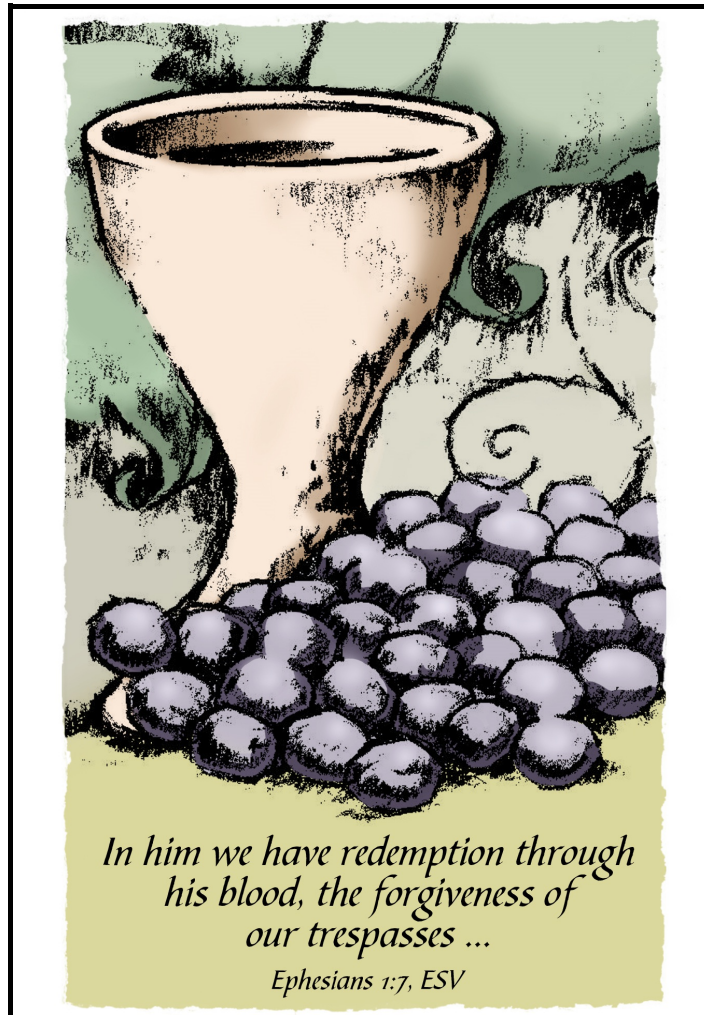


St. Paul's United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551
610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org
Worship 9:30am

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



***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, July 11, 2021
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

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

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

Our God, ruler of all worlds, whose glory surrounds our unseeing eyes, our muffled hearing and our dulled emotions, come to awaken us to the mystery of your will. Speak to us a word of truth that reveals our deceit and leads us away from falsehood. Touch us with healing grace that allows us to admit our woundedness and accept the comfort you offer. Let your Spirit move among us so we may recognize your presence in one another and in our own lives. May our response to you be faithful and our praise genuine. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

vs 1 & 3

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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: Blessed be to God the Father of our Savior Jesus Christ!

Thank God for every spiritual blessing.

**People: May the glory of God be known in this place!
May God’s peace dwell in this and every land!**

Leader: God speaks peace to those who are faithful.

Lift up your heads and your hearts to God.

People: We have come to hear the word of truth.

We turn to God, eager to receive salvation.

Virtual Worship Service

Online: [Live Stream](#) at sprucc.org - Live or Watch & Listen on [St. Paul’s UCC YouTube Channel](#) Later
[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

[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

771 God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

F Dm C Gm⁷ Am Dm C F

1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,
 2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child - hood of our race;
 3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal - lenge us a - new:

Dm C Gm⁷ Am Dm C F

flung the suns in burn - ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space:
 known the ec - sta - sy of wing - ing through un - trav - eled realms of space;
 chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.

C F B^b Am F D C

we, your chil - dren in your like - ness, share in - ven - tive pow'r with you;
 probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield - ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,
 May our dreams prove rich with prom - ise; each en - deav - or well be - gun;

F Dm C Gm⁷ Am Dm C F

great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
 fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
 great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

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 has chosen us to be holy and blameless in love before our Creator. In our hearts, we know we do not measure up to that high calling. We have built many barriers in our lives against true communion with God and honest community with one another. In our prayer of confession, we seek help to remove those barriers.

*CONFESSION OF SIN[®] (Unison)

God of all hope and blessing, hear us as we turn to you with all our hearts. We have not been faithful to your word of love. We have hurt others and held grudges. We have been jealous and deceitful and ungrateful. We have turned from your Word and resisted the Holy Spirit. We have wanted our inheritance from you without the responsibilities that go with it. O God, we plead for your forgiveness and healing that we might respond with joy to the spiritual blessings you offer. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON[®] (Leader)

God's grace is freely given to us in Jesus Christ, through whom we are redeemed and forgiven. Let us set our hope on Christ, living each day for the praise of God's glory, ever seeking the truth that frees us to live fully and triumphantly. Join the dance of gratitude and joy, sharing with others the love God has poured into our lives. **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: [Amos 7:7-15](#)
Second Lesson: [Ephesians 1:3-14](#)
Gospel Lesson: [Mark 6:14-29](#)

HYMN

"Forward through the Ages"

vs 1 & 3

℣ NCH #377

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Forward through the Ages

Heb. 11; 1 Cor. 12

Frederick Lucian Hosmer, 1908; alt.

