

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
10:15am Worship Service
In-Person & Streaming Online*

+ † +

**Sunday, January 28, 2024
4th Sunday after Epiphany
Healing Service**

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 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. The third toilet stall in each of our four restrooms has a high toilet and handrails.

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 2nd 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



www.sprucc.org

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



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[®] (Unison)

God of the prophets, help us to recognize your voice among the competing claims of our day. Raise up in our midst authentic witnesses to your truth. Be present with us now to guide our prayers and praise. Let us not presume to know your message without careful listening or to speak your word without discerning the Spirit. Light your fires within us so we may heed your summons and give our best in your service. Amen.

PIANO PRELUDE

“Home Across The River Medley”

arranged by Victor Lapenske

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

*NCH #42
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 (adapted from Psalm 111)

Leader: Great are the works of the Lord, and greatly to be praised.
His righteousness endures forever.

People: **We come together as a congregation of believers.
We give thanks to the Lord with whole hearts.**

Leader: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
All who practice it have a good understanding

People: **Holy and awesome is God's name.
His praise endures forever.**

We Repent

This is a time to confess our wrongdoings and neglects, ask for God's mercy, admit our need for God's forgiving grace, hear the assurance of our forgiveness, and then give God our thanks and praise.

*CALL TO CONFESSION [®] (Leader)

We are called to confession if we have distorted God's word, knowingly or unknowingly. We are invited to repent if our freedom in Christ has led others astray. We join in prayer together because the church is not yet the perfect body of Christ. Let us seek God's forgiveness.

*CONFESSION OF SIN [®] (Unison)

Faithful God, we have claimed to have more knowledge than we really possess. We have presumed to judge others on the basis of our limited understanding. We have grasped for freedom without taking full responsibility for our actions. Our witness is weak, and is directed primarily toward those with whom we prefer to associate. By our actions, some of our sisters and brothers are excluded, some are misled, and some are unjustly accused. If we have violated another's conscience, if we have caused someone to fall, we are deeply sorry. For failing to do all Christ expects of the church, we repent and seek your forgiveness. 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 [®] (Leader)

All who love God are known by God, whose intention is that we live by eternal values, in loving relationship with one another. God applauds our efforts to rid our lives of the pseudo-gods we create, habits that destroy, and prejudices that divide. We count on God to understand us, to free us from our bondage to sin, and to dwell among us, transforming our lives. Praise God forever and ever! **Amen.**

***CALL TO PRAISE** (adapted from Psalm 111)

Leader: Praise the LORD!

People: I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

***SUNG RESPONSE OF PRAISE** "Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good" verses from NCH #6
verses written by Johann J. Schutz
verses translated by Madeleine Forrell Marshall
music from Bohemian Brethren hymnal - 1566
One License #A-728042

Verse 1: Sing praise to God, our highest good,
profound respect expressing.
God gives us health, life, livelihood,
with every needed blessing.
To God, who wondrous works performs,
creating life and calming storms,
to God give praise and glory!

{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 Torah (Book of Law) attributed to Moses: [Deuteronomy 18:15-20](#)
New Testament Letter from Paul to the Church in Corinth: [1 Corinthians 8:1-13](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Gospel (Good News) Lesson: [Mark 1:21-28](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

*W&R #591
Public Domain*

MINI-MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S SONG

"Praise Him, Praise Him!"

Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him in the morning; praise Him at the Noontime.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him when the sun goes down.
(repeat)

SERMON

We Respond with Thanks

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

{Those who are able, please rise}

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) "Apostles' Creed"**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead;
on the third day he rose again,
ascended into heaven,
and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

{Please be seated for the Healing Rite}

ORDER FOR HEALING

{The Rite of Healing is a time when we as a Christian family of faith gather to be in love, support, and care for one another, as a prayerful community. We seek healing and wholeness in body, mind, spirit, and relationship. Our prayers may be for ourselves, someone we know, or someone we heard about in the news media, for we desire healing and wholeness for all in our world. We trust in God's will and wisdom in answering our prayers.

"Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." (James 5:17).}

Leader: Christ promises to reach out to all people with healing grace and, through the Holy Spirit, endows the church with many gifts to become instruments of healing to all who hurt in body, in mind, in spirit, and in relationships. Upon this promise and commission, the church is entrusted with the ministry of laying on of hands, that through this sign those who suffer may be in touch with the power that brings wholeness.

PRAYER FOR ANOINTING

{A prayer offered over the oil used for anointing during the rite of healing}.

Leader: O God, as the apostles anointed many who were sick and you healed them, so may your Holy Spirit come on us and on this oil, that those who receive this anointing in repentance and faith may be made well in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

ALL: Amen.

INVITATION TO A TIME OF PRAYER

Leader: Let us focus our minds and hearts on the healing love and power of the living Christ.

HEALING PRAYERS (Four Options)

{There is no one way to come to God in prayer. We offer more than one way to participate in prayers of healing in order to better meet the spiritual diversity of those gathered for worship, and our preferences and needs change throughout our spiritual lives. You may participate in more than one of the following}.

ORDER FOR LAYING ON OF HANDS (Option 1)

“Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them....” (James 4:14).}
For those preferring this option, we invite you to come forward and sit in the first pew. One of our healing team pairs will pray for persons one at a time (or you may come forward as a couple or as a family). Let them know your name and if you have a particular healing prayer request or would just like a general prayer for healing. The prayer team will then place their hands on you (i.e. head/shoulders/back), pray for you, and then anoint your head with oil. After which you may depart.

If you are not able to come forward, allow an usher to know, as prayer teams are more than happy to come to you.

CANDLE LIGHTING PRAYER (Option 2)

We invite you to use the ritual of lighting a candle for your prayer. Simply come forward and use one of the match sticks to light a candle for healing and wholeness. If there are multiple persons for whom you are lifting up in prayer, you are certainly welcome to use additional candles for each person. You may wish to softly speak their name as you light the candle. You may also wish to pause and offer a silent prayer to God for them, for yourself, or for whomever you are praying.

KNEELING PRAYER (Option 3)

You are invited to come forward and kneel at the chancel rail to offer prayers of healing for yourself and/or for others.

REMAINING IN YOUR PEW (Option 4)

For those who do not come forward for any of the other three options, we invite you to pray for yourself and/or pray for those who come forward for healing and wholeness in your life and in theirs.

Picture those you bring to Jesus in prayer, with Him, whole not broken. May you know that what God sees in you first is not your illness, your mortal limitation, or your sin; God sees you first as His holy and precious child, created in His image, and He longs for you to be healed and whole - body, mind, spirit, and relationship - through this rite of healing, may you too see yourself through the eyes of the Divine.

HYMN

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

NCH #553

Public Domain

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.**

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE *"Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good"* verses from NCH #6
verses written by Johann J. Schutz
verses translated by Madeleine Forrell Marshall
music from Bohemian Brethren hymnal - 1566
One License #A-728042

Verse 4: **I cry to God, in pain and grief,
 "Please, God of mercy, hear me!"
My certain help provides relief,
 faith, hope, and love to cheer me.
So let me sing, joyful and free:
 ah, thankful Christians, sing with me:
 to God give praise and glory!**

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Leader: When we give of ourselves to meet the needs of others,

People: we are co-creators in the health of God's creation.

Leader: As we have been given much,

People: let us give much in return.

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](#) option on our website at sprucc.org ([Click Here](#)), or you may mail your offering to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.

