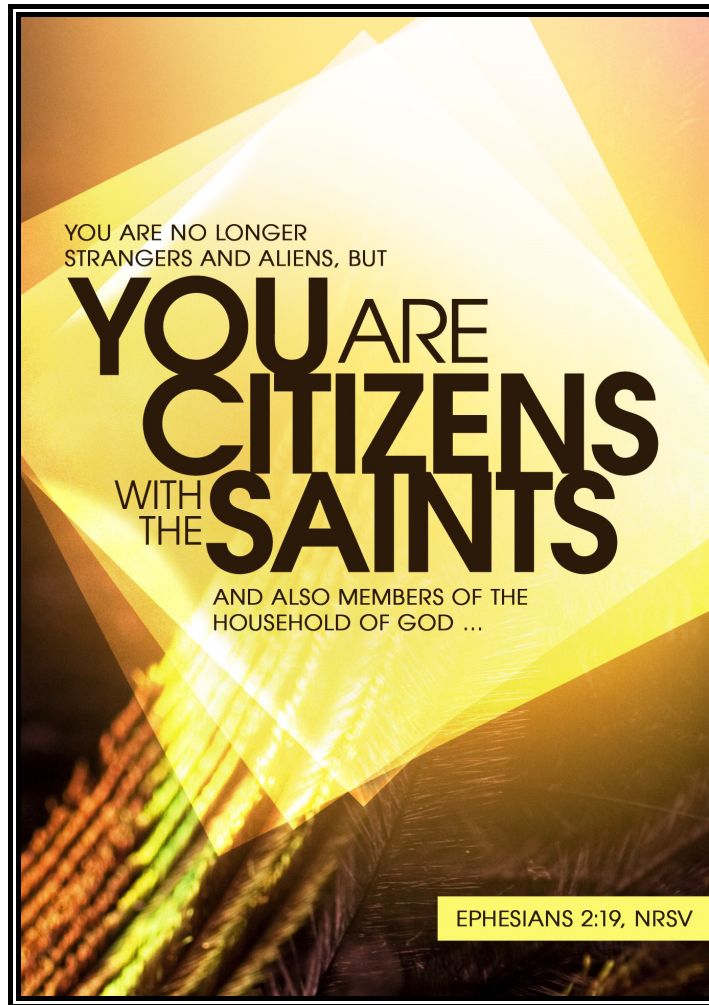


St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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 18, 2021
Eighth 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

“My Lord, What a Morning!”

arr. Cindy Berry

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 [®]

O Lord, our rock of our salvation, we have accepted the invitation of Jesus to gather as your beloved people. We have been far away from you in our thoughts and separated from you in much that we do. Now we are together, seeking reconciliation with you and one another. We call on your steadfast love for assurance and healing. We feel your compassion for us and for all your children. We sense your longing for our wholeness and renewed faith and trust. You call us to be saints and apostles and prophets. We are overwhelmed, even as you draw us close. Amen.

*{Those who are able, please rise}
{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}*

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”

vs 1 & 2

♩ Red #324

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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 [®]

Leader: Come away and rest for a while.
Leave behind your busyness to be fully present to God.
People: **This is God s house, and we are God s children.
God invites us to feel at home in this place.**
Leader: We have a covenant with our Creator.
This is a time for renewal of our promises.
People: **God calls for righteousness and justice.
God offers us goodness and mercy all our days.**

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

The Church

324


Latin, 7th century
Tr. JOHN MASON NEALE, 1851

8. 7. 8. 7. 8. 7.



REGENT SQUARE

HENRY SMART, 1867



In moderate time, with dignity





1. Christ is made the sure Foun - da - tion, Christ the Head and
2. To this tem - ple, where we call Thee, Come, O Lord of
3. Here vouch - safe to all Thy serv - ants What they ask of
4. Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Laud and hon - or




Cor - ner Stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, to - day: With Thy wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness
Thee to gain, What they gain from Thee for - ev - er
to the Son, Laud and hon - or to the Spir - it,



Bind - ing all the Church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's
Hear Thy peo - ple as they pray; And Thy full - est
With the bless - ed to re - tain, And here - aft - er
Ev - er Three and ev - er One, One in might, and



help for - ev - er, And her con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in its walls al - way.
in Thy glo - ry Ev - er - more with Thee to reign.
One in glo - ry, While un - end - ing a - ges run! 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[®] (Leader)

Alienated from our spiritual selves, we come to this time of confession seeking wholeness amid a fragmented world. The false promise of a good life, filled with things, has erected barriers among us. There are dividing walls of hostility separating God's people. We are called to admit our role in this brokenness.

*CONFESSION OF SIN[®] (Unison)

God of all times and places, we confess that we have wandered after the false gods of this age. We have disobeyed your commandments, violated your covenant with us, and forsaken your ways. We have denied our need for you and mistreated those whom you have called us to love. We have become strangers and aliens, plagued by false values that squeeze life from our souls. Loving God, hear your penitent children, and let us come home, we pray. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON[®] (Leader)

We are no longer strangers and aliens but are citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone. We are the church, God's forgiven and forgiving people, becoming a temple in which God is pleased to dwell. Let us join our spirits and our voices in giving thanks for God's pardon and continuing offer of healing. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE[®]

Leader: Let us give thanks and praise to our Triune God.

