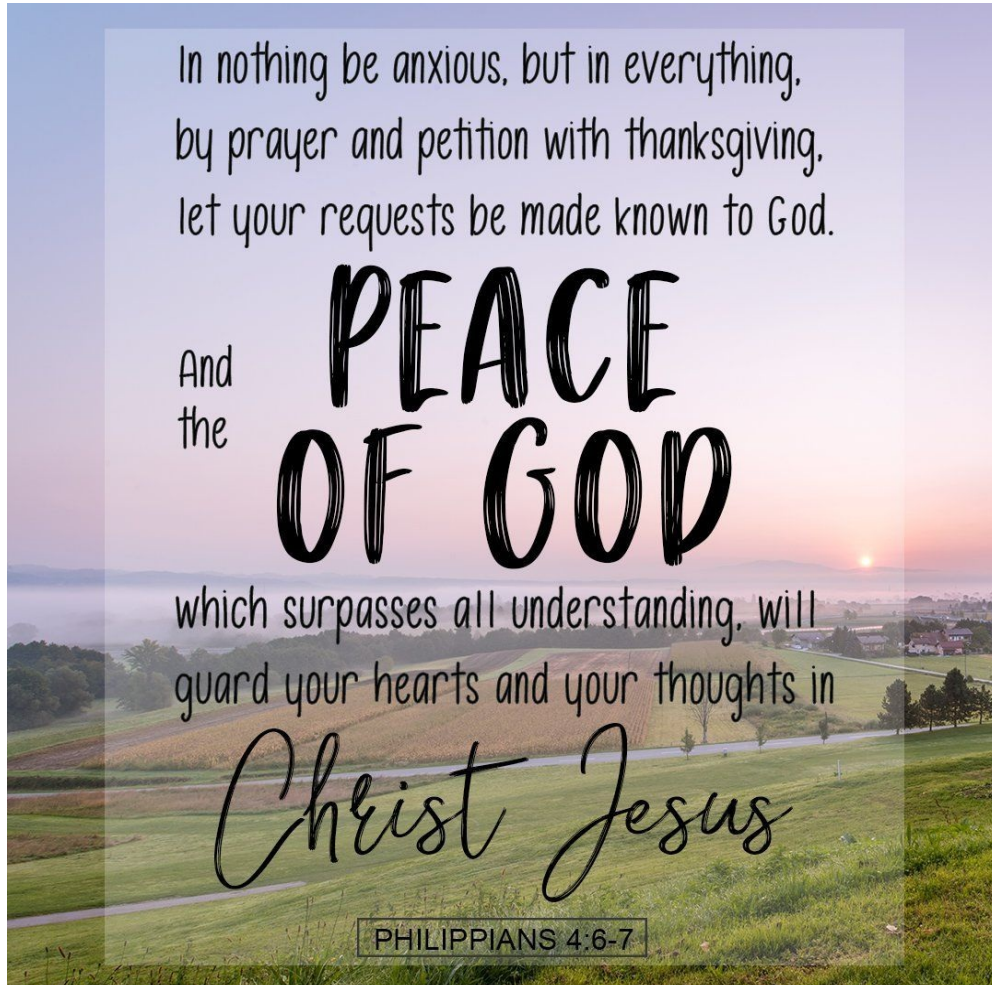


# The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

610-621-5770 -- [office@sprucc.org](mailto:office@sprucc.org) -- [www.sprucc.org](http://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**

+++

**Sunday, October 15, 2023**  
**20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Consecrating Stewards Sunday**

# 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. Please see Nursery Coordinators, Laurie Ostimchuk, Beth Miller & Geri Gammel if you are in need of the nursery.

## 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.

## Youth Group

Our Youth Group, for those in grades 5-12 (or ages 12-20 years old), meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Last Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:00pm. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

## Young Children & Family Ministries

This ministry's focus is on children younger than youth group and their families, and most of the monthly activities are welcoming of children of all ages. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

## 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}*

## **Virtual Worship Service**

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



[www.sprucc.org](http://www.sprucc.org)



Free WiFi

# ORDER FOR WORSHIP

## We Gather

*We are coming together as a community of faith to worship our God,  
and provide for one another our love, support, and care.*

### A TIME OF GATHERING

### RINGING OF THE BELL

### WELCOME & 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)

**Gracious God, you have invited and welcomed us to this place of worship. You draw us away from the idols we create to take your place. When we come together, we sense that there is nothing in life that can substitute for a vital relationship with you. Yet we are only dimly aware of who you are. All the mysteries of the universe are in your hands, yet you have made yourself known among the people of this earth. We catch glimpses of your work among us and are amazed. We want to meet you again today, as for the first time. Touch us. Remake us. Help us to stand firm in the faith. Amen.**

### PIANO PRELUDE

*"Shall We Gather at the River" arranged for piano by Victor Labenske*

*{Those who are able, please rise}*

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*

*♩ Red #472  
Public Domain*

### \*INVOCATION

Leader: We worship in the name of God the Father, and of God the Son, and of God the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen**

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>®</sup>

Leader: Come away from the valleys of misplaced loyalty.  
Come, seeking to meet the God of all worlds.

