

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Zion United Church of Christ**

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

St. Paul's UCC: 610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org

Zion UCC: 610-659-2775 -- mestme@aol.com -- www.1Zion.org

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



***Welcome to our Combined
10:15am Worship Service
In-Person & Streaming Online***



**Sunday, January 2, 2022
2nd Sunday After Christmas**

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 very welcome to participate in the entire worship service. Due to the COVID pandemic, for the safety of children, we are currently not offering a nursery during worship. Normally, we have supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, located on the first floor.

Junior Worship

For the safety of children, we are not offering Junior Worship during the pandemic. Normally, the option of "Junior Worship" is offered downstairs, on the 1st & 2nd Sunday of the month, following the children's sermon, for elementary age children to learn more about today's scripture lessons.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located both on the first and second floors to the left of the elevator.

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

For the safety of all, our water fountains are disabled during the pandemic.

Sunday School & Adult Faith Formation Classes

Classes for all ages are held at 9:00am.

Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship is held at 10:15am.

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 St. Paul's or Zion United Church of Christ. For more information about St. Paul's, Zion, and the UCC, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our churches.

More Information...

Additional literature about our missions, ministries, and fellowship opportunities is located on the *Blue Visitor Table* in the narthex hallway, or contact us using the contact information on the front page of this bulletin.

Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you or if there is any way in which we can help make your worship experience more meaningful.

*{Symbols used in this bulletin: * = if able please stand; ♯ = Red Hymnal Page; □# = Blue Hymnal Page}*



Virtual Worship Service

Online: Live Stream at sprucc.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel
Facebook Live (St. Paul's) 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 1-301-715-8592) - Live Only

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.*

*Please Do Not move the red ribbons or sit where they are placed.
They are there for your safety and the safety of those around you to help designate social distancing.*

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

GREETING AND WELCOME

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

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP[®] *(Silently Before Worship Begins)*

God of creation and newness, we bring to you our past, that it may teach us. We bring our future, that it may be blessed with vision and hope. We bring this present moment, that you may fill it with your transforming presence. We want to be a part of your new heaven and new earth. We seek to enjoy your creation without destroying it, to take pleasure in our toil while making of it a ministry, to learn to live together in peace, reaching out to assure that all are benefitting from your good gifts. Feed us, clothe us, welcome us, that we may do the same for others. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

□ Red # 112

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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: The true light, which enlightens everyone, is entering our world through Jesus Christ.

He is life, and the light of all people.

People: **The light of Christ shines in the darkness,
and the darkness does not overcome it.**

Leader: Receive Christ in your lives, believe in him
Be born of the Spirit, be children of God.

People: **We will receive him into our lives and believe in him.
We will joyfully sing his praises in our daily lives.**

ALL: Amen.

SUNG CALL “Joy to the World”
Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

*Words: Issac Watts; Music: Arr. From G.F. Handel by Lowell Mason;
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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 set before us straight paths to follow, but we have stumbled along our own byways. God shows us the way of peace, but we choose the vanity of competition and strife. God gives us the day, but we flee into the deepest night. God is calling us now to repentance and new life.

***CONFESSION OF SIN** [®] *(Unison)*

Infinite God, look upon your finite creatures, broken and bereaved, with compassion and consolation. We view your world with unseeing eyes. We list to the cries of your hurting people with ears that do not hear and hearts that do not feel their plight. The wind blows among us, but we do not discern your Spirit. You offer wisdom and insight, but we reject your counsel. You present to us the gospel of salvation, but we turn away from its saving grace. O God, help us change the direction of our lives so we may act like your children and reflect your love into the world. Amen.

***SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

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

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

***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** [®] *(Leader)*

The Word made flesh in Jesus is for us. God’s gift of new life is ever available. God grants us power to change if that is our sincere desire. The Holy Spirit is at work in our midst. We are destined to live as children of God. Let us open our eyes, unstop our ears, and live with empathy for all. With faith, we can live our beliefs, praising God who has blessed us in Christ. Amen.