People: **We sing in praise of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*PRAISE RESPONSE "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" vs 4 } Red #324

**Laud and honor to the Father, Laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit, Ever Three and ever One,
One in might, and One in glory, While unending ages run!**

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{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: [Jeremiah 23:1-6](#)

Second Lesson: [Ephesians 2:11-22](#)

Gospel Lesson: [Mark 6:30-34, 53-56](#)

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

HYMN

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

vs 1 & 2

Blue #688

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Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us 688

He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out. John 10:3

D A G D A7 D A D A7 A9 F#m A7 D

1. Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us, Much we need Thy ten-der care;
 2. We are Thine, do Thou be - friend us, Be the Guard-ian of our way;
 3. Thou hast prom-ised to re - ceive us, Poor and sin-ful tho' we be;
 4. Ear - ly let us seek Thy fa - vor; Ear - ly let us do Thy will;

1 2 3 4

D A G D A7 D A D A7 A9 F#m A7 D

In Thy pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, For our use Thy folds pre-pare:
 Keep Thy flock, from sin de - fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray:
 Thou hast mer - cy to re - lieve us, Grace to cleanse and pow'r to free:
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, With Thy love our be-ings fill:

5 6 7 8

D G G#4 G D A A9 F#m A7 D

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear, O hear us when we pray;
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to Thee;
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;

9 10 11 12

D G G#4 G D D4 D A7 D

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear, O hear us when we pray.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to Thee.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.

13 14 15 16

Optional segue to “Lead Me, Lord.” No transition is needed, but tempo will be faster. ♩ = ca. 120

TEXT: Hymns for the Young, 1836; attributed to Dorothy A. Thrupp
MUSIC: William B. Bradbury

BRADBURY
8.7.8.7.D.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

"Achieving the Seemingly Impossible"

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: Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

{A time of silent prayer}

Leader: Tend your church, O God. Encourage bishops, pastors, and deacons in their proclamation of the gospel. Raise up new leaders and encourage those pursuing a call to ministry. Embolden all the baptized to embody your love and justice. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: Restore your creation, O God. Sustain croplands and pastures and safeguard all farm animals and livestock. Preserve lakes, rivers, and streams that offer refreshment. Revive lands recovering from natural disasters and protect coastlands threatened by rising oceans. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: Reconcile the nations, O God. Break down the dividing walls that make us strangers to one another and unite us as one human family. Equip leaders to deal wisely with conflict and guide diplomats who seek peaceful solutions. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: Heal your people, O God. Look with compassion on immigrants, exiles, and all who are afraid or feel lost. Give rest to those who are weary, comfort to those who are grieving, and recovery to those who are ill. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: Nourish this congregation, O God. Prepare a table where we receive food for our hungry spirits. Renew our commitment to provide for one another and revitalize our ministries of feeding and nurturing hungry neighbors. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: You lead us home, O God. We give thanks for all who have died, now citizens with the saints. As you have received them into your heavenly home, so welcome all of us to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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.

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

SUNG PRAISE

"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation "

vs 3

♪ Red #324

Here vouchsafe to all Thy servants What they ask of Thee to gain,

What they gain from Thee forever With the blessed to retain,

And hereafter in Thy glory Evermore with Thee to reign.

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OFFERTORY INVITATION [®]

Leader: We bring a portion of all God entrusts to us to be used, not for our pet projects,

People: but for the mission of the church, in this community, throughout our land and around the world.

Leader: We express our gratitude for the gift of Jesus Christ and for the peace we know deep within when we become disciples and apostles.

People: May we follow the model of God s generosity.

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 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}.

OFFERTORY

“Faith, Hope and Love”

John Purifoy

{Those who are able, please rise}
{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*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
Used with Permission One License #A-728042

*OFFERTORY PRAYER [®] (Leader)

Receive our best, gracious God, as we offer ourselves along with these tokens of thanks. Establish your rule in our midst so we may proclaim your reign in the world. Send us where you need us most. Use our gifts to reduce alienation and to build community. Be to us a watchful Parent, and teach us to live as sisters and brothers who find you in one another and respond in love to each other’s needs. **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: Live with hope, for God is with us every day.
Live in peace, for God turns us from hostility.
People: We are one in Christ, who died for us.
We are one in the Spirit who creates community.
Leader: There are people in our community awaiting good news.
Go to people you know who need your healing presence.
People: We seek to recognize the needs around us.
We commit ourselves to help as God gives us strength.
ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION [®]

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Savior Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do God’s will, working in you that which is pleasing in God’s sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

‡ Red #558
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*SENDING HYMN

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us ”

vs 3 & 4

‡ Blue #688
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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.}*

