

*St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Robesonia
&
Zion United Church of Christ in Womelsdorf*

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.*



*Service of Closing the
Separate Individual Congregations
of
St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Robesonia
&
Zion United Church of Christ in Womelsdorf*

† † †

January 7, 2023
10:15am

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 2nd and 3rd 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



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[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

ORDER FOR TIMES OF PASSAGE

We Gather

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

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 ^① *(Unison)*

Eternal God, companion of all who seek you, and seeker of all who turn away from you, draw near to us that we may draw near to you, and grant us the grace to love and to serve you that we may find in your will our true freedom; through Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"*

♪ Red #324

Public Domain

***INVOCATION**

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

ALL: Amen.

***INTROIT** ^④

Leader: The Lord is in his holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him.

ALL: O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Leader: God is a Spirit;

ALL: and they that worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.

Leader: Arise, shine; for thy light is come,

ALL: and the glory of the Lord is risen!

We Repent

*CALL TO CONFESSION ^① (Leader)

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Leader: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

*CONFESSION OF SIN ^{①②} (Unison)

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We turn over to you any unkind word, thought, or action we had as a member of our church. We pray for forgiveness when we had not responded as faithfully as we should to give of our time, talent, and treasure to further the ministry of Christ through his church, when we had not ministered to our community as zealously as we should have, and when we had not served, supported, rebuked, encouraged, and prayed for one another as faithfully as we should have.

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Release us from the sins and shortcomings of the past. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*ASSURANCE FOR FORGIVENESS ^①

Leader: Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether; the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

ALL: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: O Lord open our lips,

People: And our mouths shall sing forth your praise.

*SUNG RESPONSE OF PRAISE

"Gloria Patri"

♪ *Red #491*

Anonymous

Public Domain

**Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.**

{Please be seated}

We Hear the Word of God

PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Old Testament - Lesson from the Torah: [Exodus 25:1, 8; 29:43-46](#)

Old Testament - Lesson from the Psalms (book of songs): Psalm 18:1-3, 6, 16, 18b

Leader: Let us praise God with the Psalm....

ALL: I love you, O LORD, my strength.

The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Leader: I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,

People: so I shall be saved from my enemies.

Leader: In my distress I called upon the LORD;

People: to my God I cried for help.

Leader: From his temple he heard my voice,

People: and my cry to him reached his ears.

Leader: He reached down from on high,

People: he took me;

Leader: he drew me out of mighty waters.

People: the LORD was my support.

Leader: For this

ALL: I will extol you, O LORD, among the nations, and sing praises to your name.

New Testament Letter: [Ephesians 4:1-8, 11-16, 22-25, 32](#)

New Testament Gospel Lesson: [Matthew 16:15-19; 18:18-22](#)

GREETING ^① *(Leader)*

A church family is constantly changing.

People come and go.

Babies are born.

Children grow up.

People commit themselves to one another.

Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their mortal lives.

Individuals move into our community and church life.

Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities.

It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings.

Today we share the time of farewell of these two separate individual congregations.

We lift up to God in prayer our past, that we might find meaningful closure to this one chapter, in order to more faithfully, fully, and enthusiastically move into the many more future chapters yet to come, with renewed hope, energy, faith, expectation, and openness to the leading of the Holy Spirit of the amazing, fulfilling, meaningful ministries and lives to be touched in the days and years to come.

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE AND RELEASE

WORDS TO GOD

BLESSING OF INCENSE

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.**

HYMN

"O God, In Whose Great Purpose"

♪ *Red #454*

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We Respond with Thanks

{Those who are able, please rise}

***Affirmation of Faith** *(Unison)* - *adapted from the Preamble of the our church's Constitution*

We acknowledge as the sole Head of the church, Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior.

We acknowledge as kindred in Christ all who share in this confession.

We look to the Word of God in the Scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world.

We claim as our own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers.

We affirm the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God.

In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, we recognize two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion. Amen.

{please be seated}

HYMN

"The Church's One Foundation"

♪ *Red #322*

One License #A-728042

ENDING OF THE FORMER CHURCHES ①⑩

Leader: In 1792 Zion German Reformed Church was founded in Womelsdorf; in 1867 the congregation became Zion Reformed Church; in 1934 became Zion Evangelical & Reformed Church; and in 1957 became Zion United Church of Christ.

In 1876 St. Daniel's Reformed Church was founded in Robesonia.

In 1888 St. Paul's Reformed Church was founded in Robesonia.

In 1903 they merged to become St. Paul's Reformed Church in Robesonia; in 1934 the congregation became St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church; and in 1957 became St. Paul's United Church of Christ.

Leader: These congregations have sought to faithfully serve their community, their members, and the world in the name of Jesus Christ as the Body of Christ.

People: We give thanks to Zion United Church of Christ; St. Daniel's Reformed Church; St. Paul's Reformed Church; and St. Paul's United Church of Christ.

We give thanks to the people and relationships formed within our church. We give thanks for the love, kindness, and support received over the years within our church.

We ask for the forgiveness of one another for our mistakes. And, as we ask of that forgiveness of each other, we offer that same forgiveness to each other.

We pray that the influence of our faith and faithfulness will not merely carry on into our new church, but form a firm foundation from which even more of God's children will come to know the love and grace of God and the love and fellowship of fellow members of a loving family of faith.

