

The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org

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



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

+ † +

February 12, 2023
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
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 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

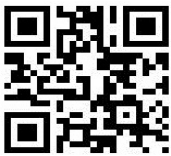
If you are looking for a new church family home, we would be happy for you to consider United Church of Christ of Robesonia. For more information about our church, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our church.

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 - Live or Watch & Listen Later on [Our YouTube Channel](#)

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

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

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 ② (Unison)

Gracious God, we come to you as people of the flesh whose spirits are underdeveloped and undisciplined. We make decisions without giving consideration to your will for us. We pursue desires that divert our attention away from your call to us. We make gods of our possessions, our work, our hobbies, even our families. We need to experience your presence and power to bring us to obedience. Make yourself known to us, we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE

"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart"
Handbell Choir

arr. by Lloyd Larson

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him"

*♩ Blue #82
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 ②

Leader: Happy are those who seek God with their whole heart.
Their eyes are fixed on all that God commands.

**People: We have come to reflect together on God's law.
It is hard to hear, in other places, what God expects.**

Leader: Ready yourselves to receive all that God supplies.
Attune your hearts to God's promises and warnings.

**People: We expect to be challenged as well as encouraged.
We seek to know and follow the way of life.**

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 ② (Leader)

The apostle Paul confronted the church at Corinth with their jealousy and quarreling. Jesus preached about anger, dishonesty, and estrangement in ways that called for radical reconciliation. Everything that strains our relationship with others also distances us from God. That is why we come to this time of confession. Let us confess our sins before God and before one another. Let us pray....

*CONFESSION OF SIN ② (Unison)

O God, you know the pain of all our broken relationships. Some we have tried to mend, and others we have tried to ignore. We feel your judgment on our estrangements. O God, we ask for courage to admit our mistakes and overcome them. Show us what we can do to right the wrongs for which we are responsible, and forgive, we pray, what cannot be changed. Empower us as reconcilers and servants of your way. Amen.

*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 ② (Leader)

God wants to forgive us, but there is no cheap grace for those of us unwilling to change. To all who seek to give up jealousy, insults, anger, quarreling, adultery, self-centered pride--and all else that separates us from God's path, God offers a new life. There is solid food to nurture us in new ways. God draws us into the community of forgiven and forgiving sinners, in which we support and help one another. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE ②

Leader: The true light of Christ, which enlightens everyone, has come into the world.
People: **We praise God, for the light shines and overcomes all darkness.**

**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

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: [Deuteronomy 30:15-20](#)

Second Lesson: [1 Corinthians 3:1-9](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson: [Matthew 5:21-37](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"If I Have Wounded Any Soul Today"

CSH (Rodeheaver) #266

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MINI-MESSAGE

CONGREGATION SINGS

"Jesus Loves Me"

W&R #437

Anna B. Warner, William B. Bradbury

One License #A-728042

**Jesus loves me, this I know, For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. They are weak but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.**

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.*

OFFERTORY INVITATION ②

Leader: Our spending priorities measure our loyalties.

People: They reveal who or what is really our God.

Leader: Through the church, we return to God a portion of all that God entrusts to our stewardship.

People: We give in thankfulness to God.

Leader: How thankful are we?

People: Our thankfulness is revealed through our giving.

CHORAL 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 our secure Online Giving option on our website at sprucc.org. Click Here
Offerings may also be mailed to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.*

{Those who are able, please rise}

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

W&R #688
How/Foley Public Domain

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. Amen.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER ② (Leader)**

Faithful God, we give in gratitude for your abundant gifts to us. You have not forsaken us when we were unfaithful. You have not abandoned us in the pits of our own making. You keep calling to us when we pursue other gods. As we offer our tokens of thanks today, we hear you sending us out to mend broken relationships. Our offering is not a substitute for our own engagement in your reconciling work. Go with us to help us as we accept the assignments you give us. **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.

Affirmation of Baptism ①

Order for Reception Into Membership

***INVITATION** (*Leader*)

We invite those who wish to affirm their baptism by uniting together in this household of faith to please rise, as you are able.

***QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES**

Leader: Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Leader: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Leader: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Candidates: I do.

Leader: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Saviour, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

Leader: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world.

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

Leader: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

***ADDRESS** (*Leader*)

By our baptism we were made one in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in our pilgrimage of faith which has brought us to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been our spiritual home, and we celebrate our shared presence in this household of faith.

***MUTUAL MINISTRY**

Leader: Let us express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

Members: We welcome one another with joy in the common life of this church. We promise one another our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

***PRAYER (Leader)**

Let us pray...

Eternal God, we praise you for calling us to be your servant people and for gathering us into the body of Christ. May we work together in serving the needs of others. Confirm in us the power of your covenant that we may live in your Spirit, share regularly in worship, and so love each other that we may have among us the same mind which was in Christ Jesus, to whom be all honor and glory.

Amen.

***WELCOME AND RECEPTION**

Leader: Welcome into the United Church of Christ of Robesonia.

People: Thanks be to God.

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 ②**

Leader: Go out as people confronted by the living God.

Dare to be reconcilers bringing peace, recognizing your own need to be reconciled to others.

People: God sends us out to mend broken relationships.

May we do no wrong, and walk in God's ways.

Leader: Choose life, by loving and obeying God.

Seek daily to partake of spiritual food.

People: We will study to know what God expects of us.

May we learn, keep, and share God's righteous ordinances.

ALL: Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

***SENDING HYMN**

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

NCH #396
One License #A-728042

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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

Join Us For Fellowship and Food in Miller Fellowship Hall

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

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 - ⑦ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑦ 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.
 - ⑨ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
 - ⑩ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
 - ⑩ The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
 - ⑫ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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Consistory President: Elsa Wertz

Consistory Vice President: George McLain

Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

About Today

Church Season: Epiphany - Season of the manifestation of God incarnate to the world. In Greek “phan” is “shine” or “manifest,” and “epi” is “upon.” The season of Epiphany continues from January 6 until Ash Wednesday.

