**(Large Print)**

**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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



**March 31, 2019 - 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)

***Please prepare for worship by listening to the music of the Prelude.***

**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.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *[variation on Psalm 32]*

Leader: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**People: You are a hiding place for us; you preserve us from trouble, you surround us with glad cries of deliverance.**

Leader: You instruct us and teach us in the ways we should go; you counsel us with your eye upon us.

**People: You call us to not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else they do not stay near you.**

Leader: Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

**People: We are glad in the Lord and we rejoice and shout for joy! Let us worship our God!**

**\* HYMN** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit, into every troubled breast;  
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see thy great salvation, perfectly restored in thee:  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Generous God, you call us to life in all its abundance and promise us that we will be a new creation, serving you in all fullness and wholeness. Yet, for many reasons, we look away. We know that the birthing process is painful, we know that becoming a new creation, a new person, is a difficult and challenging process. We do not take the time to sit and pray, we do not take the opportunity to read your Scriptures, nor do we long to sit with those who are marginalized. Yet this is what you call us to do, yet this is part of becoming who we are called to be. Forgive us, O God, for looking away in fear, for distracting ourselves from all that is good and holy, and for limiting ourselves from learning and growing. Renew in us a better way, O God, that longs for growth and healing and acknowledges you as our source of all goodness and wholeness. Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**RESPONSE** *O Lord, Hear My Prayer* (sing two times)

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: In humility, we see God’s grace and mercy alive and at work in our lives, even though we do not deserve it.

**People: We thank God for a mercy beyond our understanding and forgiveness that cleanses our souls. Amen.**

**\* MUSICAL RESPONSE OF PRAISE** *Magnificat* (sung in the round)

Magnificat. Magnificat. Magnificat anima mea Dominum.

Magnificat. Magnificat. Magnificat anima mea!

(Translation: Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul. Sing out and glorify the Lord who sets us free. Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul. Sing out and glorify the Lord God!)

**\* 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**

Guide us, O God, to listen closer and push distractions to the side. Implore us to learn your Word and to interpret it faithfully, so we may better follow your Spirit and serve your world. Amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON**  *Joshua 5:9-12*

9The Lord said to Joshua, ‘Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.’ And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

10While the Israelites were encamped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. 11On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. 12The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON**  *2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

16From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. 17So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 18All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**TIME WITH YOUNG PEOPLE**

**SERMON** *The Ministry of Reconciliation* Rev. Becca Crate

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\* HYMN** *O for a World*

O for a world where everyone respects each other’s ways,

Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,

Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice

That opens us to unity and give our vision voice.

The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the foolish ones are wise.

Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God’s glorious reign of peace,

Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

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

“For this I pray to God.” / “For this I give thanks to God.”

**Congregational Response: “Hear our prayer, O God.”**

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

OFFERTORY *Lenten Contemplation*

**\*** SONG OF THANKS *In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful*

In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God; do not be afraid. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

**\*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\* HYMN** *We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding*

We have come at Christ’s own bidding to this high and holy place,  
Where we wait with hope and longing for some token of God’s grace.

Here we pray for new assurance that our faith is not in vain,  
Searching like those first disciples for a sign both clear and plain.

Light breaks through our clouds and shadows;  
Splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word;  
Moses and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard.  
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder how the law and prophets meet:  
Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,  
Stands transfigured and complete.

Strengthened by this glimpse of glory, fearful lest our faith decline,  
We like Peter find it tempting to remain and build a shrine.  
But true worship gives us courage to proclaim what we profess,  
That our daily lives may prove us people of the God we bless.

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: Called to be a new creation,

**People: We turn away from all that does not give us life.**

Leader: Called to be a new creation,

**People: We celebrate your grace and mercy.**

Leader: Called to be a new creation,

**People: We live as your servants, helping one another to be your people in this world. Amen.**

**\* UNISON AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**  *Into the Wilderness: The Temptation of Jesus*

**Sunday April 7 Lectionary**

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

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

Today 3/31 Next Week 4/7

Sunday Opener Jennifer Wise Bob Rogers

Greeters & Ushers Tim Doyle & Sharon Pappas &

Jim Wise Martha Streaker

Lay Leader Linda Black Elizabeth Meirowitz

Sunday School Connie Robinson Connie Robinson

Fellowship Diana & Bob Steppling Brittany & Danny Rachin

**Church Attendance:** March 17 – 38 March 24 - 53

**Church Cleaning:** April 5, 6, or 7 - Martha & Davis Streaker

**Announcements**

**Blessing Bags** are in the Narthex. Please feel free to pick up a few. Handing one out to someone in need gives you a very real way to meet their immediate needs by providing them with some basic supplies.

**Pysanky Egg Decorating** is **TODAY** after Fellowship. Pysanky is theancient Ukrainian folk art of writing on eggs using a wax-resist method. We will learn how to decorate Easter Eggs using the traditional Ukrainian technique, talk about the Christian symbolism of the Easter egg, and spend time working individually and in fellowship with others. Please bring $5 to defray the cost of supplies, and there is a sign-up sheet for those who wish to bring lunch/snack items.

