

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551
610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org
Worship 10:30am

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you're welcome here.*

Those who want to
SAVE their life will **lose** it,
and those who **lose**
their life for my sake,
and for the sake of the gospel,
will **SAVE** it.

Mark 8:35, NRSV



Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Online Streaming Worship Service

*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.*

+++

Sunday, February 28, 2021
Second Sunday in Lent

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

PRELUDE

"It Is Well with My Soul"
Hand Bell Choir

Arr. S. Eithun

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*{To center your hearts and minds,
you are invited to individually offer this prayer silently during or before the Prelude}*

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP ^②

Almighty God, in trust and confidence we call on your name, eager to know you more fully and serve you more faithfully. We have heard your amazing promises given to our ancestors in the faith. We seek your word for us in our day, for we want to grow strong in our faith as our ancestors did in theirs. As they gave you glory and praise, we gather to do the same. As they passed on their faith to new generations, we seek to teach and live in such a way that our children and their children will be drawn to minister in your name. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"The God of Abraham Praise"

vs 1 & 2

♪ Red # 61

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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: We are invited to walk with God.

We are welcomed by God as people of the covenant.

**People: How awesome to stand in the presence of our Creator!
We bring our praise to glorify God.**

Leader: God calls us by name and gives us new names.

We are summoned to faithfulness.

**People: God not only speaks to us but also listens.
God hears our cries and meets our need.**

Virtual Worship Service

Online: [Live Stream](#) at www.sprucc.org - Live or Watch & Listen on [St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel](#) Later
[Phone Stream](#) at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later

[Zoom](#): Meeting ID: 104 401 368; Passcode: 301301 (or call 1-646-558-8656) - Live Only

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

God the Father


His Eternity and Majesty

YIGDAL (Luzon) *



DAVID BEN JURAN, 14th century
 Revised version of *The Yigdal*
Majestically

6. 6. 8. 4. D.


Hebrew Melody




1. The God of Abra-ham praise, All prais-ed be His Name,
 2. His spir-it flow-eth free, High sur-ging where it will;
 3. He hath e-ter-nal life Im-plant-ed in the soul;


Who was, and is, and is to be, And still the same!
 In proph-et's word He spoke of old—He speak-eth still
 His love shall be our strength and stay, While a-gea roll




The one e-ter-nal God, Ere aught that now ap-pears;
 Es-tab-lished is His law, And change-less it shall stand,
 Praise to the liv-ing God! All prais-ed be His Name,

The First, the Last: be-yond all thought His time-less years!
 Deep writ up-on the hu-man heart, On sea, or land.
 Who was, and is, and is to be, And still the same! A-men.



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)

In this season, when we reexamine our lives and find our faith tested, we often discover a barrenness within. Our relationship with God is weak, not because God has turned away, but because we have failed to trust the Almighty or spend time in prayer. We have not sought God's answers to our daily problems. Let us be honest with our Creator in this time of prayer.

*CONFESSION OF SIN ² (Unison)

God of our ancestors, we come to you, confessing that we have set our minds on human things. We have sought to gain the world—so many things to buy, so many things to do. Yet we are not satisfied. Life's meaning eludes us. Your ways seem out of date; your promises appear as the hopes and dreams of a past generation. But in our hearts we sense an eternal design which is for all generations, a way of life more satisfying than we have allowed ourselves to explore. O God, we confess our need for you. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*PRAYER FOR MERCY

"Kyrie"

♪ Red # 518

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.**

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*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ² (Leader)

God's face is not hidden from those who truly seek. God does not withhold love from us when we go our own way. When we open our eyes to see God's works, when we open our ears to hear God's word, when all our senses are alert to God's leading, we will realize how we have been blessed by an unseen hand, forgiven and restored to wholeness. God offers us the opportunity to live as ones in tune with the universe, filled with hope, upheld in love, dwelling in covenant. **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

First Lesson: [Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16](#)

Second Lesson: [Romans 4:13-25](#)

Gospel: [Mark 8:31-38](#)

HYMN

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

vs 1 & 2

♪ Red # 85

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CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

His Providence and Love

FREDERICK W. FABER, 1862

8. 7. 8. 7. D.