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

Green- symbolizing this season of mission - the incarnate Christ has been made manifest to us on Epiphany and we are to go into the world and share his Good News.

Sunday, February 12th- Lectionary Reading for the Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 *or* Sirach 15:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

Deuteronomy

The book of Deuteronomy (OT) is a part of the Pentateuch (first five books of the OT, or Torah, or one of the five most central books in Judaism). This book is traditionally attributed to the authorship of Moses. Much of the book is another listing of the laws to the Israelites when they arrived at the eastern edge of the Jordan River before entering the promised land, previously given to them on Mt. Sinai (also known as Mt. Horeb). The word Deuteronomy means “second law-giving”, and is dated between 721-535 B.C.

Psalm 119

This is an OT wisdom song. This song gives praise to God’s law and the teaching of it. In its original Hebrew, it has an alphabetic acrostic form, which means that every other verse begins with a successive letter of the alphabet. With 176 verses, it is also the longest psalm.

The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

This NT Epistle (letter) was written by the Apostle Paul between 53-54 A.D. to a gentile congregation he had founded several years earlier in Corinth (the capital city of the Roman province of Achaia, a large and prospering urban center that was ethnically, culturally, and religiously diverse). This letter is in response to issues within the Corinthian church, in particular factions caused by one-upmanship and privatization of faith. Paul encourages humility, unity within diversity, and witnessing to God’s grace. Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and church leader, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus’ ascension into heaven. Paul wrote more of the NT than any other person.

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, February 19th- Lectionary Reading for Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2 *or* Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

82 Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise the Lord from the earth. Psalm 148:1, 7

E \flat E \flat ⁴ E \flat B \flat B \flat ⁷/_D E \flat B \flat ⁷ E \flat A \flat E \flat B \flat ⁷/_D E \flat F \flat m C \flat m B \flat

1. Praise the Lord! ye heav'ns, a - dore Him; Praise Him, an - gels, in the height.
 2. Praise the Lord! for He is glo - rious; Nev - er shall His prom - ise fail.
 3. Wor - ship, hon - or, glo - ry, bless - ing, Lord, we of - fer un - to Thee.

E \flat E \flat ⁴ E \flat B \flat B \flat ⁷/_D E \flat B \flat ⁷ E \flat A \flat E \flat B \flat ⁷/_D E \flat F \flat m C \flat m B \flat

Sun and moon, re - jice be - fore Him; Praise Him, all ye stars of light.
 God hath made His saints vic - to - rious; Sin and death shall not pre - vail.
 Young and old, Thy praise ex - press - ing, In glad hom - age bend the knee.

B \flat E \flat /_{B \flat} B \flat F \flat m E \flat /_{B \flat} B \flat B \flat E \flat /_{A \flat} E \flat /_G F \flat m B \flat ⁷ C \flat m F \flat ⁷ B \flat

Praise the Lord! for He hath spo - ken; Worlds His might - y voice o - beyed.
 Praise the God of our sal - va - tion! Hosts on high, His pow'r pro - claim.
 All the saints in heav'n a - dore Thee; We would bow be - fore Thy throne.

E \flat /_G E \flat M⁷/_G A \flat E \flat A \flat E \flat /_G B \flat /_D E \flat B \flat B \flat /_{A \flat} E \flat /_G A \flat E \flat /_{B \flat} G \flat m B \flat ⁷ E \flat

Laws which nev - er shall be bro - ken For their guid - ance hath He made.
 Heav'n and earth, and all cre - a - tion, Laud and mag - ni - fy His name.
 As Thine an - gels serve be - fore Thee, So on earth Thy will be done.

AN EVENING PRAYER

C. M. Battersby
Arr. by C. H. G.

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Chas. H. Gabriel

1. If I have wound-ed an - y soul to - day, If I have caused one
 2. If I have ut - tered i - die words or vain, If I have turned a -
 3. If I have been per - verse, or hard, or cold, If I have longed for
 4. For - give the sins I have con - fessed to Thee; For - give the se - cret

foot to go a - stray, If I have walked in my own will - ful way,
 side from want or pain, Lest I of - fend some oth - er thru the strain,
 shel - ter in the fold, When Thou hast giv - en me some fort to hold,
 sins I do not see; O guide me, love me, and my keep - er be.

Verses 1, 2 & 3. *D.C.* 4th Verse only.

1-3. Dear Lord, for - give (for - give)!
 [Omit.] 4. [Inst. only.] A - men (A - men).

Where Charity and Love Prevail

396

Latin hymn, "Ubi caritas et amor," 9th century

John 13:34-35; 15:9-12; 2 Cor. 5:17-20; 1 John 4:7-21

Paraphr. by Omer Westendorf, 1961; alt.

With freedom



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found; Brought
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear true char - i - ty we learn; Let
3 For - give we now each oth - er's faults as we our faults con - fess; And
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known, let all con - ten - tion cease; Be



here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.
us with heart and mind and strength now love Christ in re - turn.
let us love each oth - er well in Chris - tian ho - li - ness.
Christ the glo - ry that we seek, be ours Christ's ho - ly peace.

Believed to date from the time of Charlemagne (768-814), this hymn was, before Vatican II (1962-1965), the last and indispensable song during the Maundy Thursday foot-washing service. Benedictine priest Paul Benoit composed many organ works.

Tune: CHRISTIAN LOVE C.M.

Paul Benoit, 1961

Alternate tune: ST. FLAVIAN