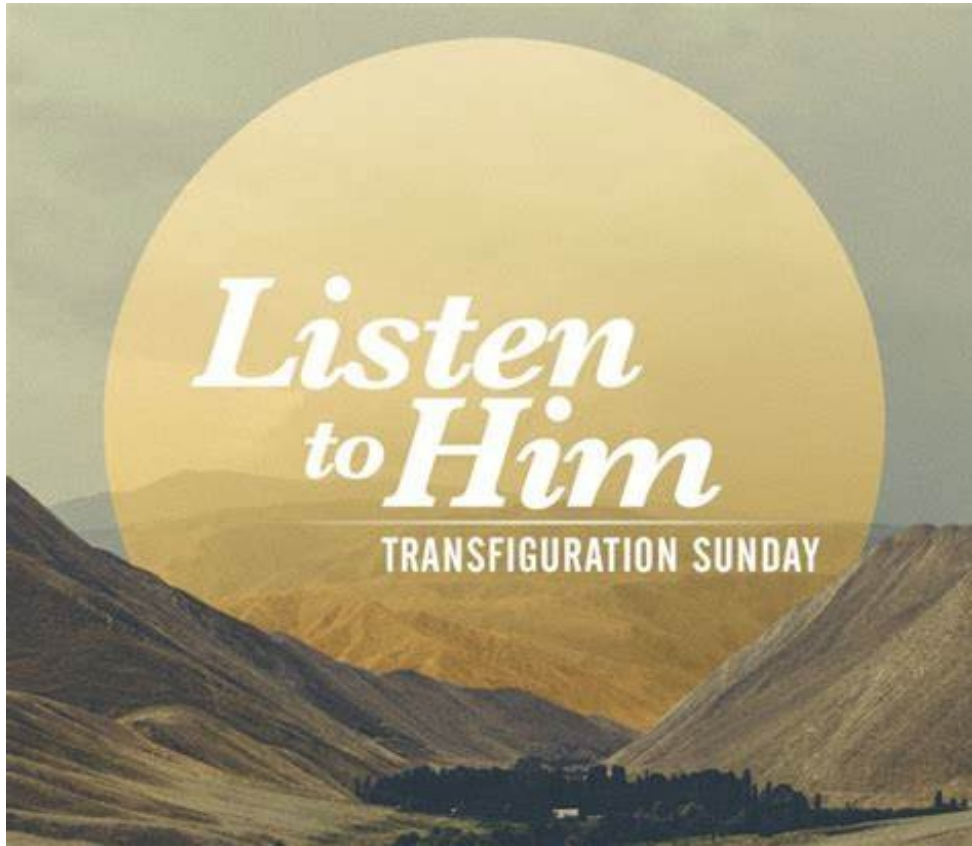


The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

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, February 11, 2024
Transfiguration Sunday
Last Sunday after Epiphany**

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](https://www.sprucc.org) at [sprucc.org](https://www.sprucc.org) - Live or Watch & Listen Later on [Our YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)
[Facebook Live](https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/) at <https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/> - Live or Watch & Listen Later
[Phone Stream](https://www.sprucc.org) 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)

Speak to us, Mighty One, for we are eager to listen. Bless us, as we cry out to you for strength and vision. You have acted in times past to save your people. Save us now. You have sent prophets to change the world. Change us now. You have granted light in Jesus Christ. Shine on us now. Let us see your glory. Lift us to the mountaintop in this time of prayer. Stay close to us to melt away our doubts, and do not leave us, we pray, through Christ. Amen.

PIANO PRELUDE

"He Hideth My Soul in the Cleft of the Rock"

*William J. Kirkpatrick;
arranged for piano by Victor Labenske*

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"

NCH #182

One License - #A-728042

*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[®]

Leader: God summons us from the sun's rising to its setting.
Listen, for our Almighty God speaks to us.

People: **Our God comes and does not keep silence.
Through fire and tempest, God is with us.**

Leader: Open your ears to the good news of the gospel.
Open your eyes to the glory of God.

People: **We have come to share knowledge of Jesus Christ.
We gather, seeking transformation and empowerment.**

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)

The whirlwind pace of our lives becomes so all-consuming that we may forget our origins. Our busyness separates us from knowledge of God's glory in the face of Christ. Now in these quiet moments apart from our everyday distractions, we seek to renew our relationship with God and be restored to wholeness. Let us confess our sins before God and before one another.

*CONFESSION OF SIN [®] (Unison)

Almighty God, when the gospel is veiled from us we feel alone. How easy it is to lose our direction and go the wrong way! At times, we feel as if we are perishing under the demands of our day, unable to see clearly what is most important. We become enslaved to our routines and enticed by shallow distractions. We fill all our hours with doing so there is no time for reflection and prayer. Forgive us, O God, and restore balance to our lives. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY

"Search Me O God"

W&R #385
Hopkins & Orr
Public Domain

**Stanza 1: Search me, O God, and know my heart today;
try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.
See if there be some wicked way in me;
cleans me from every sin and set me free.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON [®] (Leader)

God promises light for our nighttime and guidance on our way. In Christ, God lifts the veil so we can catch a glimpse of glory. There is peace to be found in the midst of turmoil. There is freedom and quiet even amid our busyness. We are released from our slavery to things, and lifted up beyond the limitations of our habits. God forgives us and offers new meaning to our lives. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE (adapted from Psalm 50)

Leader: Our God comes and does not keep silent.