1 For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,
 2 Wide grows God's do - min - ion, reign of love and peace;
 3 Not a - lone we con - quer, not a - lone we fall;

move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine;
 for it we must la - bor, till all striv - ings cease.
 in each loss or tri - umph, lose or tri - umph all.

Gifts in dif - fer - ing mea - sure, hearts of one ac - cord,
 Proph - ets have pro - claimed it, teach - ers tes - ti - fied,
 Bound by God's far pur - pose in one liv - ing whole,

man - i - fold in ser - vice, one the sure re - ward.
 po - ets sung its glo - ry, mar - tyrs for it died.
 move we on to - geth - er to the shin - ing goal.

Frederick Hosmer, educated at Harvard and ordained to the Unitarian ministry, served Congregational and Unitarian churches throughout the country. He was known for his concern for social issues, his service book for Sunday schools, and his lectures on hymnology.

Tune: ST. GERTRUDE 6.5.6.5.D. with refrain
 Arthur S. Sullivan, 1871

Refrain

For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,
 Move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine.

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, died, 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 "*the universal church*" and was the word used in the original version of the Creed. It does not refer here to the particular denomination of the Roman Catholic Church, but rather the whole Christian church of all denominations, 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® (Leader)

Leader: Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

{A time of silent prayer}

Leader: Holy parent, you welcome your people into one family and gather all things to yourself. Bestow your grace upon your beloved church, lavish your wisdom upon us, and redeem us from our faults, that by our witness all might praise your glory. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Awesome Creator, you steadfastly tend to the smallest of seeds and the mightiest of sycamore trees. Spring up green growth from the earth, nourish the growth of fruit, grain, and other crops, and bless the work of farmers and laborers. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: God of the oppressed, turn the ears of those who are in power to the voices of prophets in our own day. Protect those who speak difficult truths when it is risky to do so. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: God of strength, you are near to those who endure difficulty. Comfort all who are survivors of violence, guard the refugee and the immigrant, and protect all those who are victims of prejudice and discrimination. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: God of love, we pray for this holy house and all those who worship here. We pray especially for those whose efforts behind the scenes often go unnoticed; for the custodians and maintenance workers, for our office staff, and for all of our volunteers. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: We thank you God for the saints, martyrs, and prophets who have died in the faith. We remember those in this community who have recently died. United with them as God's children, assure us that we are yours forever. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. We pray in the name of the one who taught us to pray....

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 PRAISE "My Country, 'Tis of Thee"

♪ Red #441

Our fathers' God, to Thee, Author of liberty, To thee we sing:

Long may our land be bright With freedom's holy light;

Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King.

*Text: Samuel F. Smith
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OFFERTORY INVITATION ②

Leader: The earth belongs to God

People: and all that is in it.

Leader: The world is God's creation

People: and so are we.

Leader: All that we have is from the gifts of God

People: meant as a blessing for all to share.

Leader: In these moments, we recognize our responsibility to manage these resources for the redemption of all God's people.

People: Let us give with care.

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

*{As we share in hybrid 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.*

*Whether worshipping 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

‡ NCH #283

Giving, loving, holy God, receive our gifts we pray.

Giving, loving, holy God, receive our gifts we pray.

Take them, bless them, use them, grow them.

Giving, loving, holy God, receive our gifts we pray.

*Text: Benjamin Motz
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*OFFERTORY PRAYER [®] (Leader)

Our God, with joyous praise and dancing spirits, we dedicate these tithes and offerings, acknowledging our covenant responsibility to share your word and love all your people. In gratitude for the gospel of salvation, we pledge our first loyalty and highest faithfulness as disciples of Jesus Christ. Thank you for the wisdom and insight we have received. Help us now to live according to the best we know, in Jesus' Name. **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: Dwell in the mystery of God's will for you.
Dare to reach out in love to those who share your world.

People: **We will seek God's counsel daily.**
We will open our hearts to others' pain.

Leader: The Holy Spirit goes with you to empower you.
The love of Christ sustains you in all circumstances.

People: **We have been blessed and fed in this place.**
We will share with others the joy we have known.

ALL: **Amen.**

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

‡ Red #558
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*SENDING HYMN

"Faith of Our Fathers "

all 3 verses

‡ Red #282
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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.}*

Conflict and Victory

FREDERICK W. FABER, 1849
Stanzas 2, 3, alt.

8. 8. 8. 8. 8. 8.

