

# **The United Church of Christ of Robesonia**

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

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



*Welcome to our  
Combined Worship Service  
In-Person & Streaming Online*

† † †

**January 1, 2023**  
**First Sunday after Christmas**  
**9:15am**

# Welcome

*May God's loving presence be very real to you,  
and may you receive strength and guidance today  
That will enable you to handle life's challenges.*

## Children's Bulletins

Crayons and activity bulletins are available in the narthex.

The activities match today's Bible readings and are designed for 3-6 & 7-12 year olds.

## Biblias en Español

Biblias Bilingües en Español y Inglés están disponible en el vestíbulo narthex en la mesa de visitantes azul.  
(*Bilingual Bibles in Spanish & English are available in the narthex hallway on the blue visitors' table.*)

## Nursery

Persons of all ages (including children) are welcome to participate in the entire worship service. For an additional option, we have a supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, located on the first floor.

## Junior Worship

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, following the mini message, the option of "Junior Worship" is offered downstairs for elementary age children to learn more about today's scripture lessons with fellow youth.

## Restrooms

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

## Changing Tables

All four of our restrooms have changing tables. Each restroom has two "child care protection seats" to keep toddlers safe and secure while their parents use the restroom.

## Water Fountains

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

## Sunday School & Adult Faith Formation Classes

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

## 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}*



www.sprucc.org



Free WiFi

## **Virtual Worship Service**

Online: [Live Stream](#) at [sprucc.org](http://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

*If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610-621-5770 or [Office@sprucc.org](mailto: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

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*{If you have not already done so,  
please sign and pass the pew welcome pad  
to the person next to you.}*

### PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP <sup>®</sup> (Unison)

**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit of Glory, shine your face upon us, illumine our lives,  
enable us to be open to your blessings and to share your love and caring with the  
people around us. Amen.**

### PRELUDE

*{Those who are able, please rise}*

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN**    *"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"*

♫ Blue #277  
*Public Domain*

### \*INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of God the Father, and of God the Son, and of God the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen.**

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP - *from Psalm 148*

Leader: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;

**People: praise God in the heights.**

Leader: Praise the Lord, all you angels;

**People: sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

Leader: Praise the Lord, sun and moon;

**People: sing praise, all you shining stars.**

Leader: Let them praise the name of the Lord,

**People: who commanded, and they were created.**

## 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<sup>®</sup> (Leader)

God of love and protection and forgiveness, hear now our confession of sins which separate us from you.

### \*CONFESSION OF SIN<sup>®</sup> (Unison)

**Holy Three-In-One, you are the source of glory; we are the reflection of your glory. Sometimes we are a good reflection, sometimes not so good. We are like the moon to your sun. Sometimes our position is not in direct relationship to your glowing beams of love and direction. Your beams do not change. Our reception of your beams is sometimes lacking. We are distracted by our selfish thinking and acting. Pull us into your direct beams so that our lives will reflect your glory more clearly.**

### \*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

### \*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY

*"Kyrie"*

*♪ Red #518  
Public Domain*

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.**

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON<sup>®</sup> (Leader)

"Dear Earthlings," says God, "Behold the glory all around you. Claim it, share it, let it reside in you and shine forth. Know that my glory will push the evil from you. Believe this. Know that you are forgiven!" say the Holy Three.

### \*CALL TO PRAISE<sup>®</sup>

Leader: May the glory of God shine through us!  
People: **May we proclaim this glory to the world!**

### \*SUNG PRAISE

*"Go Tell It On The Mountain"*

*W&R #218  
Text: John W. Work  
Music: African American Spiritual*

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

*{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:** [Isaiah 63:7-9](#)  
**Second Lesson:** [Hebrews 2:10-18](#)

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

**Gospel Lesson:** [Matthew 2:13-23](#)

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

**HYMN**      *"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night"*

♫ *Blue #272*  
*Public Domain*

### MINI-MESSAGE

**CONGREGATION SINGS**      *"Jesus Loves the Little Children"*      Adapted Words of Traditional Chorus  
**Jesus loves the little children,  
All the children of the world.  
Shy and quiet, glad and bright,  
They are treasures in his sight.  
Jesus blesses all the children of the world.**