CHORAL OFFERTORY

"The Father's Love"

Text and Music by Stan Pethel

{Those who are able, please rise}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *"Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good"* verses from NCH #6
verses written by Johann J. Schutz
verses translated by Madeleine Forrell Marshall
music from Bohemian Brethren hymnal - 1566
One License #A-728042

Verse 2: **Creation thanks you, Holy One:
 you made us and renew us.
Delighted at what you have done,
 you show your greatness through us.
So may all living things proclaim
 the wonders of their Maker's name:
 to God give praise and glory!**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** [®] *(Leader)*

Transforming God, we dedicate our gifts for the health of your creation. May those who receive these gifts be blessed by your love and inspired to give to others so that your creation will continue to be transformed by your love. **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 ²

Leader: Go out to witness to the good news you have heard.
God is even now raising up prophets among us.

People: **We thank God for this time of being together.
We delight in ways we are able to help others.**

Leader: God will supply us with words for our witness.
We will be led to offer others appropriate help.

People: **All honor and majesty and glory be to God!
May we never stop praising God with our lives!**

ALL: **Amen.**

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

♫ *Blue #97*
Verses translated by Frances Cox
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): iamheretosome



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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 - ① United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need (NIN) 2023 Resources.
 - ② *Led By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1996). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
 - ② *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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Staff & Leadership

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Treasurer: Terry Pastor

Financial Secretary & Assistant Secretary: Geneva Aulenbach

Consistory President: George McLain

Consistory Vice President: Kirk Aulenbach

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.

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 B**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Mark.

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, January 28, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

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 111

In this OT song, we give praise and thanksgiving to God for the wonderful deeds of God for humankind. It is also meant to teach people about the deeds of God. In its original Hebrew, it has an alphabetic acrostic form, which means that every other verse begins with a successive letter of the alphabet.

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 Mark

Mark's Gospel is the oldest and shortest of the four Gospels, written between 65-75 A.D. Papias, a church leader in the 2nd century, reported that this Gospel's author is Mark, a follower of Peter who wrote this Gospel after Peter's death.

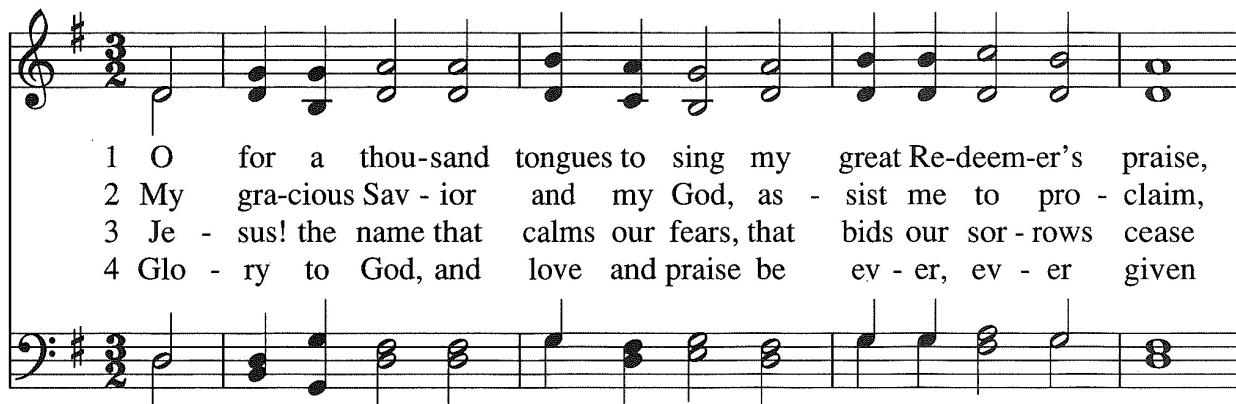
Next Sunday, February 4, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