**People: We have come to praise God and give thanks.  
We believe God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Leader: We come together that our faith might be strengthened.  
We seek the strength to live by all we profess.

**People: God's awesome deeds saved our ancestors.  
Surely God's steadfast love continues with us.**

## 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 is not fooled by our pious words of faith. God knows our fascination with golden calves—with pastimes and possessions that take our attention and resources every day. Like our ancestors before us, we have sinned and deserve God's wrath. As Moses implored God to spare the Hebrew people, we bring our petitions, seeking a fresh start. Let us confess our sins before God and before one another. Let us pray....

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

**God of mercy, you have planted within us a desire to observe justice and do righteousness. We want to be fair and honorable, delighting in life shared openly and honestly with family, friends, and co-workers. Instead, too often we are defensive, fearful, and distracted. We spend more time with our toys and sources of entertainment than with studying your Word to learn your Truth. We are tempted to put our faith in saving finances, rather than in our discipleship of following and trusting in the leading of your Holy Spirit. We often seek temporary thrills rather than lasting meaning. Then we are disappointed when our "golden calves" bring no fulfillment. We return to you, loving God, intent on following the guidance we are receiving from you. Save us from ourselves. Amen.**

### \*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

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

Rejoice, knowing that God is always near. Our thanksgiving and our supplications are always heard. The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Find joyous focus for life in all that is honorable, just, pure, and excellent. Know that your goodwill is pleasing to God. You are chosen by God to share in the mind of Christ. **Amen.**

### \*CALL TO PRAISE<sup>®</sup>

*{adapted from 2 Corinthians 9:8-9}*

Leader: God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work

People: **We praise the One who gives to the poor and whose righteousness endures for ever.**

**\*SUNG PRAISE**

*"God You Give" vs. 1*

W&R #466

**God you give good gifts to me,  
Thus I live so gratefully.  
You enrich all of my days,  
Now I come to sing your praise.  
Now I come to sing your praise.**

*Tune: Hendon; Words: Earl D. Miller  
Reproduced with permission under the Consecrating Stewards program*

*{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**

**Old Testament Lesson from the Prophet Isaiah: [Isaiah 25:1-9](#)**

**New Testament Letter from Paul to the church in Philippi: [Philippians 4:1-9](#)**

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**New Testament Gospel (Good News): [Matthew 22:1-14](#)**

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**MINI-MESSAGE** *Children & young people may leave to go to Jr. Worship downstairs after the Mini-Message.*

### **CHILDREN'S SONG**

*"This Is the Day"*

W&R #652

*Les Garrett*

**This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;  
we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.**

**This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.**

### **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.*

HYMN

"God You Give" vs. 1,2,3

W&R #466

**God you give good gifts to me,  
Thus I live so gratefully.  
You enrich all of my days,  
Now I come to sing your praise.  
Now I come to sing your praise.**

**Praise for life and friends and food,  
Praise for giving all that's good.  
Praise for Jesus Christ your son,  
Praise for loving ev'ryone.  
Praise for loving ev'ryone.**

**Now I come to give myself,  
Give my time and give my wealth.  
Give my gifts as generously  
As, O God, you give to me.  
As, O God you give to me.**

*Tune: Hendon; Words: Earl D. Miller  
Reproduced with permission under the Consecrating Stewards program*

### **CONSECRATION OF STEWARDS**

*The rite of consecration of stewards is one in which we, as members of the Body of Christ and as members of this one household of faith, pray for God's guidance and seek God's blessing in our use of the gifts that God has so graciously given us. During this service we consecrate (bless) our hands for service to God. It is on this day that we make our Faith Promises to God before the altar of God for the upcoming year, prayerfully committing the first fruits of our labors. In doing so, we renew our vows to faithfully support the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ through his local church.*

#### **A LITANY OF GIFTS<sup>®</sup>**

Leader: People of God, celebrate the gifts that enrich our lives!

**People: Breath and food, caring people and gentle words, music and colors.**

Leader: Celebrate God who is the giver.

