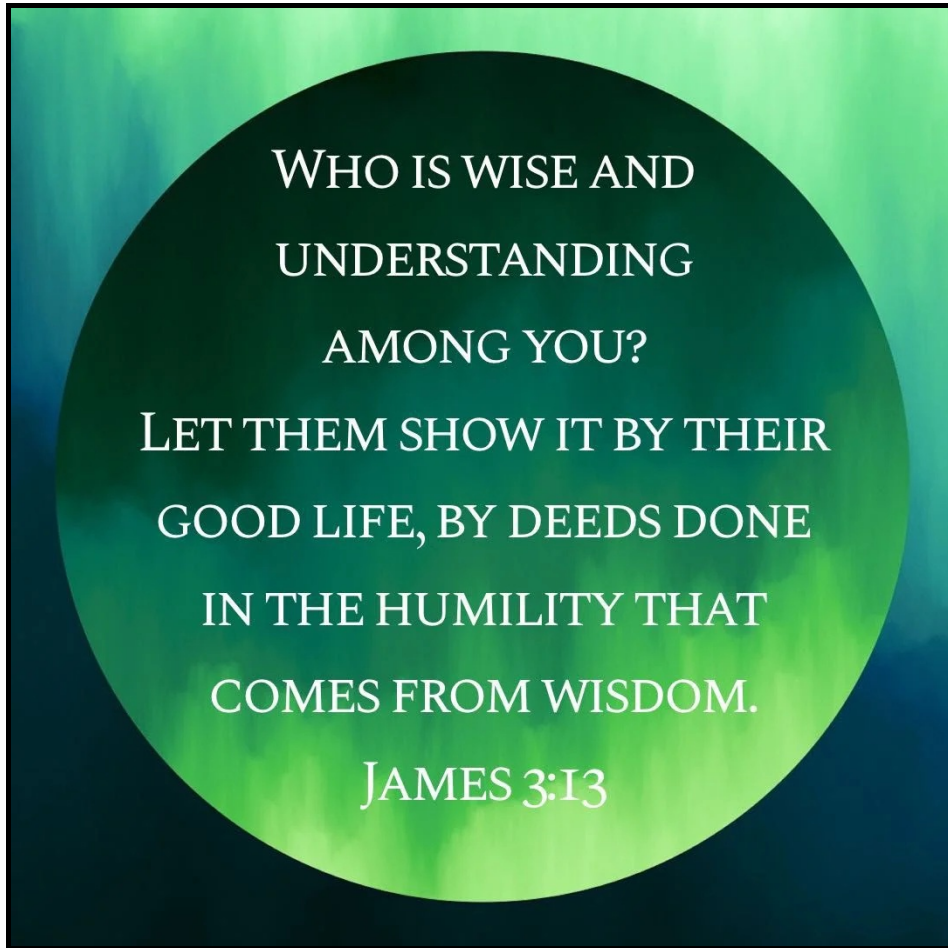


The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

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 15, 2024
17th 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



www.sprucc.org

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



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 ^② (Unison)

God of all wisdom, renew our sense of awe and wonder as we gather before you, the Source of all knowledge. Make your Word known to us, and stretch out your hand to touch us. Draw us away from our own devices that we may truly listen to the witness of all creation speaking of wonders we have ignored. Give us eyes to see beauty in all around us. Align us with truth and righteousness. Quiet our scoffing and awaken our trust. Show us the disciplines we need to stay in touch with you each day. Amen.

PRELUDE

"I Would Be True"

Howard Arnold Walter

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God"

NCH #287

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*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: Come away from dullness and complacency.
Wake up! God is calling us to listen and learn.

People: **The heavens are telling the glory of God.
The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.**

Leader: Our waywardness separates us from God.
Then, when we call on God, we hear no answer.

People: **We gather to renew our relationship with God.
We seek enlightenment and the revival of our souls.**

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 [®] (Leader)

People of God, the scriptures remind us that we are accountable to our Creator. Instead, in our times of panic, we put God on trial, wondering why we cannot find the help we seek. Shutting our eyes and ears to God becomes a habit we cannot break in times of desperation. That is why, together, we come to God, asking to be cleared of secret faults and to detect the error of our ways in time to turn around, letting God's Word reach our hearts. Let us confess our sinfulness and separation from God. Let us pray....

