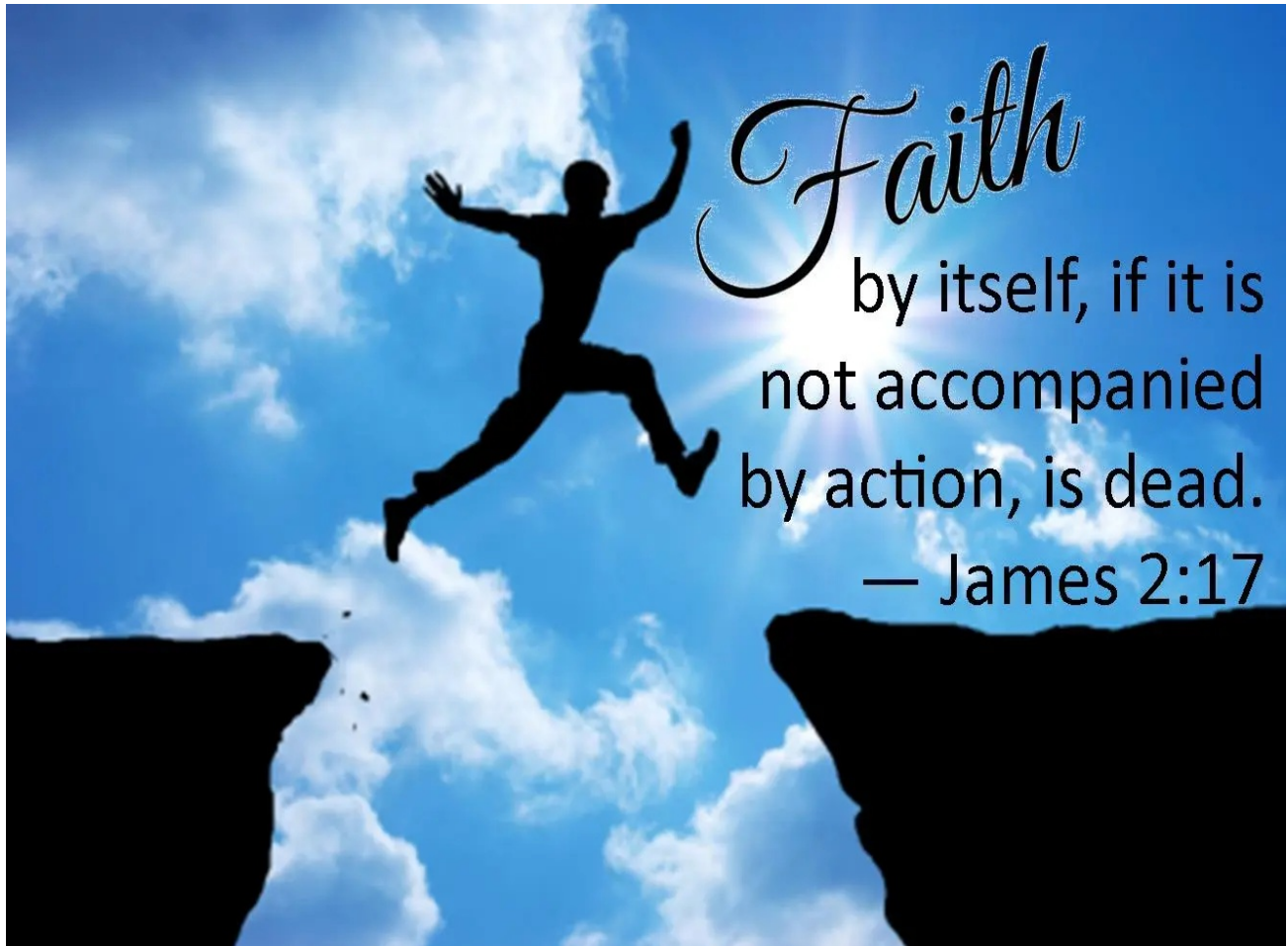


The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org -- www.uccrwe.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, September 8, 2024
16th 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 (from September to May), 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 from the Sunday after Labor Day to the Sunday before Memorial Day.

Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship is held at 10:15am.

Youth Group

Our Youth Group, for those in grades 5-12 (or ages 12-20 years old), meets on the 2nd and last Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:00pm. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

Young Children & Family Ministries

This ministry's focus is on children younger than youth group and their families, and most of the monthly activities are welcoming of children of all ages. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

Prayer and Care

If you would like to add yourself or someone else to the prayer list, or request a pastoral call, please call or email the church office. You are welcome to take home with you a copy of *Our Daily Bread* daily devotional booklet, located on a table in the narthex hallway.

Looking for a Church to Call Home

If you are looking for a new church family home, we would be happy for you to consider United Church of Christ of Robesonia. For more information about our church, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our church.

More Information....

Additional literature about our missions, ministries, and fellowship opportunities is located on the **Blue Visitor Table** in the narthex hallway, or contact us using the contact information on the front page of this bulletin.

Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you or if there is any way in which we can help make your worship experience more meaningful.

*{Symbols used in this bulletin: *= if able please stand; ♯ = Red Hymnal Page; ♯# = Blue Hymnal Page}*

Virtual Worship Service

Online: **Live Stream** at sprucc.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on **Our YouTube Channel**
Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/> - Live or Watch & Listen Later
Phone Stream at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later

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



www.sprucc.org



Free WiFi

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

We Gather

*We are coming together as a community of faith to worship our God,
and provide for one another our love, support, and care.*

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

*{If you have not already done so,
please sign and pass the pew welcome pad
to the person next to you.}*

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP ^③ (Unison)

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE

"Let Justice Flow Like Streams"

Jane Parker Huber

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Open Our Eyes, Lord"

W&R #491

Bob Cull & David Allen

Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper

*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 ^②

Leader: Listen! God is welcoming us to this time of worship.
Young and old, rich and poor, all are welcomed!

People: **This is a place where all belong.**

This is a time when all are accountable to God.

Leader: Come to sing praises and put your trust in God.
Come to prepare yourself to serve in Christ's name.

People: **We bring all our needs to God, our hope.**

We want to share faith and hope with others.

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 ①②

Leader: Jesus said: Ask, and it will be given; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

People: For everyone who asks receives, and those who seek find, and to each who knocks it will be opened.

Leader: Friends in Christ, God knows our needs before we ask and in our asking prepares us to receive the gift of grace. God ministers to us not as one who is absent but as one who is present in human hands, voices, and lives full of the Holy Spirit.

People: Let us open our lives to God's healing presence and forsake all that separates us from God and neighbor.

*CONFESSION OF SIN ④ (Unison)

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare thou those, O God, who confess their sins. Restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY

"Kyrie"

*NCH #750
Traditional 6th Century*

Leader (*spoken*): Lord, have mercy upon us.

People (*sung*): Lord, have mercy upon us.

Leader (*spoken*): Christ, have mercy upon us.

People (*sung*): Christ, have mercy upon us.

Leader (*spoken*): Lord, have mercy upon us.

People (*sung*): Lord, have mercy upon us.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ① (Leader)

Jesus said: Come to me, all of you who are tired and weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you will find peace and rest for your spirit. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: O Lord open our lips,

People: and our mouths will sing your praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, Holy, Holy, Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

{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

Psalm 146 - Responsive Reading with Sung Response (Taizé "Bless the Lord")

Bless the Lord

9

The musical score is written for guitar and voice. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a tempo marking of quarter note = 76 and a dynamic marking of *p*. The chords are Dm, G, Dm, Bb, C, F, and A. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The second system has chords Dm, G, Dm, Bb, C, and Dm. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The score includes a treble clef, a bass clef, and a key signature of one flat (Bb).