HOLMEUSH
G. DARLINGTON RICHARDS, 1938*In flowing rhythm, but with dignity*

1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, Like the wide-ness of the sea;
2. For the love of God is broad-er Than the meas-ure of man's mind;

There's a kind-ness in His jus-tice, Which is more than lib - er - ty.
And the heart of the E - ter-nal Is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

There is no place where earth's sor-rows Are more felt than up in heaven;
If our love were but more sim-ple We should take Him at His word;

There is no place where earth's fail - ings Have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
And our lives would be all sun-shine in the sweet-ness of our Lord, A-MEN.

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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)* *The Apostle's 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, dead, and 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.**

* The word "catholic" means "relating to the church universal" and was the word used in the original version of the Creed. It does not mean the Roman Catholic Church, but the church, the body of Christ, as a universal fellowship.

{Please be seated}

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray....

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ③⑥

Leader: Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation.

Called to know, love, and follow you, O God, we pray for the church, the world, Scouts, youth organizations, and all in need.

{silent prayer}

Leader: Everlasting God, deepen your church's commitment to proclaiming the gospel, that many will hear, respond, and share in its blessings. Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Because we have failed in the trust others placed in us, we pray for forgiveness and for renewal to be trustworthy. Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: For strength to be loyal to our calling in baptism as his disciples in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: For forgiveness when we saw the need to help and passed that need by, when we failed to ask if we could be helpful to a friend or a stranger. Lord, in your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.
 Leader: For the spirit to be friendly to all people and even to those who are unfriendly to us. Lord, in your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.
 Leader: For the gift of courtesy to all people but especially to the elderly, the disabled, and little children. Lord in your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.
 Leader: For a heart that rejoices in being kind to people, to animals, and to earth on which we live. Lord, in your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.
 Leader: For the will to discipline ourselves to be obedient to the will of our God, and not to our selfish desires. Lord, in your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.
 Leader: For a cheerful spirit to see us through disappointing events in our lives, for a faith that believes God will bring some good even from events that cause us pain and sadness. Lord, in your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.
 Leader: For an appreciation that all that we have is the gift of our gracious God, for a mind and a heart that will be thrifty in managing the resources God has entrusted to our care. Lord, in your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.
 Leader: For the courage not to be afraid of doing what is right and to be brave in working for justice. Lord, in your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.
 Leader: For the will to work to keep clean our minds, our hearts, and our land. Lord, in your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.
 Leader: For the gift of reverence for God who values all that He has created; for reverence for people, for animal life, for the earth and all its resources—all precious in God's sight. Lord, in your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.
 Leader: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all the people and all the needs we bring before you in our prayers, trusting in your mercy, through our Lord, Jesus 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.**

PRAYER RESPONSE *"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"*

vs 1

**Oh, Lord hear my prayer,
 Oh Lord, hear my prayer
 When I call answer me.**

**Oh Lord, hear my prayer,
 Oh Lord, hear my prayer,
 Come and listen to me.**

*Artist: Taizé
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OFFERTORY INVITATION ^②

Leader: Those who want to save their life will lose it,

People: and those who lose themselves for Christ's sake and for the gospel will be saved.

Leader: We are invited to give all we have and all we are to the realization of God's will among us.

People: The first and best portion we give to God.

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

*{As we share in worship, there is no passing of the plate in person.
A plate is placed in the rear of the sanctuary for offerings to be placed
when arriving or departing from the sanctuary, or mailed in to the church.*

*Whether worshiping in person or online,
the safest way to offer your tithe and offering to God through his church
is through our secure [Online Giving](#) option on our website at [sprucc.org](#). [Click Here](#)
Offerings may also be mailed to St. Paul's UCC; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.*

{Those who are able, please rise}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE "In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful "

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,

In the Lord I'll rejoice.

Look to God, do not be afraid,

Lift up your voices, the Lord is near;

Lift up your voices the Lord is near.