Leader: On behalf of the Covenant Association within the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, I witness to the words spoken: words of thankfulness, forgiveness, release, hope, and expectation. The member churches and leadership of our association and conference hold all of you in prayer. We pledge our support in the transitions signified in this service.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: O God, we give thanks for remembered times when we, together, have shared the life of faith. We thank you for the moments we have shared with all the saints of our churches in the past in worship, in learning, in prayer, in service, in church dinners, events, and ministries. We pray that we will be aware of your Spirit's guidance as we move to new and unknown places, in the name of Jesus the Savior.

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

We Are Sent Out

COMMISSION ^①

Leader: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;

ALL: We seek
to be of good courage;
to hold fast to that which is good;
to render no one evil for evil;
to strengthen the fainthearted;
to support the weak;
to help the afflicted;
to honor all people;
to be welcoming and inclusive of our new church family; and
to love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*HYMN

"They'll Know We Are Christians"

♩ Blue #429
One License #A-728042

*DEPART FOR THE FIRE RING

*ADDING THE INCENSE TO THE FIRE

*PRAYER

*PLACING OUR LETTERS IN THE FIRE

*BENEDICTION ^①

Leader: Go now, surrounded by God's love, surrounded by the love of one another, and led by the promises of God, the presence of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen and Amen.



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



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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
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 - ⑪ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
 - ⑫ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
 - ⑬ The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
 - ⑭ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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Seraphim Incense

Seraphim Incense is made of smoothly blended frankincense (one of the three gifts of the magi). Frankincense is mentioned in the Bible 19 times. Seraphim is one of the most popular blends of incense to use during worship, in part because of its name and because it is one of the best known incenses found in scripture. Also, in part because seraphim is a milder blend -- the aroma is not as strong -- and therefore not as distracting for those who are not used to incense - particularly when used indoors.

Seraphim are six winged angels. Seraphim is plural, and seraph is singular. Seraphim are the “angelic choirs of angels” that stand closest to the throne of God and continually sing the “Seraphic Hymn,” which is the “Holy, holy, holy” that we commonly sing during communion services.

Seraph literally means “burning ones.” In Isaiah 6, the prophet Isaiah’s ministry begins with a seraph touching his mouth with a live coal, saying to him “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” St. Thomas Aquinas gives three important characteristics of fire that give seraphim their name: (1) fire is always and continuously moving upwards, seraphim without exception move towards God; (2) fire cleanses completely, seraphim seek purity before God; and (3) fire is bright and gives light to others, seraphim enlighten others with their inextinguishable pure light.

In Christianity, there are commonly 7-9 classifications of angels. These are commonly organized into three spheres: those in the heavenly realm: Seraphim, Cherubim, and Thrones; those focused on cosmic affairs: Dominions, Virtues, and Powers; and those engaged in human matters: Principalities; Archangels; and Angels (also known as messenger angels).

In Judaism, seraphim is the fifth of 10 ranks of angels. From highest to lowest: Chayot Ha Kodesh, Ophanim, Erelim, Hashmallim, Seraphim, Malakhim (messenger angels), Elohim (Godly beings), Bene Elohim (sons of Godly beings), Cherubim, and Ishim (manlike beings).

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The Church

REGENT SQUARE



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

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


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.



Youth and Schools

454

JAMES GORDON GILKEY, 1912
UNISON. *With spirit*

7. 6. 8. 6. D.

GRESHAM
GEOFFREY TURTON SHAW

1. O God, in whose great pur - pose An age is but a day, Who
2. A - gain, with vi - sion kin - dled, We sons of la - ter days Lift

watch - est sun give place to sun And plan - ets burn a - way; In
ea - ger hands as here we wait Be - side the part - ing ways. A

Thee our fa - thers trust - ed, For Thee they dared the sea, And
cross Thine earth we scat - ter To meet the tasks of men: O

Thou didst teach their fee - ble hands To shape a world for Thee.
God of strength, be Thou to us Our fa - thers' God a - gain! A-MEN.

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The Church


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SAMUEL J. STONE, 1866



7. 6. 7. 6. D.

AURELIA
SAMUEL S. WESLEY, 1864



In moderate time, with breadth and dignity





1. The Church's one Foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
2. E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth,
3. 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, And tu - mult of her war,
4. Yet she on earth hath un - ion With God the Three in One,




She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the word:
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion One Lord, one faith, one birth;
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more;
And mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion With those whose rest is won:



From heaven He came and sought her To be His ho - ly Bride;
One ho - ly Name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es, With ev - ery grace en - dued.
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
Like them, the meek and low - ly, On high may dwell with Thee. A-MEN.



429 They'll Know We Are Christians

By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another. John 13:35

Unison

1. We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
 2. We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
 3. We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
 4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come.

5. We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
 6. We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
 7. We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
 8. And all praise to Christ Je - sus, His on - ly Son.

9. And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.
 10. And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
 11. And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride.
 12. And all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one.

Refrain N.C.

13. And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love.

14. Yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

TEXT: Peter Scholtes; based on John 13:35
 MUSIC: Peter Scholtes

ST. BRENDAN'S
 Irregular meter

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