**(Large Print)**

**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

7300 Spout Hill Road, Sykesville, MD 21784 410-795-6152

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**December 5, 2021 - 10:30 am**

**WELCOME VISITORS!** We're glad you are here! Cards at the ends of each pew are for you to fill out and drop in the Offering Plate. Please let us know you are visiting, and join us for refreshments and fellowship following the service. The Sanctuary has an induction loop system to assist the hearing impaired. The system will also work on the telephone setting of hearing aids.

Springfield Presbyterian Church is rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ, led by the Holy Spirit, and called to loving relationships through vibrant worship and service. Valuing all people, we are committed to developing disciples and fostering stewardship.

**PREPARATION FOR THE WORD**

(**\*** those who are able are invited to stand)

**PRELUDE**

**GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE**

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!** (Greeting)

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Leader: Whenever we light this candle we proclaim:

**People: Christ is the Light of the world and the center of our lives.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - PEACE**

A: As we reflect on the foundation of our faith in our lives, we gather together around the candle of peace.

B: The home we long for is a home that knows peace—

A: peace that rests between us and our grief,

B: peace around our anxiety,

A: peace between us and our self-criticism,

B: peace amidst our relationships,

A: peace at the core of our being,

B: peace hovering through and in our world.

A: The home we long for is a home that knows peace.

B: So today we light the candle of peace—as a reminder and as a prayer.

A: Let it be so. Amen.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: If life was a home, then we would pray— may love be the foundation.

**People: May God be the cornerstone.**

Leader: May the Spirit be the windows—ushering light in.

**People: And may hope be the walls—holding us together.**

Leader: In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home together.

**People: We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now.**

Leader: Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.

**People: Let us worship Holy God.**

**\* HYMN**  *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* #88

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain:**  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,

Who orderest all things mightily:  
To us the path of knowledge show;

And teach us in her ways to go. **[Refrain]**

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,

Who to thy tribes on Sinai’s height  
In ancient times didst give the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe. **[Refrain]**

O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan’s tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people save  
And give them victory o’er the grave. **[Refrain]**

O come, thou Key of David, come,

And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. **[Refrain]**

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death’s dark shadows put to flight. **[Refrain]**

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
Fill the whole world with heaven’s peace. **[Refrain]**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Generous God, when John was born, Zechariah leaned down and whispered words of love into his ear. We know that you do the same for us, day in and day out, yet we fail to hear it. We forget that in the beginning we were made good. We doubt that we could possibly be enough. We hustle for our self-worth and wear ourselves out aiming for perfection. We deflect words of praise. We hide behind shiny first impressions. Forgive us. Trusting our worth is the hardest job. Open our ears as you open our hearts, so that we might rest on the foundation of goodness you have laid for us. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**RESPONSE** *On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry* (v. 2) Tune #430

Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within,

And let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: Family of faith, no matter how old we get, God continues to say to us: “You are loved; you are forgiven.” That is the foundation of our lives. That is the truth upon which we build our home. So breathe deeply. There is grace and peace here. Join me in proclaiming this good news:

**People: We are loved. We are forgiven. We are claimed. This is our foundation. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\* MUSICAL RESPONSE OF PRAISE** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays;

Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,

Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

**\* THE PEACE** The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

(You may greet those around you.)

**\* RESPONSE** *Here I Am, Lord*

Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

**THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Leader: God, who speaks a good news language— we admit, listening has never been our greatest gift. We are easily distracted, our minds run a million miles a minute. We doubt your faith in us, and take the easy way out when it comes to hope. So today we bow our heads and ask for help. Settle our hearts. Quiet our minds. Steady our breathing. Help us to rest in you. Help us to listen for your good news. Gratefully we pray, **amen**.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Philippians 1:3-11*

3I thank my God every time I remember you, 4constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, 5because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. 6I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. 7It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. 9And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight 10to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, 11having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON**  *Luke 1:57-80*

57Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. 58Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. 59On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. 60But his mother said, ‘No; he is to be called John.’ 61They said to her, ‘None of your relatives has this name.’ 62Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. 63He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, ‘His name is John.’ And all of them were amazed. 64Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. 65Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. 66All who heard them pondered them and said, ‘What then will this child become?’ For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. 67Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: 68 ‘Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.   
69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, 70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, 71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. 72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, 73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us 74that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, 75in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. 78 By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.’ 80The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *Laying the Foundation*Rev. Becca Crate-Price

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\* HYMN** *Prepare the Way, O Zion* #106

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

**Refrain:**  
O blest is Christ who came in God’s most holy name.

He brings God’s rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. **[Refrain]**

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior’s rule embrace,  
And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing. **[Refrain]**

**THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

## INVITATION

## THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

[The Pastor continues… “…who forever sing to the glory of your name.”]

**IN PRAISE OF GOD** Tune #552

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of Power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

[The Pastor continues… “…proclaim the one crucified and risen.”]

**IN PRAISE OF CHRIST** Tune #553

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**SHARING OF THE MEAL**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)

**Dear God, take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the living bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So, Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of the earth, and citizens of the commonwealth of Heaven. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

**ANTHEM** *Prepare!* By: Lloyd Larson

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**\*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\* HYMN** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* #93

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart  
From earthly use for heaven’s employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.  
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: As you leave this service, your service begins: Comfort the homesick.