ST. CATHERINE
HENRI F. HEMY, 1865
Alt. JAMES G. WALTON, 1871

With dignity and conviction

1. Faith of our fa - thers! liv - ing still In spite of
2. Faith of our fa - thers! we will strive To win all
3. Faith of our fa - thers! we will love Both friend and

dun - geon, fire, and sword, O how our hearts beat high with joy
na - tions un - to thee; And through the truth that comes from God
foe in all our strife, And preach thee, too, as love knows how,

When - e'er we hear that glo - rious word: Faith of our fa - thers,
Man - kind shall then be tru - ly free: Faith of our fa - thers,
By kind - ly words and vir - tuous life: Faith of our fa - thers,

ho - ly faith! We will be true to thee till death.
ho - ly faith! We will be true to thee till death.
ho - ly faith! We will be true to thee till death. A - MEN.



Worship Service Resource Credits

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 - ② *Taught By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1998). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
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 - ⑧ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑨ 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
 - ⑩ Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑪ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
 - ⑫ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
 - ⑬ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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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*

Medical Concerns & Healing:

Sam B.
Norman B.
Lori & Ryan B.
Deb D.
Rich D.
Jacob E.
Jaden G.
Ann H.
Leigh H.
Rev. David K.
Jim & Donna K.
Janice L.
Ella L.
Edmund L.

Medical Concerns & Healing:

Amy M.
Diane M.
George M.
Starr M.
Steve M.
Gary N.
Terry O.
Paul P.
Fred R.
Julie R.
Jim S.
Rob & Jodi S.
Spencer Family
Martha W.

Mourning:

Family & Friends of Barb B.
Family & Friends of Sandra B.
Family & Friends of Joyce R.
Family & Friends of Ron S.
Family & Friends of Sarah S.
Family & Friends of Marilyn W.

Social Concerns:

Those impacted by COVID-19
Those working on a vaccine for
COVID-19

Celebration:

Class of 2021 Graduates

*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.*

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 email the VCT at CareTeam@sprucc.org. For more information, go to our “[Visitation Care Ministries](#)” page at www.sprucc.org under the “ministries” tab.

Thank you!

From Amy M. (She is listed above on the Prayer List; she had to receive a liver transplant) - *I want to thank you, so much, for putting me on the St. Paul's UCC prayer chain. What a lovely, powerful thing to do! I felt the love, support, and prayers, no question. I am healing at an accelerated rate, am able to walk, and so glad and grateful to be HOME!*

††† General Announcements †††

Welcome!

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

Sunday School Materials

Sunday school music, videos, and an assortment of other materials are available for downloading over the summer. Click on this link for [Sunday school for youth](#).

Devotional Music

Devotional music for all ages, courtesy of Pastor Bob, is available on our website. Click on this link for [Devotional Music](#).

General Synod - July 11-18

Every two years, General Synod brings together thousands of faithful members of the United Church of Christ for formal church witness, inspirational worship, and fellowship with friends (new and old). The dates for the United Church of Christ's first virtual General Synod has been set. The 33rd biennial gathering will take place online **July 11-18, 2021**. The Sunday to Sunday schedule is the first in a series of changes planned for this event, themed "*Rooted in Love, Special Edition.*"

To register or to learn about the programs and business of General Synod 33 go to generalsynod.org

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.

Free WiFi: StPaulsUCC-Guest & StPaulsUCC-5G-Guest
Password (for both): iamheretoserve



Link to Website's
Upcoming Events

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 life God brings, especially through our mission work.

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, July 11, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 *and* Psalm 24; Amos 7:7-15 *and* Psalm 85:8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

The Second Book of Samuel

This OT book, bears the name of the prophet Samuel. This book takes place during the rule of the second king of Israel, David (ruling from 1000-961 B.C.). Two important themes within this book are that of the a nation's relationship with God and good rule of people; and secondly, the complexity of individual relationships with God. Samuel was the prophet anointed King David. In Hebrew, the word prophet literally means "spokesperson." A prophet is one who acts as an intermediary, called by God to speak to God's people, usually to bring those people back in line with God's will.

Amos

This OT book is a compilation of the prophet Amos' speeches and accounts about the prophet from between about 786-760 B.C. Throughout the book, Amos calls upon people to remember and adhere to the teachings of justice and righteousness found in scripture and their faith traditions, and declares that, due to the social injustice and religious arrogance of the people of Israel, they will be punished by a total military disaster. The prophecy came true in 722 B.C. when Israel fell to the Assyrians.

Psalm 85

This OT song is a prayer of lament, asking God for His divine favor and blessing. God responds to the prayer with an oracle of salvation. The Korahites were singers and one of the four divisions of the priestly Levite tribe of Israel.

The Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

The Epistle (letter) to the Gentile church in Ephesus is attributed to the Apostle Paul, written in the first century A.D. This is an open letter to many churches in response for the life-changing radical transformation in our personal and social life as we become a part of Christ's family. Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and leader in the Christian church, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. He wrote more of the NT than any other person. The title of this letter "Hebrews" presumably refers to the original audience of this letter as primarily Jewish-Christian.

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, July 18, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 7:1-14a *and* Psalm 89:20-37; Jeremiah 23:1-6 *and* Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56