***CALL TO PRAISE**

Leader: Let us offer our praise to the Lord.
People: **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

***SUNG PRAISE** *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

Glo-----ria, in excelsis Deo!
Glo-----ria, in excelsis Deo!

*Music by Edward Shippen Barnes
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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

Lesson from the Apocrypha: Sirach 24:1-12
New Testament Letter: Ephesians 1:3-14

Leader: The word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

Leader: The word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

HYMN *"Sing We Now of Christmas"*

□ **CH # 275**

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

We Respond with Thanks

*We have heard God's call and have come and worshiped,
we have confessed our sins and been assured of our forgiveness, we have
learned more about God's grace and God's will. We now respond by
re-affirming our faith in God,
praying with and for one another, trusting in God's providence in our world,
and giving of ourselves for the sake of the mission and ministry of Jesus
Christ.*

{Those who are able, please rise}

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

{please be seated}

OPPORTUNITIES OF OFFERING TIME AND TALENT

Prayer Needs, Joys, Opportunities for Study and Service, and other Announcements

OFFERTORY INVITATION [®]

Leader: In these moments, we are challenged,

People: **not just to give a worthy contribution for the Christ child, but to
reorder our lives.**

Leader: Will our gifts be sufficient to enlighten lives?

People: **We will give generously that others may receive the Word, that other
may be led to be disciples of Christ, and that others may be changes
by this community of faith.**



RETURNING GOD’S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

*{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 St. Paul’s UCC secure Online Giving option on our website at sprucc.org. St. Paul’s UCC Click Here
or Zion UCC’s online giving at www.1Zion.org - Zion UCC Click Here
Offerings may also be mailed to St. Paul’s UCC; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonía, PA 19551
or Zion UCC; PO Box 97; Womelsdorf, PA 19567}.*

OFFERTORY

{Those who are able, please rise}

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE “What Child is This”

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King;
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER ® (Leader)

Your goodness, O Lord, has satisfied us with abundance beyond our deserving. The amount that we return to you today is not an adequate expression of thanks. Use not only these gifts, but also our lives as channels of your grace. May our individual efforts and the combined outreach we can accomplish together turn mourning into joy, hopelessness into purposeful living, lostness into community, and despair into hope. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion ®®

*The Sacrament of Holy Communion is the central act of Christian worship,
bringing us more fully together with one another and the Triune God,
through the sacrifice of the body and blood of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 26:20-30,
Mark 14:17-26, Luke 22:14-23, John 13:21-30)*

*INVITATION

Leader: Dearly beloved in the Lord: Our blessed Saviour Jesus Christ instituted the Holy Communion of his Body and Blood, that it might be the abiding memorial of his atoning death; the seal of his perpetual presence in the Church through the Holy Spirit; the mystical representation of the sacrifice of himself on the cross; the pledge of his undying love for his people; and the bond of his living union and fellowship with them to the end of time.

ALL: The celebration of the Lord’s Supper has ever been regarded by the Church as the innermost sanctuary of the whole Christian worship. What we do here is not merely with signs, but with the realities these signs represent. We seek to approach the Lord’s Table rightly, striving to be devout and repentant, with a believing mind.

Leader: We cordially invite to partake of this Sacrament all who are truly grieved and penitent for their sins, who look to the Lord Jesus Christ for righteousness and salvation, who abide in the fellowship of his Church, and who desire to possess his Spirit and walk in his ways. To all such the compassionate Redeemer himself says: Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

***COMMUNION PRAYER**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader:

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Everlasting God, who created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, who made humankind in your own image, and whose tender mercies are over all your works.

We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none.

We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless.

We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory.

We give thanks to you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy and sing....

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

***SANCTUS**

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Seraphic Hymn

*{Sanctus is Latin for "Holy." Seraphic Hymn refers to the song of the Seraphim Angels.
Sabaoth is a Hebrew name for God, referring to God as both creator and ruler of the world.}*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of thy glory,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!**

*Written by Alonzo P. Howard
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{Please be seated}

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader:

Lord, we remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.