People: **We give praise to God the Lord, who speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.**

***SUNG RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

"Awesome God"

Rich Mullins

**Our God is an awesome God; He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom, pow'r and love; Our God is an awesome God!
Our God is an awesome God; He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom, pow'r and love; Our God is an awesome God!
Our God is an awesome God! Our God is an awesome God!**

{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 Book of History: [2 Kings 2:1-12](#)

New Testament Letter from Paul to the Church in Corinth: [2 Corinthians 4:3-6](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Gospel (Good News) Lesson: [Mark 9:2-9](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain"

*NCH #183
One License - #A-728042*

MINI-MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S SONG

"This is the Day"

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.*

{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}

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

SILENT PRAYER

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

"Hear our Prayer, O Lord"

♪ *Red #501*
George Whelpton; Public Domain

**Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord;
Hear our prayer, O Lord, And grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION [®]

Leader: Through our offerings, we support prophetic leadership, provide possibilities for mountaintop experiences, and enable the teaching ministry of our church.

People: Our generosity can make a difference in the lives of people we will never know and in our own lives as well.

Leader: Let us give from our hearts in deep thanksgiving.

People: We give of our first and our best to our 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](#) 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"

words and music by Stan Pethel

{Those who are able, please rise}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

"Doxology"

♪ *Red #551*
George Bourgeois; Public Domain

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** [®] (*Leader*)

Mighty God, use our gifts to bring light where there is gloom, hope where there is despair, peace where there is turmoil. May righteousness and justice prevail in spite of differences. May we inherit a double portion of the prophets' spirit to discern clearly the ways you would have us go. We dedicate ourselves, our tithes, and our offerings to these ends. **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.*

*COMMISSION²

Leader: It has been good for us to be together.
Now we scatter to share good news.

**People: We depart with confidence and joy.
We will carry the knowledge of Christ in our hearts.**

Leader: Light from the gospel has been revealed to us.
We are becoming lights to the world.

**People: It is an awesome responsibility to reflect God's glory.
Ours is a wonderful opportunity to show God's love.**

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"We Are Marching in the Light of God"

NCH#526
One License #A-728042

v1. We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching _____, Oo _____,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching _____, Oo _____,
we are marching in the light of God.

v3. We are praying in the power of God,
we are praying in the power of God.
We are praying in the power of God,
we are praying in the power of God.
We are praying _____, Oo _____,
we are praying in the power God.
We are praying _____, Oo _____,
we are praying in the power God.

v2. We are dancing in the joy of God,
we are dancing in the joy of God.
We are dancing in the joy of God,
we are dancing in the joy of God.
We are dancing _____, Oo _____,
we are dancing in the joy God.
We are dancing _____, Oo _____,
we are dancing in the joy God.

v4. We are singing in the love of God,
we are singing in the love of God.
We are singing in the love of God,
we are singing in the love of God.
We are singing _____, Oo _____,
we are singing in the love God.
We are singing _____, Oo _____,
we are singing in the love God.

*{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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 - 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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 - 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
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 - ⑨ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
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 - ⑩ The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
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Staff & Leadership

Pastor & Teacher: The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz - PastorMotz@sprucc.org - 610-621-5770 (O)

Pastor & Teacher: The Rev. Mary Etta Mest - mestme@aol.com - 610-659-2775 (C)

Music Minister: The Rev. Robert Masenheimer

Bell Choir Director: Miriam Borkert

Office Secretary: Geri Gammel - Office@sprucc.org - 610-621-5770 (O)

Sextons: Michael Pastor & Terry Pastor

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, February 11, 2024, Lectionary Reading for Transfiguration Sunday

2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

The Book of Second Kings

During the Middle Ages, the Book of Kings was divided into two parts. The first book provides a history of the Israelite people and their theological struggles from the death of King David (970 B.C.). The first book continues through the reign of King Solomon; to the division of Israel into the two kingdoms of Israel and Judah; and to the death of King Ahab and the beginning of the rule of his son Ahaziah. The second book begins with Ahaziah's rule (850-849 BC); to the Assyrian's destruction of Samaria (721 B.C.), which was the capital of the Northern Kingdom; to the invasion of the Babylonians and the fall of Jerusalem (586 B.C.), which was the capital of the Southern Kingdom, resulting in a period of Jewish exile.

Psalm 50

This OT song admonishes the people in liturgical form for failing to act and speak justly and righteously. The people need to repent, act rightly, and live thankful lives to God, before God will hear their prayers, accept their sacrifices, and offer salvation. This psalm is attributed to Asaph, who was one of King David's chief musicians.

The Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

This NT Epistle (letter) was written by the Apostle Paul between 50-56 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 believed to be a compilation of fragments of multiple letters. This letter is in response to Titus' glowing reports and other negative reports Paul has received about this church. 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 18, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

TRANSFIGURATION

182 We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

Matt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1988

1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and
 2 Light breaks through our clouds and 3had - ows, splen - dor bathes the
 3 Strength-ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our

ho - ly place, Where we wait with hope and long - ing for some
 flesh-joined Word, Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel as the
 faith de - cline, We, like Pe - ter, find it tempt-ing to re -

to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray for new as -
 heav - enly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with
 main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us

sur - ance that our faith is not in vain, Search - ing
 won - der how the Law and Proph - ets meet: Christ with
 cour - age to pro - claim what we pro - fess, That our

like those first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.
 gar - ments drenched in bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com-plete.
 dai - ly lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.

In his commentary on the text, hymnwriter Carl P. Daw, Jr., describes the "implicit comparison between the attitudes and assumptions of the disciples on the Mount of the Transfiguration and the expectations of present-day Christians as they gather for worship."

Tune: HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7.D.
 Rowland H. Prichard, 1844
 Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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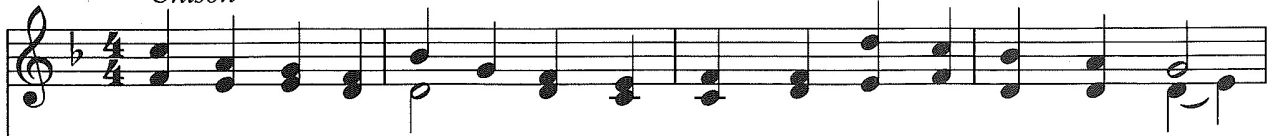
Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

183

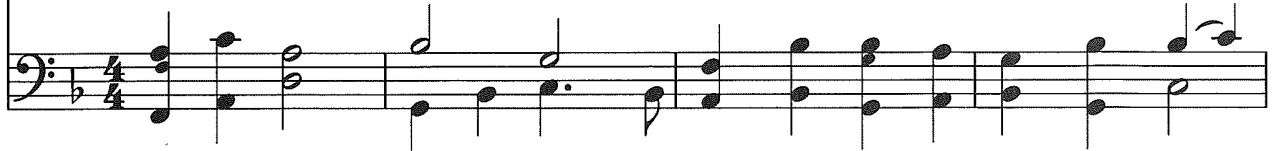
Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1991; alt.

Matt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36;
John 19:30; Matt. 27:50-54; Mark 15:37-39

Unison



1 Je - sus, take us to the moun-tain, where, with Pe - ter, James, and John,
2 What do you want us to see there, that your close com-pan - ions saw?
3 What do you want us to hear there, that your dear dis - ci - ples heard?
4 Take us to that oth - er moun-tain where we see you glo - ri - fied,
5 We who have be - held your glo - ry, ris - en and as - cend - ed Christ,



We are daz-zled by your glo - ry, light as blind-ing as the sun.
Your di - vin - i - ty re - vealed there fills us with the self - same awe.
Once a - gain the voice from heav - en says of the In - car - nate Word:
Where you shout-ed, "It is fin - ished!" where for all the world you died.
Can - not help but tell the sto - ry, all that you have sac - ri - ficed;



There pre - pare us for the night by the vi - sion of that sight.
Clothed in flesh like ours you go matched to meet our dead - liest foe.
"Lis - ten, lis - ten, ev - ery-one, this is my be - lov - ed One!"
Hear the stunned cen - tu - ri - on: "This was God's be - lov - ed One!"
Say with Pe - ter, James, and John: "You are God's be - lov - ed One!"



Both text and tune were commissioned by St. Luke Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, Maryland, to commemorate its fiftieth anniversary. The hymnwriter, Jaroslav Vajda, tells of being "as much at a loss for words contemplating the glory of the transfigured Christ as were the disciples."

Tune: SILVER SPRING 8.7.8.7.7.7.
Carl F. Schalk, 1991
Alternate tune: IRBY

Music Copyright © 1991 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'

(We Are Marching in the Light of God)

Ps. 89:15

South African freedom song; transl. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos', si - ya -
 We are march - ing in the light of God, we are

hamb' e - ku - kha-nyen' kwen-khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
 march-ing in the light of God. We are march-ing in the

nyen' kwen - khos', Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -
 kha - nyen' kwen-khos', light of God. We are march-ing, march-ing, we are
 light of God. the light of God.

Oo, si - ya - hamb' e - ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.
 ham - ba, ham - ba,
 march-ing, Oo, march-ing, we are march-ing in the light of God.

Last time, end

This South African song and fourteen others were first recorded and published in 1980 by the Church of Sweden Mission and the singing group "Fjedur" after a visit they made to South Africa. The subsequent 1984 collection Freedom Is Coming brought the songs to a worldwide audience.

Tune: SIYAHAMBA Irr.
 South African song

- v2. We are dancing in the joy of God ...
- v3. We are praying in the power of God ...
- v4. We are singing in the love of God ...