**Spring Clean-Up:** Mark your calendars for our Spring clean-up at the Church and Manse on Saturday, **April 6** from 9-11 am. Rain date is April 13.

**Called Congregational Meeting:** On Sunday, **April 14**, we will meet to elect new officers. Session fulfills all of the duties of trustees, deacons and elders, and we are delighted that Sue Holmes, Julie Ballard and Don Vasbinder have agreed to join us for the Class of 2021. Terms are for two years, elders are eligible for a second term, and we are pleased that Sue will serve a second term. At this congregational meeting, we will also name a youth member for the 2019-2020 year.

**Giving Opportunities:** Over the next several weeks there are three offerings. We want you to know about all three if you would like to participate in them along with your regular pledge.

* Heifer International has been supported by our Sunday school and Youth programs. Last year the money given now and at CIA Camp was used to buy a llama. This year Heifer is matching donations and we hope to buy goats(s).
* A new offering received on fifth Sundays (there are four this year) is an opportunity to empty your loose change, making a Noisy Offering. This will be collected by our youth and will support the work of our Mission/Outreach Committee. (Our musicians will work with this new sound element.)
* Presbytery’s One Great Hour of Sharing is collected on April 14 and 21. This offering supports Presbyterian Disaster Relief, global hunger relief, and self-development of people programs.

**C.I.A. (Community In Action)** will meet **TOMORROW** from 4:30-6 pm at the Manse. Pizza and drinks provided.  Friends are welcome and encouraged to attend! C.I.A is a group open to all religious and non-religious people as a means of providing the community with acts of kindness. We will be doing different activities throughout the school year to help people in our community who are in need. Come and be part of giving back to our community.

**In Memory:** We hope you will enjoy the music offered today by the Presbytones during this season of Lent.  We happen to be playing today on the one-year anniversary of Frank LePage's death.  The bells and chimes have been given to the church in honor and memory of many people.  The first three octaves were given by and for the people listed on the document just outside the Sanctuary.  The fourth octave of bells was given by Kathy Russ in memory of her husband, Chuck.  Our fifth octave of bells was given last summer by the LePage family in memory of Frank.

**Postlude:** The Presbytones postlude today is called *Into the Wilderness: The Temptation of Jesus.*  This piece is an original work commissioned by Area 4 Handbell Musicians of America for an area festival.  In it, composer Jason Krug musically portrays the temptations of Christ in the desert.  I believe that you may appreciate the piece a bit more with some explanation. Chimes and bells are featured separately and together as each section depicts the mood and tone of each of the three temptations.  The first temptation section begins when the music transitions to all chimes.  The second temptation is represented in the next section once we move to all bells.  The third temptation begins as the ringers use the Martellato Lift technique (where the bell is played into the foam and then lifted immediately so the sound continues).  This section ends with a huge crescendo and chord which will be held ... then the piece continues and finishes in beautiful major chords.

**Weekly Announcements:** If you have an announcement to include with next week’s bulletin, please call the Office at 410-795-6152 or email to [spc.office@verizon.net](mailto:spc.office@verizon.net) by **Wednesday** each week.

**Easter Vigil:** We have had some interest expressed in holding an Easter Vigil this year.  It's been some time since we did this, and I am trying to find out how much interest there is.  I have posted a sign-up sheet with one-hour time periods through the event. *How have we observed the Easter Vigil?*  The Sanctuary would be open from 9 pm Saturday, April 20 through 8 am Sunday, April 21 (Easter) if there is enough interest in the idea.  People will sign up for an hour to come to the Sanctuary to meditate, sing, pray or just *be*, as we await Easter morning.  We will provide meditative music, materials for reading and reflection, and candles which may be lit as you spend some quiet time with God in anticipation of the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We will also arrange to have someone in the Fellowship Room for the night as a "watch person" so that no one will be completely alone in the building. Please sign-up or speak to Linda Caviglia or Rev. Crate if you are interested and/or want more information.

***The Congregational Care team wants to know what YOU or someone you know needs...****a visit...a call...a meal. Please contact Diana Steppling or Connie Robinson.*

**Prayers & Thanksgivings**

~ Prayers for *Mt. Hebron Presbyterian Church* from our Ministry Group.

***Today:***

**Sunday March 31**

10:30 am Worship & Sunday School

11:30 am Fellowship

12:00 noon Ukrainian Egg Decorating

***This Week:***

**Monday April 1**

4:30 pm C.I.A. Meeting (Manse)

**Tuesday April 2**

7:00 pm Mission Meeting (Manse)

**Wednesday April 3**

6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

**Saturday April 6**

9:00 am Spring Clean-Up (Church & Manse)

***Looking Ahead:***

**Sunday April 7**

10:30 am Worship & Sunday School

12:00 noon Fellowship

**Monday April 8**

7:00 pm HeadHuggers (Manse)

**Tuesday April 9**

10:30 am Prayer Group (Manse)

**Wednesday April 10**

6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

**Thursday April 11**

7:00 pm Session Meeting (Manse)

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Springfield Presbyterian Church**

10:30 am Worship & Sunday School

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:** Aaron Thacker **Organist:** Jennifer Wise

**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)