Leader: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**ALL: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Ordained Minister:

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We offer you these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service in behalf of all people.

Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, the gifts of bread, wine, and grape juice, bless these before us here in this place and bless those being shared in homes this day, and bless us all as we receive them. May we offer you our faith and praise, through the Holy Spirit may we be united in communion with Christ and with one another, experience oneness with all Christians during this Christmas season and throughout the year, no matter the physical distance, and may we continue faithful in all things.

**ALL: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives,
that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy
Spirit, lives forever. Amen.**

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.**

LAMB OF GOD

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People: grant us peace.

CALL TO THE SUPPER

Leader: The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come, for all things are ready.

BREAKING THE BREAD, RAISING THE CUP, AND SHARING THE ELEMENTS

*{For those who have the pre-filled cups:
open the first seal - unleavened bread wafer}*

Pastor: The Body of Christ broken for you. Take and eat.
People: Amen.

{You may eat the bread}

*{For those who have the pre-filled cups:
open the second seal - the fruit of the vine - grape juice}*

Pastor: The Blood of Christ shed for you. Take and drink.
People: Thanks be to God.

{You may drink the wine or grape juice}

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: 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: Go out to fulfill your destiny as children of God.
Let your hope be in Christ and live as disciples.

People: **We will live in the true light of Jesus Christ.
We will listen for God's will for our lives, and then follow.**

Leader: Bear witness to the light, that all might believe.
Share the grace and truth of Jesus Christ.

People: **We are instruments of God's peace.
We will pass our blessings in word and deed to our neighbors.**

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ Red #558

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*SENDING HYMN "Angels We Have Heard On High"

□ Red # 105

{Acolyte carries the light back into the world, leading us,
as we now go to carry God's light and love back into the world.}

POSTLUDE

TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

ALL are invited
to share in a time of Refreshments and Fellowship
in the downstairs Miller Fellowship Hall



The Altar Flowers are Sponsored by

The Bulletins are Sponsored by



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) We experience greater oneness with God and each another through Communion
- (9) God sends us into the world to share His love and grace with others



Worship Service Resource Credits

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- *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
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- *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).

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



[Link to Website's Upcoming Events](#)



January 2, 2022

Conference: Keeping Connected/Resources

Remember that the best way to stay connected to the Conference is to sign up for eNews, the weekly newsletter from the Conference. Simply go to www.psec.org. On the opening page you will see a wide red banner with the words "PSEC Weekly eNews" and a white box that says "Subscribe Today". Simply click the "Subscribe Today" box, follow the steps and enjoy being connected to your Pennsylvania Southeast Conference!

While on the website, look around. There are numerous resources available to assist your church. Under the Resources tab there are sub-tabs for: Churches, Disaster Ministries, Search & Call and Stewardship/Finance among others. You can learn about the Conference and the many ministries we, as a group, undertake. Lastly, you can learn about all the upcoming events.

Your Conference is here to assist your church and the website is a great place to start!



How to Help: Tornado Outbreak Earlier this Month

Tornado outbreaks Dec. 10-11 took the lives of at least 88 people across five states and caused damage and economic losses projected at \$1.8 billion. The outbreak is already considered the costliest tornado event in U.S. history, according to AccuWeather. For information about how you and your church can help from Rev. Karl Jones, our Conference Disaster Coordinator, contact Sue at the Conference office (susan@psec.org) and she will send the list to you!

New Year's Blessings from the Conference Staff !



With Covid on the uptick again, we share our annual holiday picture with you via zoom!

We hope that you and yours are healthy and safe. We say THANK YOU for a productive 2021. We hope you and yours had an extra-special Christmas and we send blessings for a healthy and prosperous New Year!