Artist: Taizé

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*OFFERTORY PRAYER ^②

Glorious God, we dedicate these gifts as an expression of our faith. You alone know how much we share and how much we withhold. You know the extent of our trust and the depth of our commitment. May this act of giving draw us closer to you and extend a blessing to all who are helped through our sharing. **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: Dare this week to follow where Jesus leads.

Dare to love the unlovable and care about others.

People: We want to follow in the footsteps of Christ.

We want the poor to eat and be satisfied.

Leader: The promises of God are for you and for all.

God will make you exceedingly fruitful.

People: We will trust the promises of God.

We go out to live as covenant people.

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING HYMN

"Wherever He Leads I'll Go"

vs 1 & 4 *Blue* # 598

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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}.*

598 Wherever He Leads I'll Go

Those who would come after Me must deny themselves and follow Me. Matthew 16:24

1. "Take up thy cross and fol - low Me," I heard my Mas - ter say:
 2. He drew me clos - er to His side, I sought His will to know,
 3. It may be thro' the shad - ows dim, Or o'er the storm - y sea,
 4. My heart, my life, my all I bring To Christ who loves me so;

"I gave My life to ran - som thee, Sur - ren - der your all to - day."
 And in that will I now a - bide, Wher - ev - er He leads I'll go.
 I take the cross and fol - low Him, Wher - ev - er He lead - eth me.
 He is my Mas - ter, Lord, and King, Wher - ev - er He leads I'll go.

Refrain

Wher - ev - er He leads I'll go, Wher - ev - er He leads I'll go;

I'll fol - low my Christ who loves me so, Wher - ev - er He leads I'll go.

TEXT: B. B. McKinney

MUSIC: B. B. McKinney; Choral ending by Ken Barber

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FALLS CREEK
 8.6.8.7 with Refrain



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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.

² *Led by Love* by Lavon Bayler. (1996). Cleveland, OH: United Church Press.

³ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. (1995). Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis and Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, Philadelphia.

⁴ Reprinted with permission from *Sundays and Seasons*. (2020). Augsburg Fortress.

⁵ 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.

⁶ Reprinted with permission from *Sourcebook of Worship Services*

⁷ *scouting.org* - resources for Boy Scouts of America

⁸ Reprinted with permission from *Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ*. (2020).

⁹ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.

¹⁰ Sunday Sermons Preaching Resources. (2017). Margate, NJ.

¹¹ 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

¹² Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.

¹³ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.

¹⁴ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

¹⁵ The Love Feast liturgy was primarily designed and written by United Methodist pastor, the Rev. Dr. Cynthia A. Wilson (2018) at umcdiscipleship.org, with adaptations from: the Rev. Tamie Scalise, Richard Stowe (author of *The Love Feast*), moravianmusic.org, moravian.org, and the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz.

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Resources are edited and adapted for use in this worship service.



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

† Prayer List †

Please lift up those listed here in your prayers this week.

"Pray for one another, so that you may be healed.

The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." ~ James 5:16b

Sam B.
 Rich D.
 Deb D.
 Linda L.
 Rob & Jodi S.
 Jim S.
 George M.
 Starr M.
 Paul P.
 Marianne M.
 Robin L.
 Alex

Lori & Ryan B.
 Ann H.
 Lenna H.
 Mildred U.
 Julie R.
 Congregation of Trinity ELCA in Robesonia
 Family & Friends of Barb B.
 Family & Friends of Rev. Bill W.
 Family & Friends of Elaine R. (mother of Barb D.)
 Those impacted by the frigid weather in the US
 Those impacted by COVID-19
 Those working on a vaccine for COVID-19

Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you.

All are welcome to add names to the prayer list.

Names are generally left on the list for about four weeks.

Please let us know if you would like a name to remain longer or shorter.

If you would like someone's name added to the prayer list,

please contact the church office at 610-621-5770 or office@sprucc.org.

††† General Announcements †††

Welcome!

We are glad that you are here to worship with us virtually. May you find the worship and message meaningful and satisfying to your soul. May your week be blessed.

In Person AND Virtual Sunday School Options

Due to the increase in the number of people affected by COVID, *in-person Sunday school* for children and adults has been suspended until further notice.