*CONFESSION OF SIN [®] (Unison)

God of all worlds, we confess our arrogance in turning away from the knowledge you offer and the relationship with us that you desire. We make light of your commandments and scoff at discipline and boundaries as if they did not apply to us. Our tongues reveal our ignorance before the vastness of your truth. The words we speak in error spread poison that cannot be contained. Our waywardness is destroying us. Our complacency before evil, within us and all around, threatens life itself. O God, we cry out for forgiveness. 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 [®] (Leader)

We eat the fruits of our way and are sated with our own devices. Words of confession are not enough to break the patterns of complacency and self-justification that separate us from God. Thankfully, our Creator knows our honest intent. If we truly repent and truly turn from our insolent, undisciplined ways, a new way is opening up for us, and God welcomes us as partners in the gospel. In keeping God's ordinances, there is unexpected reward. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: O Lord open our lips,
People: and our mouths will sing your praise.

***SONG OF PRAISE**

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

W&R #136

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

Heber & Dykes

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}

BAPTISM OF OLIVER RYAN GORDON

HYMN

"Baptized in Water"

W&R #679

One License #A-728042

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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"}*

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

Deuterocanonical Lesson on Wisdom: [Wisdom of Solomon 7:22-8:2a](#)

New Testament Letter from James: [James 3:1-18](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Gospel (Good News) Lesson: [Mark 8:27-38](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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}

ANNOUNCEMENTS

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ②

Leader: What seeds are we sowing for the sake of a more righteous and just world?
Who will witness to God's intention that we live together as heirs to a rich, full life?

People: **It is our duty and our privilege to give our first and best to God through His church, that Christ may be revealed to all.**

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}.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg

Music: Swedish Folk Song

{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)

O God, the source of all wisdom and truth. We offer the treasures of this world as a way of recalling all of us to a right relationship with you. Your design for life is more to be desired than the finest gold. To learn from you and to serve you is our highest joy. May our offerings and our daily lives communicate this message. We pray in the name of the one 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.**

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: Let your words this week proclaim God's love.
May your heart's meditations be acceptable to God.

**People: We seek to let God guide our tongues.
We want to speak without arrogance of false pride.**

Leader: Listen for the wisdom God wants you to know.
Seek God's counsel and reproof each day.

**People: We will look for God in the midst of creation.
We will seek God's face in the people around us.**

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

*Red #558
Public Domain*

*SENDING HYMN

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

W&R #677

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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

"Come Follow Me"

Sung by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir

Join Us For Fellowship and Food in Miller Fellowship Hall

Free WiFi: UCCRobesonia-Guest

Password: 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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- ① Reprinted with permission from *The New Century Hymnal* of the United Church of Christ. (1995). Cleveland, Ohio: The Pilgrim Press. and/or the *Book of Worship* of the United Church of Christ (1986). New York: United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership.
 - ❶ United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need (NIN) 2023 Resources.
 - ② *Led By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1996). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
 - ❷ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
 - ③ Reprinted with permission from *Sundays and Seasons*. (2023). Augsburg Fortress.
 - ④ Reprinted with permission from the *Order of Worship for the Reformed Church in the United States*. and/or *The Hymnal of the Evangelical and Reformed Church*. (1985) New York: United Church Press.
 - ⑤ Reprinted with permission from *Sourcebook of Worship Services*
 - ❸ scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America
 - ⑥ Reprinted with permission from *Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ*. (2013).
 - ⑦ *Sunday Sermons Preaching Resources*. (2017). Margate, NJ.
 - ❹ 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.
 - ❹ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
 - ❺ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
 - ❺ 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, 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

Song of Solomon

The Song of Solomon is a part of the "Wisdom Literature" of the OT. It is most commonly known as love song, which can be viewed as an allegory for God's love for his people and Christ's love for the church. Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon are traditionally attributed to King Solomon, who ruled from about 967-927 B.C.

