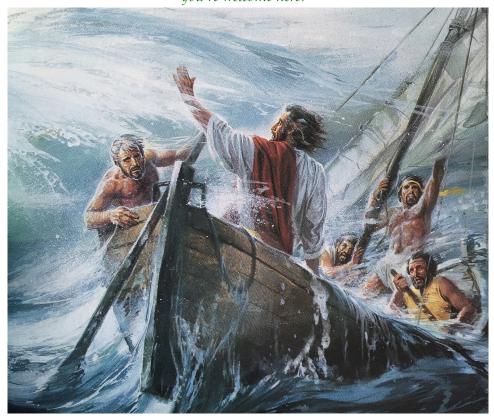
The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

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.



Jesus is with us thru the storms

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

+ + +

Sunday, June 23, 2024 5th 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. 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

{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)

We sing praises to you, O God, for you have been gracious to us amid the storms of life. We do battle with many enemies within and among us, but you give us confidence and courage to face them. Out of the whirlwind, you answer when we call. We have gathered to listen for the voice we sometimes cannot hear in the daily clamor of our lives. Help us to discard the excess baggage and unnecessary armor that keeps us from the fullness of life you intend for us. Amen.

PIANO PRELUDE

"Jesus Loves Me"

By Fred Bock based on Clair deLune

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

☐ Blue #215
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: Gather in awe before God, who laid the foundations of the earth.

Open your hearts to the steadfast love God offers.

People: The deeds of God are beyond our knowing.

Yet we catch glimpses of God's mercy and care.

Leader: God is ready to listen to us in these moments together.

See, now is the acceptable time, the day of salvation.

People: Surely God will meet us here in our faith community!

How good it is when we sense our unity in Christ!

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)

All of us have faltered before the lions and giants that seem ready to destroy us. Life's storms overwhelm us, and fear takes a deadly toll. Sometimes we are snared in the work of our own hands. We forget the greatest source of help and hope. In these moments together, we lay aside our doubts and fear of judgment to open our lives to God.

*Confession of Sin ² (Unison)

Help us, God, for we do not have the wisdom to help ourselves. When the good we have known crumbles beneath our feet and we are mired down in hopelessness and self-pity, we need you. When we cannot hide from the evil that is all around us because some of it is also in us, we cry out for your saving mercy. We confess that it is easier to see the problems than the promise. We have been more ready to complain than to accept your help. O God, we open our hearts to you. We want to be healed. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*Assurance of Pardon ² (Leader)

God has listened to us. In spite of all we have done or not done, God accepts us. This is a day of salvation, when brokenness is mended, problems are seen in a new light, and fierce winds are stilled. God does not forget the cry of the afflicted. God's affection for us is limited only by our failure to respond. Accept the gift of God's love, for it is everything we need. **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 time of the Prophet Samuel: <u>1 Samuel 17:57—18:16</u>

New Testament Letter by the Apostle Paul: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Gospel (Good News): Mark 4:35-41

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

NCH #472

One License #A-728042

Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper

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

"The B-I-B-L-E"

author and composer unknown

The B-I-B-L-E, Yes, that's the book for me; I stand alone on the Word of God: The B-I-B-L-E!

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.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*Affirmation of Faith: (Unison)

Adapted from the UCC of Robesonia Vision & Discipleship Statements

We seek to be

Inwardly Growing, Outwardly Serving, Upwardly Worshiping, Together Connecting,

working toward the vision of All in our community being Actively Connected in a Living Relationship with our Loving God. Amen.

{Please be seated}

In Memory of

Elizabeth E. Brunner September 21, 1941 -- June 12, 2024

Disciple of Christ and

Member of the Family of the
United Church of Christ of Robesonia

{We share in this memorial rite today to offer prayers and show our love, support, and care for this member of our family of UCC of Robesonia}.

GREETING

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of

the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

SENTENCES (Leader)

God is near to all who call, who call from their hearts. The desires of those who fear God are fulfilled, their cries are heard; they are saved.

When we were baptized into Christ Jesus, we were baptized into Christ's death. By our baptism, then, we were buried with Christ and shared Christ's death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of God, so too we might live a new life. For if we have been united with Christ in a death like Christ's, we shall certainly be united with Christ in a resurrection like Christ's.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING (Leader)

O God, our strength and our redeemer, giver of life and conqueror of death, we praise you with humble hearts....

....Keep us all in communion with your faithful people in every time and place, that at last we may rejoice together in the heavenly family where Jesus Christ reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever. **Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Leader: Let us offer our silent prayers....

{Silent Prayers}

SENTENCES (Leader)

We would not have you be ignorant brothers and sisters, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Unison)

O God, whose days are without end and whose mercies cannot be counted, awaken us to the shortness and uncertainty of human life.

By your Holy Spirit,

lead us in faithfulness all our days.

When we have served you in our generation,
may we be gathered with those who have gone before,
having the testimony of a good conscience,
in the communion of your holy church,
in the confidence of a certain faith,
in the comfort of a saving hope,
in favor with you, our God,
and at perfect peace with the world;

through Jesus Christ our Redeemer we pray. Amen.

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.

BLESSING

Leader: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and

minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of Christ Jesus our risen Savior. And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, be

among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION [®]

Leader: God has lifted us up from the gates of death.

People: We will praise God with all we have to give.

Leader: Christ walks with us through difficult days and sleepless nights.

