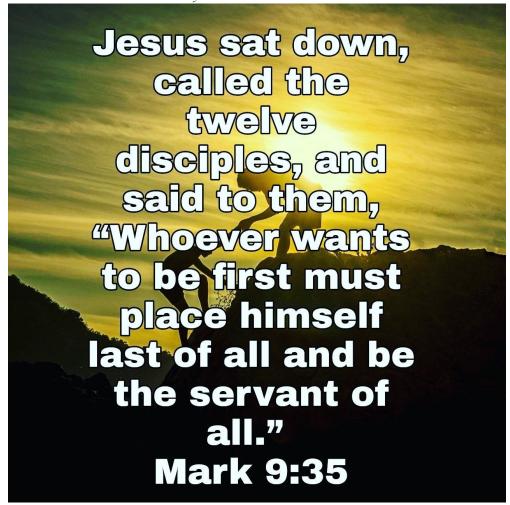
The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

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 22, 2024 18th 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....

www.sprucc.org

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)

Holy and gracious God, we come before you on this holy day. We come to worship you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Help us to have servant attitudes. Help us to be like children in your kingdom. Help us to honor children. May each of us become the persons you planned for us to be. In the Son's name, we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE "I Love You, Lord" Laurie Klein

{Those who are able, please rise}

*Processional Hymn "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" 5 E

♬ Blue #33
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 54

Leader: Hear my prayer, O God;

People: give ear to the words of my mouth.

Leader: Behold God is my helper;

People: it is the Lord who sustains my life. Leader: I will offer you a freewill sacrifice

People: and praise your name O Lord, for it is good.

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)

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 our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Confession of Sin (Unison)

Lord, we come before you as your children. We wish we were as innocent as we were in our very early years. Then our personalities sprung open and our personal and selfish desires took charge over our thoughts and behaviors. Forgive us, dear Lord.

*SILENCE

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

*Assurance of Forgiveness (Leader)

My fellow children of the kingdom, we are assured that our sins are forgiven. Let us wear this assurance into the coming days. Let us take a step closer to God, and walk in the light of his love for us - God's children.

*Call to Praise

Leader: Let us sing praise to God the Father and God the Son and God the Holy Spirit! **People: We praise you, Triune God!**

*Song of Praise

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

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

{Please be seated}

W&R #136

Heber & Dykes

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 Hebrew Lesson: Jeremiah 11:18-20

The New Testament Letter: James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading: Mark 9:30-37

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "Children of the Heavenly Father"

♬ Blue #719
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"}

Sermon "Near to the Heart of God"

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) from The Heidelberg Catechism, Question #1

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

People: That I belong, both body and soul, in life and in death, not to myself but to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ who with his precious blood has totally paid for all my sins and completely liberated me from the power of the Devil. Who takes care of me so well that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven. I believe everything will work together for my salvation. Besides this, by his Holy Spirit, he assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready to live on for him.

{Please be seated}

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

DEDICATION OF NEW PRAYER SHAWLS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION (from the hymn text by Shirley Erena Murray)

One License #A 728042

Leader: Take whatever I can offer, gifts that I have yet to find,

People: Skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind,

Leader: things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be;

People: take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

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 spruce.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 Follow Me" Elly & Steve Kupferschmid

{Those who are able, please rise}

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) (from the hymn text by Shirley Erena Murray) One License #A 728042 Precious Jesus, our Spirit provides these gifts we bring before you. We harvest your own compassion, your humor and laughter, the flavor of the Jesus life. We thank you for the tang of risk and new adventure, for the taste and zest beyond belief. Thank you, Jesus. 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: Let us go forth with child-like attitudes. **People: Yes, being humble and not proud.**

Leader: Yes, being strong in Jesus.

People: Yes, being kind in word and deed.
Leader: Yes, staying near to the heart of God.
People: Yes, God, staying near to your love.