Leader: Let us praise God with the Psalm.

Response

Leader: Praise be to God!

People: **Praise God, O my soul!**

Leader: I will praise God as long as I live;

People: **I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

Leader: Do not put your trust in nobles, in mortals,

People: **in whom there is no help.**

Leader: When their breath departs, they return to the earth;

People: **on that very day their plans shall perish.**

Response

Leader: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

People: whose hope is in the Sovereign their God,

Leader: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

People: who keeps faith forever;

Leader: who executes justice for the oppressed;

People: who gives food to the hungry.

Response

Leader: God sets the prisoners free;

People: God opens the eyes of those who cannot see.

Leader: God lifts up those who are bowed down;

People: God loves those who are righteous.

Leader: God watches over the strangers, and upholds the orphan and the widow,

People: but the way of the wicked God brings to ruin.

Leader: The Sovereign will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

People: Praise be to God!

Response

New Testament Letter from James: [James 2:1-18, 26](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Gospel (Good News) Lesson: [Mark 7:24-37](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"I Heard My Mother Say"

NCH #409

Public Domain

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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"

Unknown; Public Domain

**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) "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.

GRANDPARENTS DAY PRAYER

**(adapted from a Prayer Service for Grandparents' Day. (2021). Diocese of Sale, Catholic Education; Warragul, Australia)*

Leader: We know that God always listens to us when we pray, and so we bring our prayers before God.

We pray for our church, our school, our parents, grandparents, and our families.
Lord, hear us.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For all grandparents and all those in grandparent roles: May they be blessed by the affection and gratitude of their grandchildren and all children under their loving care. May they always encounter love.

Lord, hear us.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For children everywhere; that their homes and schools may be free from bullying, hatred, violence, and abuse, where their homes and schools may be places where they know that they are loved and cared for always.

Lord, hear us.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For all our grandparents. Lord, bless them for all the love and care they have shared with us over the years.

Lord, hear us.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For grandparents and all others who are raising children or are regular caregivers and babysitters; may their selfless love and commitment be recognized and supported by those around them.

Lord, hear us.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We lift up in prayer those grandparents who have departed from this world and have entered into your Heavenly Kingdom to live on with the Saints in Light, with whom we pray we will once again be reunited with you and they forever in your Eternal Realm. We lift up all those for whom this day brings sorrowful memories, may we be of patient love, grace, care, and support.

Lord, hear us.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We give you thanks our Heavenly Parent for the gift of grandparents, the gift of grandchildren, the gift of family in all its various forms, and the gift of the people whom we call "family".

Lord, hear us.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We take these prayers and the prayers of our heart and we offer them to God, in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ, 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.**

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 ^②

Leader: Hear again the proverb:

People: "Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor."

Leader: What a joy we can know when our thankfulness exceeds our desire to acquire,

People: and our concern for others outweighs our greed!

Leader: We are invited to share what we have received.

People: We give generously of our first fruits to the Lord.

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}.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Come and Praise the Lord"

Mary Kay Beall & 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** ^② *(Leader)*

Gracious God, we give because you have been generous to us. We give because we need to give in order to realize your image within us. We give to feed the hungers of body and soul that are all around us and deep within. May the ministries of this church meet the needs of our members, our community, and our world. Help us to love our neighbors as ourselves. **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: We are commissioned as carriers of love.

The attention we give to others is contagious.

People: We seek to honor all people by listening to them.

We want to provide practical help to those in need.

Leader: We are sent out to do good and to be merciful.

Our trust is in God, who equips us to serve.

People: We seek to minister impartially.

Both friends and strangers are our concern.