PSEC Staff:

- Rev. William (Bill) Worley—Conference Minister (bottom center)
- Rev. Dr. Susan Minasian—Interim ACM for Search & Call (top right)
- Rev. Cean James—ACM Congregational Development (center)
- Susan Creswell—Executive Asst. to CM/ Conf. Events (top center)
- Kim Kulesa—Bookkeeper (left center)
- Brea Rarick—Asst. to Search & Call / Registrar (right center)
- Tammie Wisniewski—Financial Operations Manager (top left)



About Today

Church Season: Christmas is the season of celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, God's anointed one, who is our King and Saviour, who is the Light of the World. The season of Christmas lasts 12 days and is from sunset of December 24 through January 5. (January 6 is Epiphany)

Color of the Paraments (cloths on the altar, pulpit, and lecturn):

White – symbolizes Christ as the Light of the World; Emmanuel, God is with us; the presence of Christ, for the Kingdom of God is near; the purity through Christ's baptism. (The colors white, gold, and silver are used interchangeably in the church for paraments).

Blue - symbolizes the hope found in the anticipated coming of Christ

Violet - symbolizes royalty and penitent preparation for Christ our King, who offers forgiveness

Rose/Pink - symbolizes joy, as expressed by Jesus' mother Mary

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 C**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Luke.

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 Christians consider the most central books of the Bible.

This Sunday, January 2 -- Lectionary Reading for Second Sunday after Christmas

Sirach 24:1-12; Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18

Sirach

Sirach is attributed to Jesus Son of Eleazar son of Sirach of Jerusalem (known as Ben Sira) and written around 180 B.C. Ben Sira was a traveling teacher for the "house of instruction". By demonstrating the wisdom of Judaism, this book addresses the questioning (which was leading to decline) as to whether or not the ancient Jewish traditions could match the new teachings of Greek thought and philosophy. This was widely used as a handbook of wisdom and faith.

The Pharisees omitted this book from the Jewish canon, but some rabbis considered it to be a sacred writing. Although, copies of the Greek translation survived, fragments of the Hebrew version were only discovered in the 1960s. Sirach is considered to be a deuterocanonical (after-canon or second-canon) text by the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches, and an apocryphal (secret, hidden, or non-canonical) book by most Protestant churches. The 18 deuterocanonical/apocryphal books are deemed as important writings, but they are not universally viewed as "sacred", and are often not held in the same high authoritative regard as the more widely accepted 66 canonized books.

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.

John

John is the latest of the four Gospels, written around 80-90 A.D. probably in Ephesus, and attributed to John the son of Zebedee, the beloved disciple of Jesus. This Gospel was "written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and through believing you may have life in his name" (20:31).

Next Sunday, January 9 -- Lectionary Readings for Baptism of Christ Sunday & Epiphany Sunday

Matthew 2:1-12; Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 29; Acts 14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

Text: Attrib. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786
 Tr.: Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880

Tune: Adeste Fideles, Irr.
 Attrib. John Francis Wade

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

275 Sing We Now of Christmas

The heavenly host appeared, saying, "Glory to God in the highest." Luke 2:13-14

1. Sing we now of Christ-mas, No - el sing we here! Lis - ten to our
 2. Shep - herds on the hill - side heard the an - gels sing: Glo - ry, hon - or,
 3. In the town they found Him; Son of Ma - ry mild. Sleep - ing in a
 4. Wise Men sought and found Him, trea - sures did they bring; Bow - ing down they

1 2 3 4 5

prais - es to the Babe so dear.
 prais - es to the in - fant King.
 man - ger was the Ho - ly Child. Sing we No - el, the
 wor - shipped Christ, the King of kings.

6 7 8 9 10

King is born, No - el! Sing we now of Christ - mas, sing we all No - el!

11 12 13 14 15 16

TEXT: Traditional French carol; Tom Fetzke, stanzas 2, 3, 4

MUSIC: Traditional French melody; arranged by Tom Fetzke

FRENCH CAROL

11.11.10.11.

Text for stanzas 2, 3, 4, and Arr. © Copyright 1997 by Integrity's Hosanna! Music and Word Music (a div. of WORD MUSIC). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. "Crown of Jesus," 1862
 Tune: French carol

GLORIA
 77 77 and refrain