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us 688

He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out. John 10:3

D A G D A7 D A D A7 A9 F#m A7 D

1. Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us, Much we need Thy ten - der care;
 2. We are Thine, do Thou be - friend us, Be the Guard - ian of our way;
 3. Thou hast prom - ised to re - ceive us, Poor and sin - ful tho' we be;
 4. Ear - ly let us seek Thy fa - vor; Ear - ly let us do Thy will;

D A G D A7 D A D A7 A9 F#m A7 D

In Thy pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, For our use Thy folds pre - pare:
 Keep Thy flock, from sin de - fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray:
 Thou hast mer - cy to re - lieve us, Grace to cleanse and pow'r to free:
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, With Thy love our be - ings fill:

D G G#4 G D A A9 F#m A7 D

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear, O hear us when we pray;
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to Thee;
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;

D G G#4 G D D2 D A7 D

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear, O hear us when we pray.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to Thee.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.

Optional segue to "Lead Me, Lord." No transition is needed, but tempo will be faster. ♩ = ca. 120

TEXT: *Hymns for the Young*, 1836; attributed to Dorothy A. Thrupp
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury

BRADBURY
 8.7.8.7.D.



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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 *Taught By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1998). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.

³ Reprinted with permission from *Sundays and Seasons*. (2020). 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*

• scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America

⁶ Reprinted with permission from *Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ*. (2013).

⁷ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.

• 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.

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

⁹ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

¹⁰ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).

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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*

Medical Concerns & Healing:

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

Medical Concerns & Healing:

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

Mourning:

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

Social Concerns:

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.*

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.

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

††† **Worship Participants** †††

Thank you to all who have made this worship experience possible.

	<u>Today</u> July 18th	<u>Next Sunday</u> July 25th
Greeter/Usher	Sue H.	Denise U.
Greeter/Usher	Barbara O.	Carl U.
Greeter/Usher	Nevin K.	-
Acolyte	Geri G.	Geri G.
Welcome	Terry P.	Brian K.
Layreader/Lector #1	Terry P.	Brian K.
Layreader/Lector #2	-	Sheri R./Terry P.
Children's Message	Elsa W.	Geri G.
Cantor	Sheri R.	Terry P.
AV Tech	Kirk A.	Kirk A.



Link to Website's
Upcoming Events

††† 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.

Welcome and Thank You!

We extend a warm welcome to Rev. Dr. Jane Kropa who will be leading us in worship today while Pastor Ben is away on vacation. Rev. Dr. Kropa will be focusing her sermon on Ephesians 2:11-22 which she has entitled "*Achieving the Seemingly Impossible*". We thank her for leading us through today's worship service.

Today Masks are Necessary

We ask all those in attendance today to wear a mask during the service, regardless of your vaccination status. We also ask that all attendees refrain from singing, except for the cantor. These policies are in affect whenever we have a supply pastor and/or when we have an influx of children.

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](#).

Neighborhood Mission Work

We are planning a stay-near-home Mission trip with Zion UCC (Womelsdorf) on Saturday, September 18. We are looking for local projects to consider - ways in which we can assist people in our local area. If you have a project request or suggestion, please contact the church office. We also need people to help on that day. **Please respond by Sunday, August 1st so that the projects and the availability of help may be firmed up.** More information will be on our website, in the August newsletter, and in a special mailing. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, September 18, with a rain date of Saturday, September 25.

Come Worship at Knoebel's Amusement Park - August 8

All are welcome to come to Knoebel's Amusement Park on Sunday, August 8 for worship. We will begin gathering at Pavilion Tent #4 at around 10:00am. At 10:30am worship will begin. The rides and water park will open at 11:00am. The pavilion will be available to us for the whole day. Please bring a lunch or you may purchase food at the park. There is NO park admission fee. There is NO parking fee. You need only to pay for ride tickets (for whatever rides you may wish). Invite your family and friends. If you are not able to join us at Knoebel's park, worship will take place at St. Paul's, but it will be virtual only.

Annual Car Show - Saturday, August 14

Please join us for St. Paul's Annual Car Show to be held rain or shine on Saturday, August 14 from 10:00am to 3:00pm. If you can help that day, please contact Rob Seifrit or the church office. If you would like to register a car you may print out the [registration form](#) (click the link) and send it to Rob, or contact the church office for a print out of the form. The cost is \$10/car to register.

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.

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 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

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.

Psalm 89

In this OT hymn, we give praise to God for creation and for choosing David and his descendants to be kings forever. Jesus is a descendant of David, and Jesus is our one and only king. This song is attributed to Ethan the Ezrahite, who is a sage and/or temple musician. This is a Maskil, meaning that it is composed with great artistic skill and educational components.

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.

Psalm 23

In this OT song written by King David, we express our trust in the LORD to lead us through even in the darkest times of our lives, and we proclaim our faith that we will dwell with God and all the saints in light in a life everlasting.

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 25, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 11:1-15 *and* Psalm 14; 2 Kings 4:42-44 *and* Psalm 145:10-18; Ephesians 3:14-21;
John 6:1-21