**SERMON**      *"The Glory In Baby Jesus"*

## 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 - from the UCC Statement of Faith (Unison)**

*(Section One about God)*

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,  
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:  
You call the worlds into being,  
create persons in your own image,  
and set before each one the ways of life and death.  
You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.  
You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through  
prophets and apostles.  
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen**

*{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: God of grace,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

### **SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"**

*♩ Blue #501  
George Whelpton  
Public Domain*

**Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord.  
Hear our prayer, O Lord, and grant us Thy peace. 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.**

## OFFERTORY INVITATION <sup>®</sup>

Leader: God, thank you for your provision.

**People: Yes, your provision for the growth of our food.**

Leader: Yes, your provision of knowledge and ability.

**People: Yes, your provision of cooperation among ourselves.**

Leader: Let us not assume the glory for our success.

**People: The glory belongs to you, O God!**

## MUSICAL OFFERTORY

### 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 St. Paul's UCC 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  
or Zion UCC; PO Box 97; Womelsdorf, PA 19567}.*

*{Those who are able, please rise}*

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**      *"We Give Thee But Thine Own"*

**W&R #688**

Public Domain

*How/Foley*

**We give thee but thine own whate'er the gift may be.  
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER <sup>®</sup>** *(Leader)*

Thank you for your provision and for our stewardship of your provision. Guide us!  
Inspire us to give our first-fruits - from the top. Help us to watch what happens to our  
thinking and our living. We pray in the name of Jesus whose glory shines through us.

**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 <sup>®</sup>**

Leader: We go forth into the world shining with the glory of God.

**People: Not everything is perfect out there.**

Leader: Definitely not perfect.

**People: May God help us to find the good and magnify it.**

Leader: May God help us to stifle the ugly.

**People: We will be in partnership with God to overcome the evil with God's glory!**

**\*BENEDICTION <sup>®</sup>**

**\*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

♪ **Red #558**  
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**\*SENDING HYMN**

*"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"*

♪ **Blue #271**  
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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.}*

**POSTLUDE**

**Fellowship Is On Hold Until Next Sunday**

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



### **The Flow of the Worship Service**

Our worship service has an intentional order to it. The flow of worship is called the liturgical movement. The movement reminds us weekly of our journey in faith of moving from being separated from God by sin, to being restored by God's grace as disciples of Christ. It is based on the sixth chapter of the Biblical book of Isaiah.

- (1) God welcomes us and invites us
- (2) We respond to God's call by 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



### **Worship Service Resource Credits**

Biblical quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible (1989) by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> *Gathered By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.

<sup>3</sup> Reprinted with permission from *Sundays and Seasons*. (2020). Augsburg Fortress.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> Reprinted with permission from *Sourcebook of Worship Services*

<sup>6</sup> scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America

<sup>7</sup> Reprinted with permission from *Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ*. (2013).

<sup>8</sup> *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.

<sup>9</sup> 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

<sup>10</sup> Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.

<sup>11</sup> Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.

<sup>12</sup> The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

<sup>13</sup> The Rev. Mary Etta Mest

<sup>14</sup> *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).

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### **United Church of Christ of Robesonia**

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Consistory President: Elsa Wertz

Consistory Vice President: George McLain

Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

Treasurer: Terry Pastor

Financial Secretary: Geneva Aulenbach



Link to Website's  
Upcoming Events

## About Today

**Church season - Christmas** - 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 is from the evening of December 24 through January 6.

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

**White** - symbolizes Christ as the Light of the World, the purity of Christ, and the Kingdom of God. 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 A**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Matthew.

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).

### Sunday, January 1st- Lectionary Reading for the First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

#### Isaiah

The book of Isaiah (OT) is attributed to three prophets. The first of whom is from where the book gets its name, and is about Isaiah's call to become a prophet and his prophecy that Jerusalem will face God's judgement regarding its immorality in order to be God's Holy City (chaps. 1-39, written 738-688 B.C.), the second is about living in exile in Babylon (chaps. 40-55, written 597-539 B.C.), and the third is about the return from exile to Judah and the rebuilding of the Temple (chaps. 56-66, written 520-515 B.C.). A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct.