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 22, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 31:10-31 *and* Psalm 1 *or* Wisdom of Solomon 1:16 - 2:1, 12-22 *or* Jeremiah 11:18-20 *and*
Psalm 54; James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God

Shirley Erena Murray, 1990

Unison

1 Come, teach us, Spir - it of our God, the
 2 Ex - cite our minds to fol - low you, to
 3 En - gage our wits to dance with you, to
 4 In - spire our spark to light from you to
 5 De - light our hearts to wor - ship you, to

lan - guage of your way, the les - sons
 trace new truths in store, new flight paths
 leap from log - ic's base, to cap - ture
 catch cre - a - tion's flair, new ar - tis -
 learn com - pas - sion's code, to live in

that we need to live, the faith for ev - ery
 for our spir - it space, new mar - vels to ex -
 in - sight on the wing, to sense your cos - mic
 try to cel - e - brate, new har - mo - nies to
 con - text of your love, great teach - er who is

day; the faith for ev - ery day.
 plore: new mar - vels to ex - plore:
 grace: to sense your cos - mic grace:
 dare: new har - mo - nies to dare:
 God! Great teach - er who is God!

For a hymn search sponsored by an educational institution, Shirley Erena Murray sought to utilize various images of creativity in learning. The tune was composed especially for this text.

Tune: MURRAY C.M. extended
 Arthur G. Clyde, 1993

Words Copyright © 1992 by Hope Publishing Company

Baptized in Water

679

Unison

C G7 D C E Dm F G7 Am G

1 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it,
 2 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it,
 3 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it,

Am G F C Dm7 G7 B C C E Gsus G

cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
 dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;
 marked with the sign of Christ, our King;

C G7 D C Fmaj7 C E F A C7 G Dm7 G7 D

heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his prom - ise,
 one with his ris - ing, freed and for - giv - en,
 born of one Fa - ther, we are his chil - dren,

C G B Am Dm7 F G7 C

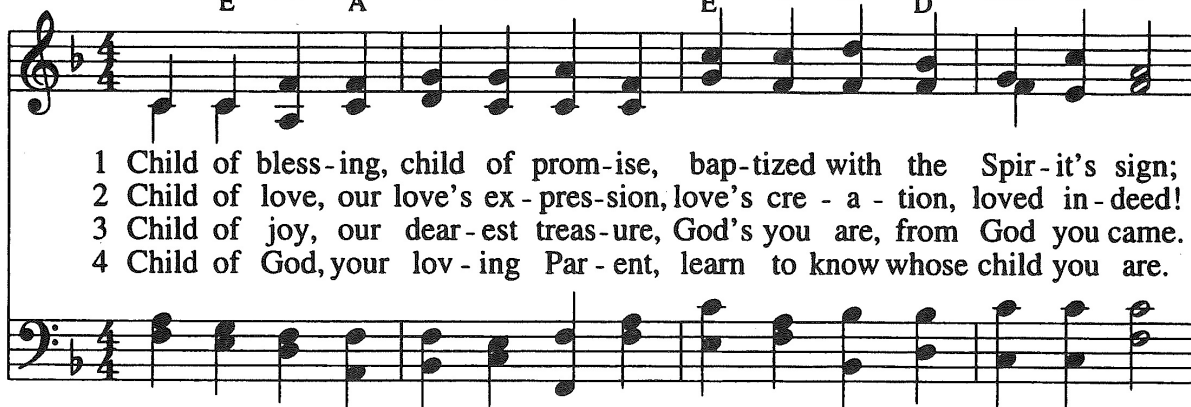
faith - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 thank - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

WORDS: Michael Seward (1932-)
 MUSIC: Gaelic melody; harm. David Evans (1874-1948)
 Words © 1982 Jubilate Hymns (Admin. Hope Publishing Company)
 Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

BUNESSAN
 5.5.5.4.D.


Child of Blessing, Child of Promise 677

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



1 Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap-tized with the Spir-it's sign;
 2 Child of love, our love's ex-pres-sion, love's cre-a-tion, loved in-deed!
 3 Child of joy, our dear-est treas-ure, God's you are, from God you came.
 4 Child of God, your lov-ing Par-ent, learn to know whose child you are.

Dm Em7(b5) $\frac{A}{C\#}$ Dm $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ C $\frac{F}{A}$ B \flat F Dm C F



with this wa-ter God has sealed you un-to love and grace di-vine.
 Fresh from God, re-fresh our spir-its, in-to joy and laugh-ter lead.
 Back to God we hum-bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.
 Grow to laugh and sing and wor-ship, trust and love God more than all.

WORDS: Ronald S. Cole-Turner (1948-)
 MUSIC: Attr. Christian F. Witt (1660-1716); adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett (1805-1876)
 Words © 1981 Ronald S. Cole-Turner

STUTTGART
 8.7.8.7.