**People: Open your doors to others.**

Leader: Seek sanctuary.

**People: Be brave enough to go home by another way.**

Leader: And remember that here in God’s house, all are welcomed—so come back soon.

**People: In the name of our Foundation—God, Spirit, and Son— go in peace.**

**\* UNISON AMEN POSTLUDE**

**Sunday December 12, 2021 Lectionary – 3rd Sunday of Advent**

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

**Assisting in Worship: We appreciate those who serve:**

Today 12/5 Next Week 12/12

Sunday Opener Need Volunteer Bob Rogers

Greeters & Ushers Need Volunteers Cynthia Smith &

Don Vasbinder

Lay Leader Tim Oates Diana Steppling

**Announcements**

**Annual SERRV Sale:** Check your inbox for an email from SPC about the annual holiday SERRV sale! Orders can be placed online through the provided link, with 20% of total sales for SPC to send to the charitable cause of our choice. Happy shopping!

**Christmas Flowers:** Last chance to order your Christmas flowers! Please see the attached order form and call the Office with your order by **December 8.**

**Upcoming Concert:** Mark your calendars for the upcoming concert on **December 12** at 3:00 pm when we feature the Baltimore Mandolin Orchestra in our Sanctuary. In addition to the full orchestra pieces, there will be a few small ensemble groups included in the program. We also expect to see and hear a portable reed organ as part of the concert. It will be a very entertaining afternoon, so please come and bring a friend! Due to the continuing COVID pandemic, all attendees will be required to wear a mask throughout the concert. We will not have our normal reception following the concert, but there may be a little take home treat… Hope to see you there!

We are a congregation with big hearts for our church family and our community. There are several opportunities listed below for you, through the church, to make contributions:

**Supporting Past, Present, and Future Leaders—Christmas Joy**

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. Envelopes provided with the bulletin, or include memo note on your check to church. The offering will be officially received on **December 12 and 19**, anytime in December will be welcome.

**Mountain Manor, Maryland Treatment Centers, Buttercup Road, Sykesville----**Maryland Treatment Centers have 40 years of experience and provide a local chemical dependency residential treatment center in our community, Buttercup Road, Sykesville. The residents stay from three to six months, often arriving with nothing but the clothes on their back. We have committed to helping to maintain the supply of clothing. There are tags on our Christmas tree at church for those you would like to help. We are hoping to provide underwear for men and women, and jeans, sweats, hoodies, or T-shirts. Sizes vary widely so more unisex in style is helpful. Donations are inspected for logos, decals, or wording that would be inappropriate for this setting. A basket is provided in the Narthex for your **unwrapped** gifts. This collection will run at least through the end of December.

**Happy-Thon Holiday Event**

On behalf of Downtown Sykesville Connection, we are once again collecting donations to contribute to the annual Happy-Thon that will be held on December 18 at 3:00 pm at the Sykesville Town House. With your generous donations, this organization is able to provide presents to children who may not receive any otherwise. This program will continue to nurture a sense of belonging and the emotional connection that are the pillars of a strong community. Donation envelopes are in each pew. Cash or checks payable to SPC will gladly be accepted. We thank you for opening up your hearts once again for this meaningful community event.

**Fellowship Reminder:** Following the Worship service, we will gather downstairs for fellowship, but will not have food and will continue to wear our masks. We, as a Session, have made this decision out of an abundance of caution and the desire to keep our family of Christ safe and healthy.

**Congregational Care / Mission & Outreach:** Do you know of a member or friend of our church family who is ill, needs prayers, would like call, a visit or a card, or might benefit from meal train? If so, please contact the Church Office (410-795-6152), Cathy Marsh (410-549-6916) or Diana Steppling (862-266-2242).

***Today:***

**Sunday December 5 – 2nd Sunday of Advent**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

***This Week:***

**Wednesday December 8**

6:15 – 7:15 pmBell Choir Practice

7:30 – 8:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

**Thursday December 9**

7:00 pm Session Meeting (Manse)

***Looking Ahead:***

**Sunday December 12 – 3rd Sunday of Advent**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

3:00 pm Concert (Sanctuary)

**Wednesday December 15**

6:15 – 7:15 pmBell Choir Practice

7:30 – 8:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

**Springfield Presbyterian Church**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

**Website:** [*www.springfield-church.org*](http://www.springfield-church.org)**Church Office**: 410-795-6152

**Like us on Facebook:** www.facebook.com/SpringfieldPresbyterianChurch

**Pastor:** Rev. Becca Crate

**Email:** springfieldpastor@gmail.com

**Clerk of Session:** Sharon Pappas

**Minister of Music:** Linda Caviglia

**Accompanist/Organist:** Aaron Thacker

**Youth Group Coordinators:** Charles & Deb Sperling

**Sunday School Coordinator:** Connie Robinson

**Administrative Assistant:**Donna Mazer**e-mail:**[*spc.office@verizon.net*](mailto:spc.office@verizon.net)