

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, May 12, 2024
7th Sunday of Easter
Ascension Sunday
Mother's Day

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](https://www.sprucc.org) at [sprucc.org](https://www.sprucc.org) - Live or Watch & Listen Later on [Our YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)
[Facebook Live](https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/) at <https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/> - Live or Watch & Listen Later
[Phone Stream](https://www.sprucc.org) 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)*

Holy and Sacred One, how precious you make us feel. No matter the path we have taken, your love lights the way to goodness. You provide the mist of your love to surround us and dwell within us. No matter where our choices have led us, you draw us close to yourself, the majestic one who ascended into the clouds, the loving one who gathers us in your arms. In your name, we pray. Amen.

This service was prepared by Pastor Mary Etta Mest.

PIANO PRELUDE

"Blessed Assurance"

arranged for piano by Brian Chung

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

W&R #106

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 *from Psalm 1*

Leader: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,

People: or take the path that sinners tread,

Leader: but their delight is in the law of the Lord,

People: and on his law they meditate day and night.

Leader: They are like trees planted by streams of water,

People: which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.

Leader: In all that they do, they prosper,

People: for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous.

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 ⑩ (Leader)

God of love and protection and forgiveness, hear now our confession of sins which separate us from you. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Oh God, we did it again. Remorse has its grip on us. Take the evil one away. Give us peace in our souls. Help us to be happy with what we have said. Help us to be pleased with our actions or our restraint from action. Keep us calm and assured that you, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, will control us and give us peace and forgiveness.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Leader)

When we remove ourselves from front and center, God takes charge. God leads us in the right paths. God leads us in the paths that fit us according to our gifts, our talents, our inclinations. God takes temptation from our mouths and all parts of our bodies. God's forgiveness walks with us as we humbly follow where and how God leads.

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: Let us sing praise to our risen saviour.

People: **We praise God's holy name.**

*SUNG PRAISE

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

*W&R #59
Public Domain*

**Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.**

{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

The Beginning of the Church of Jesus Christ: [Acts 1:15-17, 21-26](#)

The New Testament Letter: [1 John 5:9-13](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading: [John 17:6-19](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

♪ *Red #182*
Public Domain

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHOIR

"Hallelujah"

Anonymous
Public Domain

"I've Got the Joy"

Text by George W. Cooke
Public Domain

MINI-MESSAGE

*{Children may return to their pews and remain for the rest of worship,
or on the 2nd & 3rd Sundays of the month, elementary age children may go downstairs at this time
for the additional option of "Junior Worship"}*

CHILDREN'S SONG

"Jesus Loves Me"

Anna B. Warner / William B. Bradbury

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

SERMON

"Fulfillment"

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) Adapted from Ephesians 1:15-20*

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation.

For in Christ all things were created, in heaven and on earth,

visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions

or principalities or authorities -

all things were created through Christ and for Christ.

Christ is before all things, and in Christ all things hold together;

Christ is the head of the body, the church.

{Please be seated}

SCRIPTURE: [Acts 1:3-11](#)

EXTINGUISHING THE PASCHAL CANDLE

Leader: Christ has died.

People: Christ is risen.

Leader: Christ lived on earth for 40 days after the resurrection.

People: Christ ascended and lives in heaven and is our source of light from there. His light lives in our hearts.

Leader: We now extinguish the Paschal Candle - the Lamb of God candle.

People: Lamb of God, Risen Christ, Ascended Christ, we praise you and glorify you!

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

(Including the Prayer for Mothers)

Leader: God of grace,

People: Hear our 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

"Hear our Prayer, O Lord"

♪ *Red #501*
George Whelpton

**Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord;
Hear our prayer, O Lord, And grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ⑩

Leader: Giving to God's work is a matter of trust.

People: Yes, we know.

Leader: We could be placing our money in CDs or the stock market.

People: Yes, we know.

Leader: You probably need more money for groceries and heat and gas.

People: Yes, we do.

Leader: Then why do we bring money to the altar anyway?.

People: We have learned that God is faithful to bless us in unexpected ways.