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

*Red #558
Public Domain*

*SENDING HYMN

“Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed”

*NCH #537
Public Domain*

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*{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

“God Be With You ‘Til We Meet Again”
Sung by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir

Rankin & Tanner

Join Us For Fellowship and Food in Miller Fellowship Hall

Free WiFi: UCCRobesonia-Guest

Password: iamheretosome



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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 - ❶ United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need (NIN) 2023 Resources.
 - ❷ *Led By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1996). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
 - ❸ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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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. Mary Etta Mest

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 (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, September 8, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 *and* Psalm 125 *or* Isaiah 35:4-7a *and* Psalm 146; James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

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.

Psalm 146

This OT song gives praise to God for God's help.

James

This NT Epistle (letter) is commonly attributed to James, the brother of Jesus, who was a leader in the Christian church from 36AD until his martyrdom in 62AD. This letter is written not to one particular church in a particular area but a number of Christian churches in general. James addresses a number of topics in his letter including: being faithful in times of trial, that real faithfulness involves putting words into practice, the importance of helping the poor and not seeking earthly riches, speaking appropriately, choosing God's wisdom over Earthly wisdom, and the importance of actively being in a Christian community of faith in support of one another.

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, September 15, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 1:20-33 *and* Psalm 19 *or* Isaiah 50:4-9a *and* Psalm 116:1-9 *or* Wisdom of Solomon 7:26 - 8:1; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

Open Our Eyes

491

D $\frac{A7}{E}$ $\frac{D}{F\#}$ Gmaj9 G Em7 A7 A9 $\frac{G}{D}$ D

1 O - pen our eyes, Lord, we want to see Je - sus,
2 O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to lis - ten,

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of the song. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The bottom staff is a bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The music consists of chords and simple melodic lines. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Bm $\frac{Bm}{A}$ $\frac{F\#m7}{A}$ $\frac{D}{A}$ Gmaj7

1 Em A7sus A7 $\frac{F\#m}{A}$ A9 $\frac{G}{D}$

to reach out and touch him, and say that we love
o - pen our eyes,

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth lines of the song. The notation continues from the previous system. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

2

D Em A7 A $\frac{Bm}{A}$ A7 $\frac{Em}{D}$ D

him.
Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

Detailed description: This system contains the fifth and sixth lines of the song. The notation continues from the previous system. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

WORDS and MUSIC: Bob Cull (1949-); arr. David Allen (1941-)
Words and Music © 1976 Maranatha! Music (Admin. The Copyright Company)

I Heard My Mother Say

African-American traditional

1 I heard my moth-er say, I heard my moth-er say,
 2 At mid-night was my cry, at mid-night was my cry,
 3 Oh, when I come to die, oh, when I come to die,
 4 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,

I heard my moth-er say, "Give me Je - sus."
 at mid - night was my cry, "Give me Je - sus."
 oh, when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
 in the morn - ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.

Refrain

Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus, you may

have all this world, give me Je - sus.

This spiritual is better known as "Give Me Jesus." The musical arrangement was created for The New Century Hymnal by Joyce Finch Johnson, organist and professor of music at Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia.

Tune: GIVE ME JESUS 6.6.10. with refrain
African-American traditional
 Harm. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed

537

Francis Albert Rollo Russell, 1893; alt.

1 Chris - tian, rise and act your creed; let your
2 Hearts a - round you sink with care; you can
3 Of - fer oth - ers hope and joy, and God's
4 Come then, law di - vine, and reign: faith that

prayer be in your deed; Seek the right, per - form the
help their load to bear; You can bring in - spir - ing
wor - ship your em - ploy; Giv - ing thanks in hum - ble
doubt as - sails in vain, Per - fect love be - reft of

true, raise your work and life a - new.
light, strength - en them to do the right.
zeal, learn - ing all God's will to feel.
fear, born in heaven and ra - diant here.

Francis Albert Rollo Russell was a writer on scientific subjects and a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society. This hymn was first published in the Pilgrim Hymnal (1904). The tune originated with a text used for the Feast of the Holy Innocents.

Tune: INNOCENTS 7.7.7.7.
The Parish Choir, 1850