinthian church, in particular fractions caused by one-upmanship and privatization of faith. Paul encourages humility, unity within diversity, and witnessing to God's grace. 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 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, January 21, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

207 GALILEE WILLIAM H. JUDE, 1887 CECIL FRANCES ALEXANDER, 1852 8. 7. 8. 7. In moderate time I. Je-sus calls us: o'er the tu-mult Of our life's wild, rest - less sea, the vain world's gold - en store; 2. Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship Of 3. In our joys and in our sor-rows, Days of toil and hours of ease, 4. Je - sus calls us! By Thy mer - cies, Sav - iour, may we hear Thy call; Day by day His sweet voice soundeth, Say - ing, "Christian, fol - low Me!" From each i - dol that would keep us, Say - ing, "Christian, love Me more!" Still He calls, in cares and pleas-ures, "Chris-tian, love Me more than these!" o - be-dience, Serve and love Thee best of all! Give our hearts to Thy

The Christian Life

253 ST. BEES FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL, 1874 7.7.7.7. JOHN B. DYKES, 1862 In moderate time; solemnly I. Take my Con - se - cra - ted, Lord, to Thee. life, and let it be 2. Take my hands, and let them move At the im - pulse of 3. Take my voice, and let me sing, Al - ways, on - ly, for my King. 4. Take my sil - ver and my gold; Not a mite would I with-hold. will, and make it Thine; It 5. Take my shall be lon - ger mine. no 6. Take my love; my Lord, I Thy feet its pour At treas - ure - store. Take my mo-ments and my days; Let them flow in cease-less praise. Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.

Take my lips, and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.

Take my in - tel - lect, and use Ev - ery power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my heart, it is Thine own; It shall be Thy roy - al throne. Take my-self, and I will be Ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee.

589 Here I Am, Lord

"Whom shall I send?" I said, "Here am I. Send me." Isaiah 6:8



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