**People: We praise God for knowing what we need and for giving even before we ask.**

Leader: Many of God's gifts surprise us:

**People: Like the hug of a child, words of encouragement, bright colored blooms from gray buds.**

Leader: Many of God's gifts fulfill us:

**People: New vocational opportunities, courage to stand up for justice, words that say "I love you."**

Leader: Many of God's gifts change us:

**People: Hope when despair rules, forgiveness when sin burdens, "Yes" when we expected "No."**

Leader: Now let our common words thank God.

**People: O God, giver of every good and perfect gift, we thank you for reaching out to us, touching and caring, loving and giving.**

Leader: And let our lives thank God,

**People: Help us, O God, more and more to become giving people, reaching out to those who lack, touching the lonely ones, caring for those who are troubled, living with all in joy and hope and peace, giving gifts of time and self and wealth.**

Leader: In our giving we grow in God's image.

**People: For God is a giver.**

Leader: We become more like the people God made us to be.

**People: For God created us for good.**

Leader: In our giving, we become caring stewards for God.

**People: Today, O God, consecrate our living and our giving.**

**ALL: Amen and Amen!**

**HYMN**

*"God You Give" vs. 4,5,6*

*W&R #466*

**May my life and all I give  
Help this world to richly live.  
May all greed for things decrease  
That your people live in peace.  
That your people live in peace.**

**As a steward help me live.  
Help me care and help me give.  
Help me share your gifts with all.  
Help me answer to your call.  
Help me answer to your call.**

**You are calling and I hear.  
In your presence, I come near,  
Come with gifts that they may be  
Consecrate, God to thee  
Consecrated God to thee.**

*Tune: Hendon; Words: Earl D. Miller  
Reproduced with permission under the Consecrating Stewards program*

## BLESSING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER <sup>9</sup>

Leader: Our Lord and our God, may your blessing come upon us and this water.  
May you consecrate our hands, as we seek to use them according to your will, as stewards of your church and as stewards of all creation.

**People: May your Holy Spirit come upon us, bless us, and work through us, that our hands may reveal your love and grace, through our generosity of time, talent, and treasure.**

**ALL: Amen.**

## ACT OF CONSECRATION

*All of the congregation is invited to come forward for the consecrating of the stewards.*

**Visitors are welcome, as well.**

*You may bring your "Faith Promise to God" card forward at this time, and place it before God's altar, by putting the card in the basket.*

*Our Pastors will be anointing hands with Baptismal Water.*

## 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.**

*{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}*

## OFFERTORY INVITATION <sup>21</sup>

Leader: God invites us to invest our time and resources in ways that build rather than destroy,

**People: in work of lasting value rather than temporary distraction.**

Leader: Through the church,

**People: we seek to offer a quality of life focused on the worth of every individual, on justice for all, and excellence in all things.**

Leader: Because of YOU our church changes lives.

**People: May our tithes, our offerings, and our lives praise God.**

## RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

*{Today, we will be passing the offering plate in person. You may also offer your tithe and offering to God through our secure [Online Giving](https://sprucc.org) option on our website at [sprucc.org](https://sprucc.org) (Click Here), or you may mail your offering to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.*

## VOCAL OFFERTORY

*"Creature Praise"*  
Soloist: Sheri Rowe

*Words and Music by David Matthews*



*{Those who are able, please rise}*

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

**“God You Give” vs. 3**

**W&R #466**

**Now I come to give myself  
Give my time and give my wealth.  
Give my gifts as generously  
As, O God, you give to me.  
As, O God, you give to me.**

*Tune: Hendon; Words: Earl D. Miller  
Reproduced with permission under the Consecrating Stewards program*

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

Gracious Lord, may our tithes and offerings help to prepare many to feast at your banquet table. May our generosity reflect the amazing abundance you entrust to our care. As we find joy in giving, may others be inspired to give their best, and may all of us realize your peace, dwelling within and among us as we serve in Christ's name. **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: God calls us to daily self-examination.  
God offers us choices that lead to wholeness.  
**People: We will seek what is pure and pleasing to God.  
We want to think and do what is worthy of praise.**  
Leader: God's plan for us is not disaster but fulfillment.  
God delivers us from evil and gives us peace.  
**People: We rejoice in God, who loves us.  
We are eager to live as Christ teaches us.**  
**ALL: Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

**♪ Red #558**  
*Public Domain*

**\*SENDING HYMN**

**“Sent Forth by God's Blessing”**

**W&R #712**  
*One License #A-728042*

*{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 worshiping 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.