However, [The Wired Word](#) is still available for adults. This is a virtual option which you may join via Zoom. For Zoom you can join either with a computer or smart device (if you do not yet have the Zoom app, click on this [Zoom](#) link), or call 1-301-715-8592 with a landline or cell phone. Meeting ID: 860 8980 7220; Passcode: 195152.

Although not in-person, the youth can still continue to learn about God's Word through the information available on our website. We have Sunday school music, videos, and an assortment of other materials that are available for downloading. Click on this link for [Sunday school for youth](#).

We also have devotional music for all ages on our website, courtesy of Pastor Bob. Click on this link for [Devotional Music](#).

For our Sunday school [COVID-19 Safety Precautions](#) click on the following link:

<http://www.sprucc.org/news-a-events.html#COVID19Precautions>

To have a copy of the precautions mailed to you, please call 610-621-5770.

Telephone Live Streaming & Playback Worship

This service is being offered to those who do not have internet access. You may call us at our toll free number **1-888-649-5770** and listen to the worship service live using a landline or cell phone. (No internet, smartphone, tablet, or computer is necessary - this works with a standard corded phone, cell phone, or even with a rotary phone). You also have the option for the church to automatically call you when the live stream worship begins (rather than you calling the church); which you can sign up for at the above toll free number, or you can call the church office, and we can add you to the call list. If you have any questions, difficulties, or issues, please let us know by calling the office at 610-621-5770. There is no charge to you for this service. If you know of someone who does not have internet access, please let them know of this feature, especially as they cannot log onto the website and find out about this themselves.

Visitation Care Team

Our Visitation Care Team (VCT) is composed of lay members who have been trained for visitation. If you are in need of prayer, a visit, or just a listening ear, they are here to be of support to you. To contact the Visitation Care Team with a visitation request or to share information about a potential care need, call the church office at 610-621-5770 or email the office at office@sprucc.org. For more information, go to our "[Visitation Care Ministries](#)" page at www.sprucc.org under the "ministries" tab.

Lenten Bible Study Series

This year, St. Paul's UCC in Robeson and Zion UCC in Womelsdorf, will be having a combined study series during the Sundays in Lent. The topic is "*Making Sense of the Bible*". It will be held via Zoom on Sunday evenings (Feb. 21, 28, March 7, 14, & 21) at 6:30pm. There is no cost, no minimum number of sessions that you must attend, and you need not be a member of either church. All are welcome. Detailed information may be found [here](#).

Weekly Lectionary Bible Study

Every Tuesday morning Zion UCC of Womelsdorf offers a Zoom Bible Study based on the scripture passages for the coming Sunday. You may use any version of the Bible. The study goes from 9:00 to 9:45am most of the time (occasionally it may go a little longer). They would be happy to have you join them! Zoom login information may be found on our [website](#).

About Today

Church Season: Lent - 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):

Purple - Symbolizing the passion (suffering) of Christ our King that led to his crucifixion.

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).

This Sunday, February 28, 2021, Lectionary Reading for the Second Sunday in Lent.

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38 *or* Mark 9:2-9.

Genesis

The book of Genesis (OT) is a part of the Pentateuch (first five books of the OT or Torah or one of the five most central books in Judaism). Genesis means beginning. The book of Genesis tells about the creation of humankind and the entire universe by the will and power of God. Genesis creates a context for the reading of the entire rest of the Bible. The book is traditionally attributed to Moses, who led the Israelite people from Egyptian slavery to freedom, through the saving grace and divine providence of God.

Psalm 22

This OT song is attributed to King David. This song is a prayer to God, asking for help in times of distress, giving thanks and praise to God for his presence and deliverance in times of affliction, and reaffirming the vow to worship and follow in the ways of the Lord.

The Letter of Paul to the Romans

This epistle (letter) is addressed "to all God's beloved in Rome." It was dictated by the Apostle Paul to Tertius in 58 A.D. in Corinth and delivered to Rome by Phoebe (she was appointed by Paul as a deacon, teacher, and leader of the 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, a highly educated man, 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, March 7, 2021, Lectionary Reading for the Third Sunday in Lent.

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22.