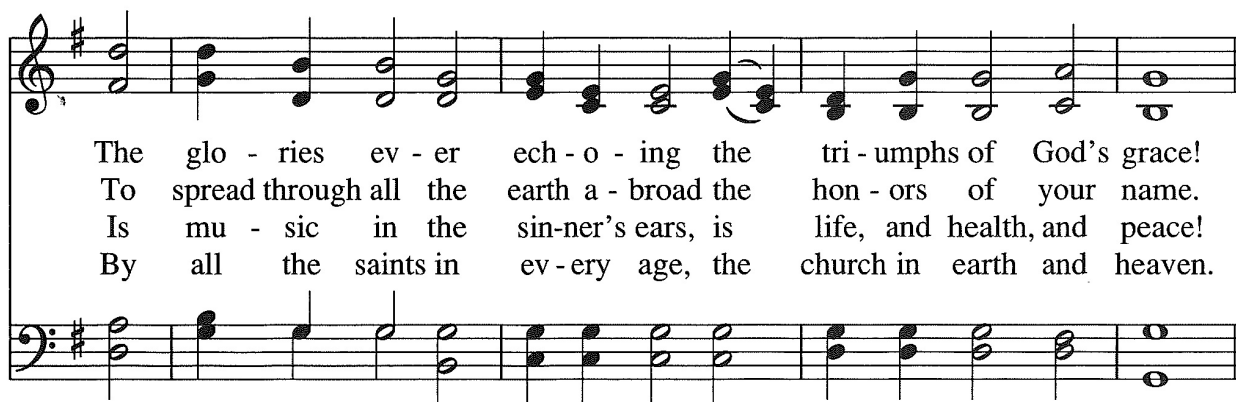
O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

42

Charles Wesley, 1740; alt.



1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Sav - ior and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3 Je - sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease
4 Glo - ry to God, and love and praise be ev - er, ev - er given



The glo - ries ev - er ech - o - ing the tri - umphs of God's grace!
To spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
Is mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!
By all the saints in ev - ery age, the church in earth and heaven.

The hymn is a cento from a longer poem of eighteen stanzas written by Charles Wesley on the first anniversary of his conversion. The present form of the hymn is one edited by John Wesley for The Wesleyan Hymn Book, 1780.

Tune: AZMON C.M.
Carl G. Gläser, 1828
Adapt. in L. Mason's Modern Psalmody, 1839
Alternate tune: RICHMOND

553

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Jer. 8:18-22; 46:11; Acts 10:34-43

African-American spiritual; alt.

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to make the wound-ed whole,

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to heal the sin-sick soul.

Last time, end

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged, and think my work's in vain,
 2 Don't ev - er feel dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend,
 3 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,

But then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
 who, if you ask for knowl - edge, will nev - er fail to lend.
 you can tell the love of Je - sus, who died to save us all.

to Refrain

This is one of the most moving of the African-American spirituals because it illustrates the way in which the enslaved tried to encourage those who were feeling especially weighed down by the burden of their captivity.

Tune: BALMIN GILEAD Irr. with refrain
 African-American spiritual

97 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad. Psalm 97:1

1. Sing praise to God who reigns a-bove, The God of all cre -
 2. The Lord is nev - er far a-way, But, thro' all grief dis -
 3. Thus all my toil - some way a-long I sing a - loud His
 4. Let all who name Christ's ho - ly name Give God all praise and

a - tion, The God of pow'r, the God of love, The God of our
 tress - ing, An ev - er - pres - ent help and stay, Our peace and joy
 prais - es, That all may hear the grate - ful song My voice un - wear -
 glo - ry; Let all who own His pow'r pro - claim A - loud the won -

sal - va - tion. With heal - ing balm my soul He fills, And
 and bless - ing. As with a moth - er's ten - der hand, He
 ied rais - es. Be joy - ful in the Lord, my heart! Both
 drous sto - ry. Cast ev - ery i - dol from its throne, For

ev - ery faith - less mur - mur stills: To God all praise and glo - ry!
 leads His own, His cho - sen band: To God all praise and glo - ry!
 soul and bod - y bear your part: To God all praise and glo - ry!
 Christ is Lord and Christ a - lone: To God all praise and glo - ry!

TEXT: Johann J. Schütz; translated by Frances E. Cox
 MUSIC: Bohemian Brethren's Kirchengesänge, Berlin, 1566

MIT FREUDEN ZART
 8.7.8.7.8.8.7.