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

"Come and Praise the Lord"

John Carter

{Those who are able, please rise}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

"Doxology"

♪ *Red #551*
George Bourgeois; Public Domain

**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. Amen.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** ⑩ *(Leader)*

Giving God, these are the gifts we are entrusting to you. We trust you will direct their use. We trust that somehow you will provide for us beyond expectation and beyond measure. **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

Leader: As we leave this holy place to step into the holy place called world, help us to be kind.

People: Especially to be kind to our mothers if we are blessed to still have a mother.

Leader: Especially to be kind to our fathers if we are blessed to still have a father.

People: Especially to be kind to all people and animals and plants and the environment.

Leader: Wow! Where do we get all of this kindness?

People: God provides!

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

“Crown Him With Many Crowns”

W&R #317
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

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 - 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).
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 - 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.
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Staff & Leadership

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Treasurer: Terry Pastor

Financial Secretary (Interim): Terry Pastor

Consistory President: George McLain

Consistory Vice President: Kirk Aulenbach

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 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 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). The first four books of the NT are called the "Gospels," which are about the life of Jesus Christ, which Christians consider the most central books of the Bible; the rest of the NT takes place after his ascension into heaven.

This Sunday, May 12, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

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 1

This OT song, gives praise to God's law, and proclaims the blessings of following God's law.

The First Letter of John

This epistle (letter) is a homily attributed to the apostle John, as is the Gospel of John. Of the core 12, John is believed to be the "beloved disciple" (John 19:26). This epistle is believed to be written in Ephesus around 100 A.D.

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 19, 2024, Lectionary Reading for Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21 *or* Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27 *or* Acts 2:1-21;
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! 106

N.C. F C Dm C $\frac{F}{A}$ C7 Dm $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 F

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
 2 Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, ye ran - somed from the fall,
 3 Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe on this ter - res - trial ball,
 4 O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

C(no3) F C(no3) $\frac{F}{A}$ F C F $\frac{C}{E}$ Dm $\frac{C}{G}$ G C

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all;
 hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all;
 to him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all;
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all;

F $\frac{F}{A}$ F C Dm $\frac{F}{A}$ B \flat $\frac{F}{C}$ Csus C F

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 to him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 we'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

WORDS: Edward Perronet (1726-1792); adapt. John Rippon (1751-1836)
 MUSIC: Oliver Holden (1765-1844)

CORONATION
 8.6.8.6.8.6.

SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU (CRUSADERS' HYMN)
Silesian Folksong Melody
Arr. RICHARD S. WILLIS, 1850

German, 17th century

Irregular

In moderate time and graceful rhythm

1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus! Rul - er of all na - ture!
2. Fair are the mead - ows, Fair - er still the wood - lands,
3. Fair is the sun - shine, Fair - er still the moon - light,

O Thou of God and man the Son! Thee will I cher - ish,
Robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
And all the twink - ling star - ry host; Je - sus shines bright - er,

Thee will I hon - or, Thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown!
Je - sus is pur - er, Who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
Je - sus shines pur - er Than all the an - gels heaven can boast! A-MEN.

317 Crown Him with Many Crowns

D Bm G $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G $\frac{A7}{E}$ D A

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne.
 2 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave,
 3 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,

D $\frac{A}{C\#}$ Bm D E $\frac{E}{D}$ $\frac{A}{C\#}$ $\frac{E7}{B}$ A D Esus E A

Hark! how the heaven - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save;
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied;
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.

$\frac{A}{G}$ $\frac{D}{F\#}$ D $\frac{A7}{E}$ $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G $\frac{B7}{F\#}$ E $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{E}{G\#}$ A

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 his glo - ries now we sing who died and rose on high,
 no an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! for thou hast died for me;

$\frac{A}{G}$ $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G $\frac{D}{F\#}$ Em7 A D $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G D Asus A7 D

and hail him as thy match - less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 who died e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: Matthew Bridges (1800-1894) and Godfrey Thring (1823-1903)
 MUSIC: George J. Elvey (1816-1893)

DIADEMATA
 S.M.D.