People: We give thanks for the church that proclaims this good news.

Leader: The Holy Spirit meets us in our weakness with a love that will not let us go.

People: All this we want to share with the world.

Leader: These moments of giving represent the commitment of our lives to God.

People: We respond to God's call with thanksgiving as fully committed disciples.

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}.

PIANO OFFERTORY

"Ivory Palaces"

Arr. Fred Bock

{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 [©] (Leader)

Thank you, God, for meeting us in our need. We give that others in even greater need might not be forgotten. We are grateful for the trust you place in us. We give that others might respond to the good news of your love. We are hearing the word Jesus spoke in the midst of a storm: "Peace! Be still!" With fresh calm and confidence, we give ourselves that others might live. Thank you, God, for your steadfast love endures 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: As servants of God, we commend ourselves in every way.

God has given us the ministry in which we serve.

People: We seek to be patient and kind with all people.

Our speech is truthful and our love genuine.

Leader: Let your faith grow and your trust expand.

Go into the world with confidence and courage.

People: We are not afraid, for we know God's presence.

We are alive to the possibilities before us.

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

▶ Red #558
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"Jesus, Saviour, Pilot Me"

▶ Red #468 Public Domain

{Acolyte carries the light back into the world, leading us, as we now go to carry God's light and love back into the world.}

Postlude

Join Us For Fellowship and Food in Miller Fellowship Hall Free WiFi: StPaulsUCC-Guest & StPaulsUCC-5G-Guest Password (for both): iamheretoserve

The Flow of the Worship Service

Our worship service has an intentional order to it. The flow of worship is called the liturgical movement. The movement reminds us weekly of our journey in faith of moving from being separated from God by sin, to being restored by God's grace as disciples of Christ. It is based on the sixth chapter of the Biblical book of Isaiah.

1) God welcomes us and invites us

(2) We respond to God's call by worshiping Him

(3) We confess our need for God's forgiveness and grace

(4) We are assured of God's forgiveness and grace

(5) We learn more about God's will through scripture, song, and sermon

(6) We grow closer to God and one another through prayer

(7) We give God thanks by offering our time, talent, and treasure

(8) God sends us into the world to share His love and grace with others



Worship Service Resource Credits

Biblical quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible (1989) by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

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

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).

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 9 Miller, Earl D. (1994). Consecrating Stewards. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
 ® The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

The Rev. Mary Etta Mest

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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: 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 growth of the Christian church, as we go out into the world and share God's Good News with both our words and actions, and invite others into the church of Jesus 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, June 23, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 5th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49 and Psalm 9:9-20 or 1 Samuel 17:57 - 18:5, 18:10-16 and Psalm 133 or Job 38:1-11 and Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

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 133

This OT song proclaims the blessedness of humanity living together in unity and harmony. Psalms 120-134 are a part of the collection known as "A Song of Ascents." These 15 OT songs were most likely sung by people on religious pilgrimages.

The Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

This NT Epistle (letter) was written by the Apostle Paul between 50-56 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 believed to be a compilation of fragments of multiple letters. This letter is in response to Titus' glowing reports and other negative reports Paul has received about this church. 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 Mark

Mark's Gospel is the oldest and shortest of the four Gospels, written between 65-75 A.D. Papias, a church leader in the 2nd century, reported that this Gospel's author is Mark, a follower of Peter who wrote this Gospel after Peter's death.

Next Sunday, June 30, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 6th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 *and* Psalm 130 *or* Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15, 2:23-24 *or* Lamentations 3:22-33 *and* Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

215 When Morning Gilds the Skies

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive honor and glory and praise! Revelation 5:12



TEXT: Katholisches Gesangbuch, Würzburg, 1828; translated by Edward Caswall

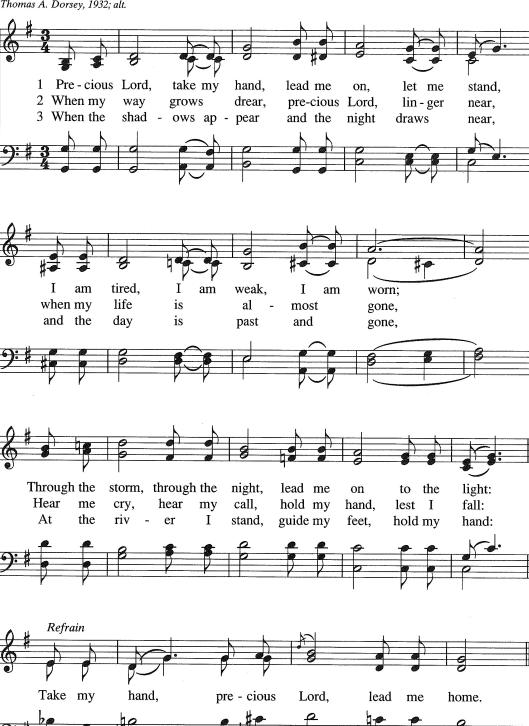
MUSIC: Joseph Barnby

LAUDES DOMINI 6.6.6.6.6.6.

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

472

Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932; alt.



Thomas A. Dorsey was known as "Georgia Tom" when he played piano for blues singer Ma Rainey. He started writing gospel songs after what he called "a definite spiritual change." This inspirational song, composed following the deaths of his wife, Nettie, and a newborn child, derives from the tune Maitland.

Tune: PRECIOUS LORD Irr. with refrain Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932