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- ❶ United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need (NIN) 2023 Resources.
- ❷ *Gathered By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
- ❸ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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- ❿ 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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- ⓬ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
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- ⓮ The Rev. Mary Etta Mest

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## Staff & Leadership

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*Sextons:* Michael Pastor & Terry Pastor

*Treasurer:* Terry Pastor

*Financial Secretary & Assistant Secretary:* Geneva Aulenbach

*Consistory President:* Elsa Wertz

*Consistory Vice President:* George McLain

*Consistory Secretary:* Geri Gammel

## About Today

**Church Season: Pentecost** -which is the season of the church in mission. It is the time between the ascension of Christ and his second coming, which is the time we are presently living in today, and as such is the longest season of the church year. The day of Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian church.

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

**Green** - symbolizing the life God brings, especially through our mission work.

The suggested scripture lessons are from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), which selects passages throughout the Bible over a three year cycle. The RCL is the most common lectionary used by Christian churches. We are in **Year 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).

**This Sunday, October 15, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 32:1-14 *and* Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 *or* Isaiah 25:1-9 *and* Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9;  
Matthew 22:1-14

### **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 23**

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

### **The Letter of Paul to the Philippians**

This epistle (letter) (NT) was written by the Apostle Paul from prison in the 60s A.D. Paul and Timothy are sending this letter to the church in Philippi, thanking and rejoicing with them for their steadfast faithfulness, prayers, and support, cautioning them of missionaries who focus on physical wants and needs, and encouraging them to stay true and united to his and Timothy's teachings and example. 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, October 22, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 33:12-23 *and* Psalm 99 *or* Isaiah 45:1-7 *and* Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13); 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10;  
Matthew 22:15-22

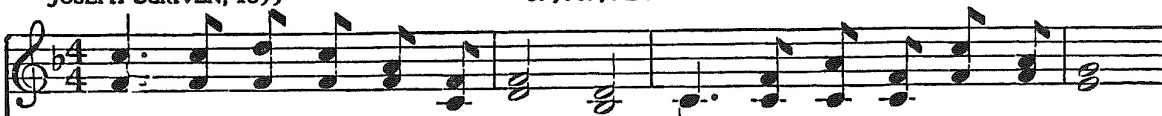
# Miscellaneous Hymns

472

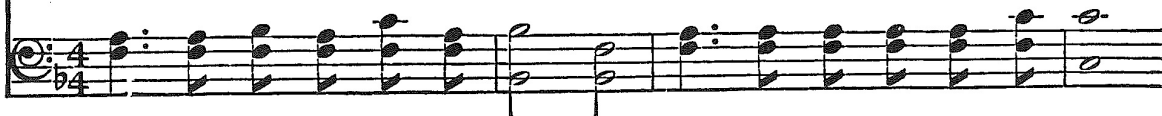
JOSEPH SCRIVEN, 1855

8. 7. 8. 7. D.

WHAT A FRIEND (BRIE)  
C. C. CONVERSE, 1868



1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear;
2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there troub - le an - y - where?
3. Are we weak and heav - y - la - den, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged, Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Pre - cious Sav - iour, still our ref - uge! Take it to the Lord in prayer!



Oh, what peace we oft - en for - feit, Oh what need - less pain we bear,  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful, Who will all our sor - rows share?  
Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer;



All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - ery - thing to God in prayer.  
Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness, Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.



# 712 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

*Unison*  
N.C. F  $\frac{C}{E}$  F Dm  $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$  C  $\frac{C}{E}$

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing our true faith con - fess - ing, the  
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

F  $\frac{F}{A}$  B $\flat$   $\frac{F}{C}$  C7 F N.C.

peo - ple of our God from this dwell - ing take leave. The  
tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our

F  $\frac{C}{E}$  F Dm  $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$  Gm  $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$  C  $\frac{C}{E}$

ser - vice is end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed the  
faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em -

F  $\frac{F}{A}$  B $\flat$   $\frac{F}{C}$  C7 F

fruits of our wor - ship in all who be - lieve. The  
brac - ing God's chil - dren of each tribe and race. With

WORDS: Omer Westendorf (1916-1998)  
MUSIC: Welsh folk tune; harm. Leland Sateren (1913- )

ASH GROVE  
6.6.11.6.6.11.D.

Words © 1964 World Library Publications  
Music Harm. © 1972 Contemporary Worship 4: Hymns for Baptism and Holy Communion (Admin. Augsburg Fortress)

F C7

seed of the teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls reach - ing, shall  
your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us: u -

F C Dm C/E C/G G C Dm7 C/E

blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all. God's  
nite us as one in this life that we share. Then

F C/E F Dm Gm/Bb Gm Gm/Bb C C/E

grace did in - vite us, and love shall u - nite us to  
may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing give

F F/A Bb F/C C7 F

work for God's king - dom and an - swer the call.  
hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.