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**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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

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**December 18, 2022 - 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** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* arr. Catherine McMichael

Four Winds Flute Quartet

Paula Grapes, Mary Stojak, Beth Ream & Linda Caviglia

**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.**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

Worship Leader/Lay Leader: Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, “What makes you feel connected; what makes you feel loved?” From the voices of different generations, hear their answers:

Worship Leader/Lay Leader: Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, “What makes you feel connected; what makes you feel loved?” From the voices of different generations, hear their answers:

Older Adult: Handwritten notes.

Adult: Casseroles.

Teenager: Being invited in.

Child: Reading a book together.

Older Adult: The passing of the peace.

Adult: Family walks.

Teenager: Youth Group.

Child: When I see my friends at preschool.

Older Adult: Surprise phone calls.

Adult: Making music with other people.

Teenager: Home-cooked food.

Child: Belly laughs.

Older Adult: Eye contact.

Adult: Dinner parties.

Teenager: An inside joke.

Child: Hugs.

Older Adult: Dancing with my partner in the kitchen.

Adult: Today we light the candle of love as a reminder that from the very first generation, God has surrounded us with love. May this good news – these threads of love – not only weave deeper connections between neighbors, but shape our actions and allow us to see God more clearly.

Adult: In a lonely world, let this light shine bright. From generation to generation, we are held in God’s love. Thanks be to God for that good news. Amen.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Hope is the voice that whispers in the night, preparing us for a future of possibilities.

**People: Peace are the arms of someone we love, scooping us, reminding us that we are safe and can rest in comfort.**

Leader: Joy is what we share this morning because joy cannot be contained.

**People: As hope and peace have led us here to this morning, joy cannot help but to jump up and make its presence known.**

Leader: Joy is within the bellies of two pregnant women, wondering what the future will be for their boys.

**People: Joy is the light and life that we yearn for, as we look to the days ahead.**

Leader: So with this joy, let us come together to worship our God.

**ALL: In hope, peace, and joy, all these things abide as we worship together!**

**\* HYMN** *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* GTG #104

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart’s delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,  
To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;  
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace  
In love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.

You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,  
To bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.  
In patient expectation we live for that great day  
When your renewed creation your glory shall display.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: One of the greatest gifts *and* challenges of faith is that we cannot be Christian alone. We *need* one another. We need one another to grow. We need one another to love. And we need one another to see God more clearly. So together, let us lift our voices in unison. Let us lean into the ties that bind and pray to our merciful God:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of Today and Tomorrow, when Mary was pregnant and afraid, she ran to her cousin Elizabeth’s house. Elizabeth threw open the door with joy and showered blessings upon her. How often do we have that same opportunity? How often do we leave the door locked, the curtains drawn, and the lights off? How often do we shower critique or judgment instead of blessings and joy? Gracious**

**God, forgive us for our wrongs. We want to see you when we see our neighbor. Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**RESPONSE** *On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry*  Tune #96

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

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

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: Friends, this is what I know – God delights in us. God throws open the door, just like Elizabeth, and says, “Come on home. There is room for you here!” And in that moment, we are blessed. In that moment, we are forgiven. In that moment, we are seen, healed, and welcomed home. So rest in this good news: you are saved by grace. Let us respond together, using the words from Mary’s song:

**People: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked with favor on the lowliness of His servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed.**

**\* MUSICAL RESPONSE OF PRAISE** *Refrain from Angels We Have Heard on High* Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**\* 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.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*

Arr. Catherine McMichael Four Winds Flute Quartet

**THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

God of all, we are a mixed bag of distracted and forlorn, eager and anxious. We hope that you might move through the obstacle course we build up around our hearts - made out of questions and defenses - and douse us in good news. For at the end of the day, all we want is to know that we are not alone, that you are always near. So knock on our door, sweet talk the guard dog we place in front of our vulnerable hearts, and come right in. Make yourself at home. Pull us close and tell us your story of unbelievable good news. We are listening. We are grateful. Amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON**  *Luke 1:39-45*

39In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. 45And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Luke 1:46-55*

46 And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.   
50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.   
51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. 52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**JESSE TREE**

**SERMON** *We See God in Each Other* Rev. Becca Price

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\* HYMN** *Love Has Come* GTG #110

Love has come: a light in the darkness!

Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.

See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;

Hear how their song of joy arises:

Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!

Love! Love! Glory to God on high!

Love is Born! Come, share in the wonder.

Love is God now asleep in the hay.

See the glow in the eyes of his mother;

What is the name her hear is saying?

Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.

Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!

Love is life everlasting and free.

Love is Jesus within and among us.

Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.

Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

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

**OFFERTORY** *Emmanuel Will Come* by Becki S. Mayo

**\*** SONG OF THANKS *As with Gladness Men of Old*  Tune #150

As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare,

So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s alloy,

All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.

**\*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\* HYMN** *People, Look East* GTG #105

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there. Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. People, look east: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen, God for fledging time has chosen. People, look east: Love, the Bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look east: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth, Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: As you leave this place, may you go knowing that from generation to generation, we have been claimed and loved.

**People: From generation to generation, God has been by our side.**

Leader: From generation to generation, we are not alone.

**People: The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth, saying, “Go be the person you are called to be, love wildly, do justice, and come back soon.”**

Leader: May it be so. Amen.

**\* UNISON AMEN**

**POSTLUDE** *Pat A Pan* arr. Catherine McMichael

Four Winds Flute Quartet

**Sunday, December 25, 2022 Lectionary**

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14

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

Today 12/18 Next Week 12/24

Sunday Opener Ron Holmes Beth Oates

Ushers/Greeters Elizabeth Meirowitz Cynthia Smith

Brenda McClung Leah Halvorson

Lay Leader Ron Holmes or Christy Yeager

**Happy Birthday!** December 19 – Becky Spicer

December 20 – Stephanie Bunting

December 31 – Lindsey Mazer

**Happy Anniversary!** December 27 – Leah & Jeff Halvorson

**Announcements**

**Christmas Joy Offering:** God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. Springfield will receive this offering **TODAY** and December 24, but your gifts are always welcome at any time.

**Winter Fellowship Time:** A new year will be starting soon--time to make our plans for Fellowship in the new year! We'd love to have your help providing and serving the goodies we share as we visit after worship. If you have not hosted Fellowship yet, we can pair you with someone who knows the routine, and how to make the coffee.

If you don't want to host, we would be happy to have you sign up to bring something in. We always have a supply of crackers and cookies in the kitchen, but our table often includes fruit, cheese and baked goods. Let us know on the sign-up sheet in the kitchen or email me what you'd like to bring. Thanks so much!

[Barbaracornell@gmail.com](mailto:Barbaracornell@gmail.com) or 240-308-0035

**Mask Update:** Since COVID-19 is still with us, the Session has decided that masking and social distancing is encouraged but is optional. Though it is not a mandate, we seek to love one another by keeping each other as safe as possible. Thank you for your help in this endeavor.

**Pastor-Parish Committee:** The Pastor-Parish Committee invites you to share your concerns, suggestions, and gratitude. We have a form in the Narthex and a lock-box that we will open weekly and we ask that you share your name and be specific. We look forward to reading your comments so that we can continue to grow into the body of Christ.

**Springfield Membership:** Are you interested in finding out more about our faith community and becoming a member? We would love to answer any questions you have. Please contact Pastor Becca at [springfieldpastor@gmail.com](mailto:springfieldpastor@gmail.com) for more information.

**Congregational Care / Mission & Outreach (CoCaMO):** 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 18 – 4th Sunday of Advent**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

***This Week:***

**Wednesday December 21**

5:45 – 7:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

**Thursday December 22**

7:30 – 8:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

***Looking Ahead:***

**Saturday December 24 – Christmas Eve**

7:00 pm Worship

**Sunday December 25**

No Worship Service – Merry Christmas!

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

**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 Price

**Email:** springfieldpastor@gmail.com

**Clerk of Session:** Sharon Pappas

**Minister of Music:** Linda Caviglia

**Accompanist/Organist:** Aaron Thacker

**Youth Group Coordinator:** Dylan Vasbinder

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