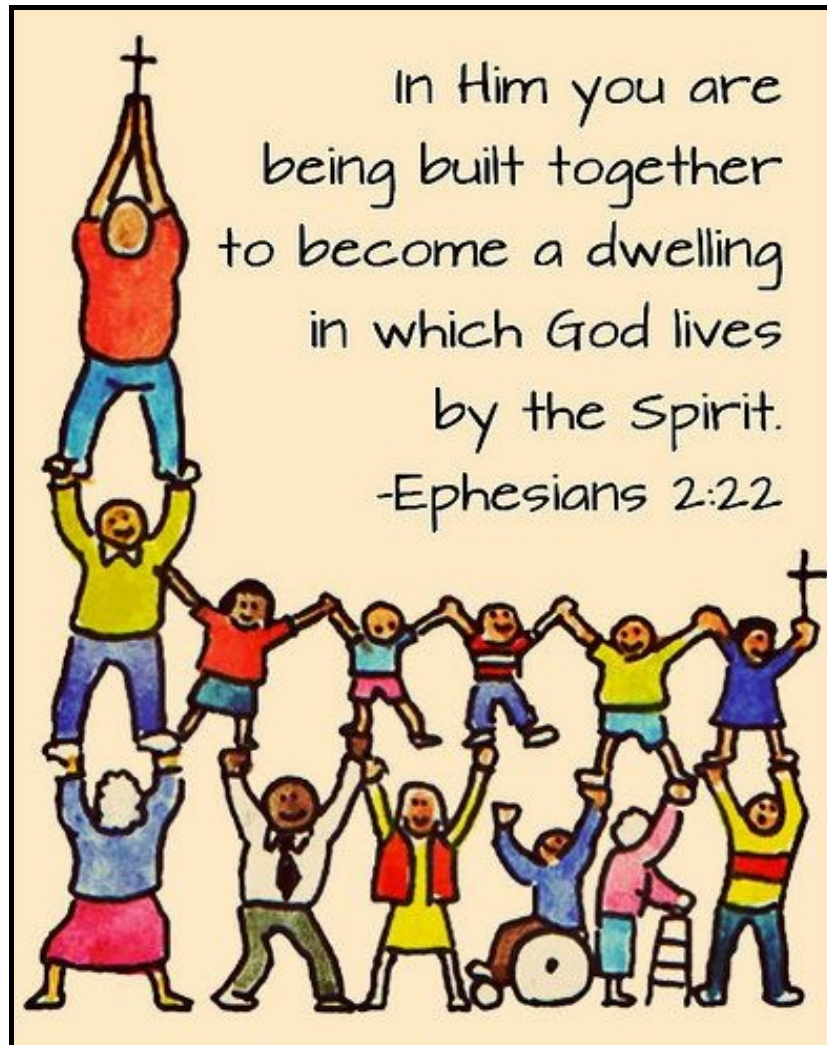


# The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

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

+ + +

**Sunday, July 21, 2024**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

# 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 (from September to June), 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 from the Sunday after Labor Day to the Sunday before Memorial Day.

## 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



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](mailto: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

*{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)*

**Jesus, let today be joyous! No matter what the weather, you have planted joy inside our souls. Some of us have found this kernel of joy. Some of us are still looking or have stopped looking. May you cause the joy to break forth and infect everyone around us. In your holy and happy name, we pray. Amen.**

*This service was prepared by Pastor Mary Etta Mest.*

### PIANO PRELUDE

*"Jesus Shall Reign"*

*John Hatton*

*{Those who are able, please rise}*

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*"Blessed Assurance"*

*W&R #426*

*Public Domain*

*Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper*

### \*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: Let us come before the Lord.

People: **Who is the Lord?**

Leader: The Lord can be the Father, or Jesus, or the Holy Spirit or all three together.

People: **Good, today we will think of the Lord as Jesus.**

Leader: That is fine.

People: **Yes, we come before Jesus. We bow before Jesus. Jesus is our Savior!**

## 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)

God of love and protection and forgiveness, hear now our confession of sins which separate us from you. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

### \*CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

**Oh Lord Jesus, we bring our sins before you. Thank you for receiving them on your own shoulders. You take our sins to the cross. From there they evaporate into thin air. You are doing this for us each day. You certainly are our friend and redeemer. Amen.**

### \*SILENCE

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

### \*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Unison) Psalm 23 (King James Version)

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.  
He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul.  
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;  
Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.  
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.**

### \*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: Let us sing praise to God the Father and God the Son and God the Holy Spirit!  
People: **We praise you, Triune God!**

### \*SONG OF PRAISE

*"We Praise You, O God"*

♪ Red #19

**With voices united our praises we offer.  
And gladly our anthems of worship we raise.  
Thy strong arm will guide us, our God is beside us,  
To Thee, our great Redeemer, forever be praise. Amen.**

*Text: Julia Bulkley Cady Cory*

*Music: Kremser*

*{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

The Hebrew Lesson: [Jeremiah 23:1-6](#)

The New Testament Letter: [Ephesians 2:11-22](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading: [Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

### HYMN

*"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*

♪ Red #472  
Public Domain

### MINI-MESSAGE

*{Children may return to their pews and remain for the rest of worship, or on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month, elementary age children may go downstairs at this time for the additional option of "Junior Worship"}*

### CHILDREN'S SONG

*"I Have the Joy"*

Unknown

**Vs.1** I have the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart, (where?)  
Down in my heart, (where?) down in my heart; (where?)  
I have the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart, (where?)  
Down in my heart to stay.