*BENEDICTION

Postlude

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

*Red #558
Public Domain

*Sending Hymn "Day by Day"

Blue #718

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.}

"Near to the Heart of God"
Sung by Sandi Patty

Cleland Boyd McAfee (1901)

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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- United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need (NIN) 2023 Resources.
- 2 Led By Love by Lavon Baylor. (1996). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
- @ Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
- 3 Reprinted with permission from Sundays and Seasons. (2023). Augsburg Fortress.
- 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
- 6 scouting.org resources for Boy Scouts of America
- ® Reprinted with permission from Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ. (2013).
- © Sunday Sermons Preaching Resources. (2017). Margate, NJ.
- ₱ 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
- ® 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.
- 10 The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
- The Rev. Mary Etta Mest

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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 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

Jeremiah

The book of Jeremiah (OT) is attributed to the major prophet Jeremiah and written around 600-500 B.C. (B.C.E.). A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct. Jeremiah's ministry extended over the last tragic forty years of the kingdom of Judah to the destruction of Jerusalem and the deportation of the Jewish people to Babylon.

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 29, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22 and Psalm 124 or Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 and Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

33 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor. 1 Timothy 1:17



TEXT: Walter Chalmers Smith; based on 1 Timothy 1:17

MUSIC: Traditional Welsh Hymn melody from John Roberts' Canaidau y Cyssegr, 1839 ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.

Children of the Heavenly Father 719

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us. 1 John 3:1

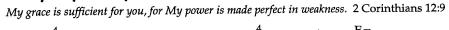


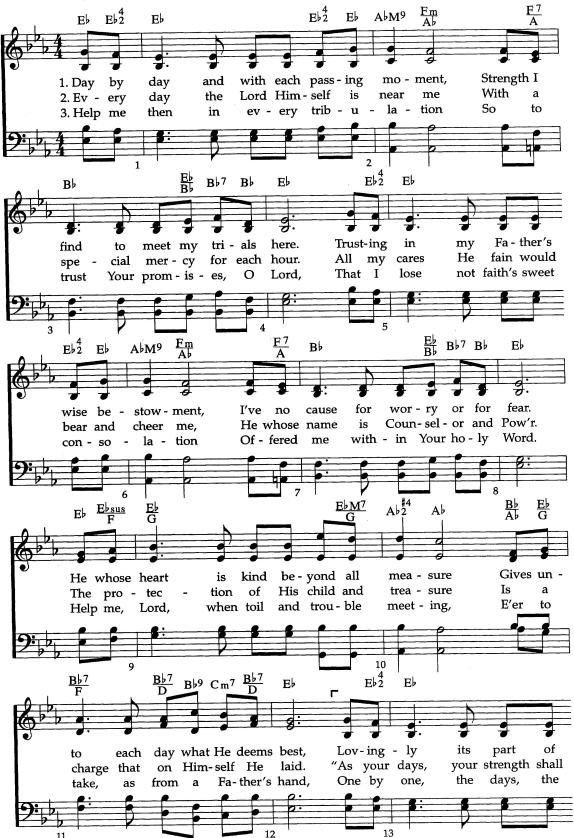
TEXT: Carolina Sandell Berg; translated by Ernst W. Olson MUSIC: Traditional Swedish melody

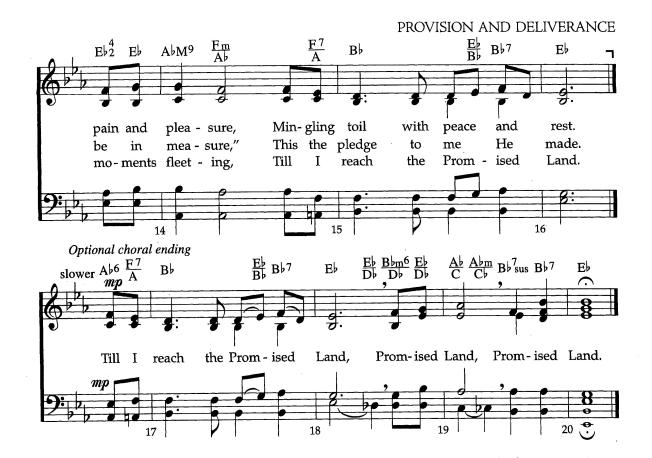
TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA

L.M.

718 Day by Day







TEXT: Carolina Sandell Berg; translated by Andrew L. Skoog MUSIC: Oscar Ahnfelt; Choral ending by Ken Barker

BLOTT EN DAG Irregular meter

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