The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

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

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Sunday, October 6, 2024 20th 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 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month (from September to May), 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 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....

www.sprucc.org

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 spruce.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on Our YouTube Channel

Facebook Live at https://www.facebook.com/www.spruce.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

{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)

We have trusted in you, eternal God, and that trust brings us to this time of worship. In this place, your steadfast love becomes evident again as we sing our songs of thanksgiving and tell of your wondrous deeds. We are grateful for the life and witness of Jesus, whom you sent among people to make possible our reconciliation and healing. For the saving grace available wherever you reign, we give thanks. Help us to be childlike, to receive your blessing, and to welcome your embrace. Take us into your arms, we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE "Strong, Gentle Children" Daniel Charles Damon

{Those who are able, please rise}

*Processional Hymn "All Creatures of Our God and King"

W&R #23

Public Domain

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*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's Word has been lived among us!

We gather in the name of Jesus Christ.

People: Christ is a part of God's ongoing creation.

We gather before the One who is heir to all things.

Leader: Jesus has named us as brothers and sisters.

We are called to recognize all humanity as children of God.

People: The kingdom of God is for all people.

God's dominion is over all creation.

ALL: Amen.

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)

At our best, we seek to be upright and blameless, people of integrity who live with unwavering trust in God. We aspire to live as brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, faithful and responsive to our Creator. But, in truth, we forget God in our hectic busyness, and we turn from the way of love in our relationship with others. There is much for us to confess.

*CONFESSION OF SIN [®] (Unison)

All-seeing God, we would like to wash our hands in innocence, but we cannot escape from the guilt we carry. We compare ourselves favorably with people we label worthless or hypocrites, but that very judgment breaks faith with you. We avoid bribery and other evil devices, yet we would still like to have advantages for ourselves over others. We are not bloodthirsty, but we have not yet adopted the way of peace. We humbly seek forgiveness as little children in need of your welcoming love. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

***SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY**

"Kvrie"

NCH #750 Traditional 6th Century

Leader (spoken):
Lord, have mercy upon us.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON [®] (Leader)

When we come as children, acknowledging our dependence on God for life and all that sustains it, we recognize that loving arms surround us, and hands of blessing rest on our lives. We are sisters and brothers of Jesus Christ, who is not ashamed to claim us and to walk with us through life. Rejoice that God tests our hearts and minds and helps us grow. **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

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

W&R #136 Heber & Dykes

Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, Holy, Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

{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: Genesis 2:18-24

The New Testament Letter: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading: Mark 10:1-16

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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MINI-MESSAGE

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

CHILDREN'S SONG "The B-I-B-L-E" Unknown; Public Domain

The B-I-B-L-E, Yes, that's the book for me; I stand alone on the Word of God: The B-I-B-L-E.

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}

ANNOUNCEMENTS

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ®

Leader: Look around you with a sense of awe and wonder.

People: Even in the most difficult circumstances of life, we can find beauty and

integrity and places where God's abiding glory is evident.

Leader: Let us give thanks for God's imprint on our lives, for the sustaining word that

gives purpose to our days,

People: and for the ministry in which we are engaged together.

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS



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

CHOIR ANTHEM "I Come With Joy" Brian Wren, Southern Harmony

{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 ² (Leader)

O Lord, as long ago you spoke through the prophets, speak now through us and through the fruits of our labor which we share. We dedicate to your service all the good things we have received from your hand. May we proclaim your name to our sisters and brothers in this congregation. May our gifts carry the good news throughout our community, making a difference in the quality of life experienced by many, near and far. **Amen.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion®

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is the central act of Christian worship, bringing us more fully together with one another and the Triune God, through the sacrifice of the body and blood of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 26:20-30, Mark 14:17-26, Luke 22:14-23, John 13:21-30)

*Invitation (Leader)

This table is open to all who confess Jesus as the Christ and seek to follow Christ's way. Come to this sacred table not because you must, but because you may. Come not because you are fulfilled, but because in your emptiness you stand in need of God's mercy and assurance. Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and to pray for a spirit. Come to this table, then, sisters and brothers, as you are. Partake and share. It is spread for you and me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join the people of God's new age.

*COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you. **People: And also with you.**Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader:

We give thanks to you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy and sing....

*SANCTUS

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

♪ Red #522

Alonzo P. Howard; Public Domain

{Sanctus is Latin for "Holy." Seraphic Hymn refers to the song of the Seraphim Angels. Sabaoth is a Hebrew name for God, referring to God as both creator and ruler of the world}.

Holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of thy glory, Hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

{Please be seated}

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader:

Lord, we remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Ordained Minister:

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We offer you these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service in behalf of all people.

Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine here at this table and at the tables in the homes you join with us in this time of worship, together as one, and bless us that as we receive them, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united in communion with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things.

ALL: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD AND RAISING THE CUP

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.

CALL TO THE SUPPER

Leader: The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come, for all things are ready.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

{This morning we will be partaking of communion in the pews.

The Elders will first distribute the bread,
Gluten free bread is in the center,
and regular bread is in the outer ring.
The Pastor will then instruct the congregation
to eat the bread at the same time.

The Elders will distribute the wine and grape juice.
The wine is red in the outer rings, and
the grape juice is white in the inner ring.
The Pastor will then instruct the congregation
to drink of the cup at the same time.}

{We invite <u>all</u> Christians who profess a belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour to participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion. You do <u>not</u> need to be a member of this congregation or of the UCC to participate in Communion.}

Youth & Children:

Children of Members who have not yet professed their Christian faith through the Rite of Confirmation are to participate in communion and refresher classes prior to communing, and follow the "Children & Communion Guide."

Children of Visitors - if you commune at your home church, you are welcome to commune here.

{Please hold the bread and the cup until all have received. We will eat and drink together.} {As you receive the elements, you may say the following...}

Pastor: The Body of Christ broken for you.

Individual: Amen.

Pastor: The Blood of Christ shed for you. Individual: Amen. or Thanks be to God.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by

granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the

power of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: 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: For this little while, we have been in the arms of God.

Hands of blessing have rested lightly on our heads.

People: We have recognized one another as children of God.

Our rivalries are turned to awe and wonder.

Leader: We have brought our pain to the suffering Savior.

Christ has welcomed us as sisters and brothers.

People: We are united in love that lasts for eternity.

The reign of God has already begun here and now.

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

▶ Red #558
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

W&R #603

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{Acolyte carries the light back into the world, leading us, as we now go to carry God's light and love back into the world.}

RECORDED POSTLUDE

"Amazing Grace"

John Newton

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) We experience greater oneness with God and each another through Holy Communion
- (9) 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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- United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need (NIN) 2023 Resources.
- 2 Led By Love by Lavon Baylor. (1996). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
- @ Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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- Miller, Earl D. (1994). Consecrating Stewards. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
- 10 The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
- The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
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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, October 6, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Job 1:1, 2:1-10 and Psalm 26 or Genesis 2:18-24 and Psalm 8; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

Genesis

The book of Genesis (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). Genesis means beginning. The book of Genesis tells about the creation of humankind and the entire universe by the will and power of God. Genesis creates a context for the reading of the entire rest of the Bible. The book is traditionally attributed to Moses, who led the Israelite people from Egyptian slavery to freedom, through the saving grace and divine providence of God.

Psalm 8

This is an OT hymn of praise for God's exalting humankind. This psalm is attributed to David, who lived from 1040–970 BC. "The Gittith" refers to the kind of melody to which this is sung.

Hebrews

The Epistle (letter) to the Hebrews (NT) is attributed to the Apostle Paul, believed to be written between 60-95 A.D. (C.E.). 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.

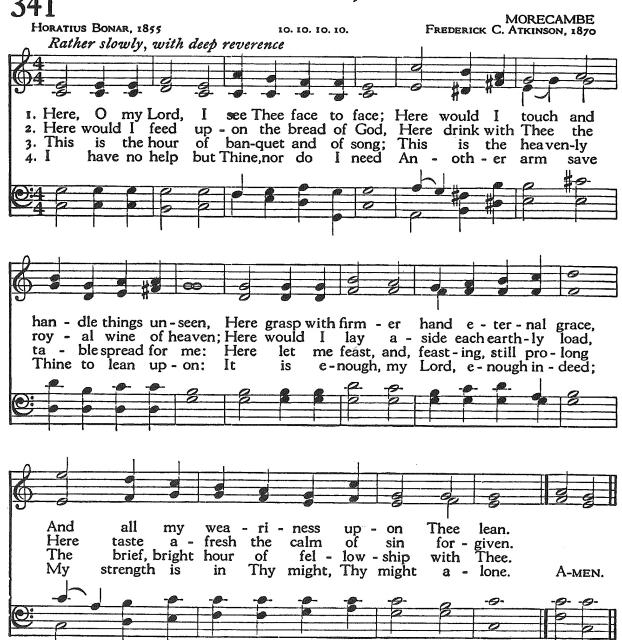
Next Sunday, October 13, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Job 23:1-9, 16-17 and Psalm 22:1-15 or Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 and Psalm 90:12-17; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

23 All Creatures of Our God and King



The Church of Christ



CHRISTIAN UNITY

603 In Christ There Is No East or West