**Vs. 2** I have the peace that passes understanding ....

**Vs. 3** I have the love of Jesus, love of Jesus ....

### SERMON

*"The Joy of Knowing Jesus with my Friend Betty"*

### WORDS WE SAID FOR BETTY JANE (KAUFFMAN) HENDERSON

## 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)*      *United Church of Christ Statement of Faith* ①  
*(Section Two and Three: Jesus and the Holy Spirit)*

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,  
you have come to us and shared our common lot,  
conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.  
You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,  
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,  
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.  
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.**

*{Please be seated}*

### **CALL TO PRAYER**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Leader: In your mercy,

**People: hear our 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.**

**Do not let us fall 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*

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**OFFERTORY INVITATION**

Leader: Why does God expect us to return so much money to God's kingdom on earth?

**People: Because we are thankful for what God gives to us and does for us.**

Leader: Good thinking! Let us give joyfully.

**People: May God be praised!**

**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](http://sprucc.org) option on our website at [sprucc.org](http://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**

*"To Be God's People"*

*Text & Music: Charles F. Brown*

Soloist: Sheri Rowe

*{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)**

Giver of life and food and water and health, thank you for the abundance with which we are surrounded. May we not waste it but instead share it. We give this money to the church so the church can be sustained. We give money to the church treasury to help people. We give energy and time and money and the good news about Jesus and our love directly to people. That is what being a follower of Jesus is all about! Help us to be good followers! **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

Leader: Let us go from this experience of worship into the world of confusion.

**People: Let us go from this place of peace into the world of guns.**

Leader: Let us follow the shepherd to green pastures, to living water, through the valley of shadows, to the place of light.

**People: Yes, the Lord Jesus is our shepherd and protector. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.**

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*  
*Public Domain*

### \*SENDING HYMN

*"Let There Be Peace on Earth"*

*W&R #614*  
*One License #A-728042*  
*Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper*

*{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:** UCCRobesonia-Guest

**Password:** 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 *Led By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1996). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
  - ❸ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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  - ❾ *Sunday Sermons Preaching Resources*. (2017). Margate, NJ.
  - 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
  - ⓫ Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
  - ⓬ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
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## Staff & Leadership

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

*Music Minister:* The Rev. Robert Masenheimer

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*Sextons:* Michael Pastor & Terry Pastor

*Treasurer:* Terry Pastor

*Financial Secretary (Interim):* Terry Pastor

*Consistory President:* George McLain

*Consistory Vice President:* Kirk Aulenbach

*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 growth of the Christian church, as we go out into the world and share God's Good News with both our words and actions, and invite others into the church of Jesus Christ.

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). The first four books of the NT are called the "Gospels," which are about the life of Jesus Christ, which Christians consider the most central books of the Bible; the rest of the NT takes place after his ascension into heaven.

**This Sunday, July 21, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

2 Samuel 7:1-14a *and* Psalm 89:20-37 *or* Jeremiah 23:1-6 *and* Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22;  
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

### **Jeremiah**

The book of Jeremiah (OT) is attributed to the major prophet Jeremiah and written around 600-500 B.C. (B.C.E.). A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct. Jeremiah's ministry extended over the last tragic forty years of the kingdom of Judah to the destruction of Jerusalem and the deportation of the Jewish people to Babylon.

### **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 Ephesians**

The Epistle (letter) to the Gentile church in Ephesus is attributed to the Apostle Paul, written in the first century A.D. This is an open letter to many churches in response for the life-changing radical transformation in our personal and social life as we become a part of Christ's family. Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and leader in the Christian church, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. He wrote more of the NT than any other person. The title of this letter "Hebrews" presumably refers to the original audience of this letter as primarily Jewish-Christian.

### **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, July 28, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

2 Samuel 11:1-15 *and* Psalm 14 *or* 2 Kings 4:42-44 *and* Psalm 145:10-18; Ephesians 3:14-21;  
John 6:1-21

# Blessed Assurance

426

D G/D D A/E

1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! O what a fore-taste of  
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now  
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest, I in my Sav-ior am

E7 A D G/D D

glo-ry di-vine! Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God,  
 burst on my sight; an-gels de-scend-ing, bring from a-bove  
 hap-py and blest, watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove,

D G Em/G D/A A7 D Refrain

born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
 ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love. This is my sto-ry,  
 filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

G D G D/F# A/E E A A7

this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long; this is my

D G/D D D7 Em/G D/A A7 D

sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915)  
 MUSIC: Phoebe P. Knapp (1839-1908)

ASSURANCE  
 9.10.9.9.Ref.

# Miscellaneous Hymns

472

JOSEPH SCRIVEN, 1855

8. 7. 8. 7. D.

WHAT A FRIEND (ERIE)  
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.

# 614 Let There Be Peace on Earth

C Am Dm7 G7 C F C G7sus G7

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me;

C B7 Em  
B B7 Em B7  
D# G7  
D G7

let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

G7 Am Am6 Em C7 F Em  
G G7 C

With God our cre - a - tor, chil - dren all are we.

Am7 D7 G Am7 D7 G G7

Let us walk with each oth - er in per - fect har - mo - ny.

C Am Dm7 G7 C F C G7sus G7

Let peace be - gin with me; let this be the mo - ment now.

C B7  $\frac{Em}{B}$  B7 Em  $\frac{B}{D\#}$   $\frac{G7}{D}$  G7

With ev - ery step I take, let this be my sol - emn vow:

G7 C C+ F D7 Fm6

to take each mo - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly.

$\frac{C}{E}$  E7 F C F Dm7 G7  $\frac{Dm7}{G}$  C

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.

WORDS: Sy Miller (1908-1971) and Jill Jackson (1913-1995), alt.  
 MUSIC: Sy Miller (1908-1971) and Jill Jackson (1913-1995); harm. Charles H. Webb (1933- )  
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