#### Psalm 148

This OT hymn, written sometime after 538 B.C. calls upon all of creation to give praise to God.

#### Hebrews

The Epistle (letter) to the Hebrews (NT) is attributed to the Apostle Paul, believed to be written between 60-95 A.D. (C.E.). 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 Matthew

Matthew's Gospel was written around 80-90 A.D. in Antioch, Syria by a Greek-speaking Jewish Christian. The first writing was probably by a Christian scribe who wrote in the name of Matthew. Matthew was a disciple who knew Jesus personally.

### Next Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>- Lectionary Reading for the Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

# Hark! the Herald Angels Sing 277

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace. Luke 2:14

F C C F A F C C F A Am Bb2 Bb6 Gm F C F

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!  
 3. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!

F C C Dm F C Dm G7 Am G B C C E FM7 G7 C

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb:  
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.

N.C. F A C7 E F C C N.C. F A C7 F C C

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that men no more may die,

Bb BbM9 Gm D Gm C Bb F A F C C F

With th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

Refrain Bb BbM9 Gm D Gm Gm C C Bb F A F C C7 F

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

Optional segue to "Angels We Have Heard on High." No transition is needed.

# While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks 272

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. Luke 2:8

1. While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, All seat - ed  
 2. "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread Had seized their  
 3. "To you, in Da - vid's town this day Is born, of  
 4. "The heav'n - ly Babe you there shall find To hu - man  
 5. "All glo - ry be to God on high And to the

on the ground, The an - gel of the Lord came down,  
 trou - bled mind, "Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring  
 Da - vid's line, The Sav - ior, who is Christ the Lord;  
 view dis - played, All mean - ly wrapped in swath - ing bands,  
 earth be peace. Good - will hence - forth from heav'n to men

And glo - ry shone a - round, And glo - ry shone a - round.  
 To you and all man - kind, To you and all man - kind.  
 And this shall be the sign, And this shall be the sign:  
 And in a man - ger laid, And in a man - ger laid.  
 Be - gin and nev - er cease, Be - gin and nev - er cease!"

TEXT: Nahum Tate  
 MUSIC: George Frederick Handel; from Weyman's, *Melodia Sacra*, 1815

CHRISTMAS  
 C.M with Repeats

# 271 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice, O earth! For the Lord comforts His people. Isaiah 49:13

G G<sup>4</sup> G D7 G/D D/C G/B D/A G G/D D

> 1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore You, God of glo - ry, Lord of light;  
 > 2. All Your works de - clare Your glo - ry; All cre - a - tion joins to sing.

G C/G G7 B<sup>o</sup>/C C CM<sup>9</sup> Am/C G/D D7 G/D D7 G

An - gels lift - ing praise be - fore You Sing thro' - out this ho - ly night.  
 Praise re - sounds as earth re - joic - es In the birth of Christ, the King.

D G/D D G/D D7 G/D D G/D D7 B/D# B7 Em A D

In a man - ger lies a Ba - by - Child of Mar - y, Son of God.  
 Shep - herds kneel be - fore the In - fant. Trum - pets sound and an - thems raise

G C/G G7 B<sup>o</sup>/C C CM<sup>9</sup> Am/C G/D D7 G/D D7 G

Voic - es joined in joy - ful cho - rus Praise You for Your gift of love.  
 As with joy our hearts are lift - ed, Joined in won - der, love, and praise.

Optional choral or extended ending

BIRTH

*ff* G G<sup>4</sup> G/F C<sup>2</sup>/E C/E C<sup>m</sup>/E<sup>b</sup> C<sup>m6</sup>/E<sup>b</sup> G/D D7 G/D D<sup>sus</sup> D G

Joy - ful now our hearts are lift - ed, Joined in won - der, love, and praise.

The end of REJOICE WITH EXCEEDING GREAT JOY! - A Worship Sequence

TEXT: Linda Lee Johnson

HYMN TO JOY

MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven; adapted by Edward Hodges; Choral ending by Eugene Thomas

8.7.8.7.D.

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