**(Large Print)**

**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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



**December 1, 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)

**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.**

**INTROIT** *We Look for the Star* By Hal Hopson

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

**Advent Reading – Hope**

*“A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.” Isaiah 11:1-2*

As young people, we look forward to a life of fulfilled dreams and hopes. However, the world offers so many false hopes and dead ends that confuse us and make decisions difficult. Sometimes the temptations are too great and we give in. As we light this candle of hope, may we remember that the true hope of the world is Jesus Christ. As we prepare again for his coming among us, let us trust in his promises and give him first place in our lives.

**Sung Response** (to the tune of *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*):

**As we light the Advent candle with the light of Hope so bright,**

**Faithfully we wait His coming; faithfully it shines through the night.**

**In our humble hearts, a fire burns as well;**

**Hear the prayer these flames would tell.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations.

**People: So we ask that you renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert.**

Leader: Let us be a people who are watching for the glorious return of your Son, Jesus Christ.

**People: Let us be ready to rejoice for our Savior who comes.**

Leader: For Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore.

**ALL: We offer our worship and praise. Alleluia! Amen!**

**\* HYMN** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of the Future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes here to Earth. Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**RESPONSE** *On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry*

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** *[Isaiah 40:4-5]*

Leader: Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low. Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

**People: With hope, we celebrate that in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen!**

**\* MUSICAL RESPONSE OF PRAISE** *Now Thank We All Our God*

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,

To Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:

The one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,

The God who was, and is, and shall be ever-more.

**\* 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: Holy God, our hope and our strength, by the power of your Spirit, prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Psalm 122*

1 I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’   
2 Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. 3 Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together. 4 To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord. 5 For there the thrones for judgement were set up, the thrones of the house of David. 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ‘May they prosper who love you. 7 Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.’ 8 For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, ‘Peace be within you.’ 9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,  
I will seek your good.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON**  *Isaiah 2:1-5*

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 In days to come the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. 3 Many peoples shall come and say,   
‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. 4 He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**TIME WITH YOUNG PEOPLE** *Jesse Tree – Week 1*

**SERMON**  *From Swords into Plowshares* Rev. Becca Crate

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\* HYMN**  *Creator of the Stars of Night*

Creator of the stars of night, your people’s everlasting light,

O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you, hear us when we call.

When this old world drew on toward night, you came;

But not in splendor bright, not as a monarch, but the child

Of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At your great name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend,

All hearts must bow; all things on earth with one accord,

Like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

To Got the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,

Praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

**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**

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

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

**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.**

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

OFFERTORY *Christmas is Coming* By Joel Raney

**\*** SONG OF THANKS *As with Gladness Men of Old*

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** *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

Now the heavens start to whisper, as the veil is growing thin.

Earth from slumber wakes to listen to the stirring, faint within:

Seed of promise, deeply planted, child to spring from Jesse’s stem!

Like the soil beneath the frost-line, hearts grow soft to welcome him.

Heavy clouds that block the moonlight now begin to drift away.

Diamond brilliance through the darkness shines the hope of coming day.

Christ, the morning star of splendor, gleams within a world drown dim.

Heaven’s ember fans to fullness; hearts grow warm to welcome him.

Christ, eternal Sun of justice, Christ, the rose of wisdom’s seed,

Come to bless with fire and fragrance hears of yearning, hurt and need.

In the lonely, in the stranger, in the outcast, hid from view;

Child who comes to grace the manger, teach our hearts to welcome you.

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: Ready and waiting,

**People: We prepare ourselves by embracing hope.**

Leader: Hope for a light in the darkness,

**People: Hope for a better world.**

Leader: Inspired by the light of the advent wreath,

**People: We will carry the light of hope out from this sanctuary and into our lives.**

**\* UNISON AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

**Sunday December 8 Lectionary**

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

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

Today 12/1 Next Week 12/8

Sunday Opener Barbara Cornell Beth Oates

Greeters & Ushers Amy Vasbinder & Jim Wise &

Bob Rogers Connie Robinson

Lay Leader Mark Kearney Tim Oates

Sunday School Connie Robinson Connie Robinson

Fellowship Connie Gibbons & Deb & Charlie

Cathy Marsh Sperling

**Communion Servers Today:** (Traditional)

1. Tony Caviglia 4. Linda Black

2. Linda Caviglia 5. Bob Rogers

3. Barbara Nickell

**Church Attendance:** November 17 – 38 November 24 - 52

**Church Cleaning:** December 13, 14 or 15 – Belle Vasbinder &

Barbara Nickell

**Happy Birthday!** December 3 – Angel Carbaugh

December 4 – Ryley Brown

**Announcements**

**SERRV Sale: Today** during fellowship, come and shop for unique, handcrafted fair trade items from around the world. Items sold through SERRV will help to fight poverty and build up the communities of impoverished artisans and farmers. Additional sale dates are **December 8, 15 and 22.**

**Advent Craft Fair:** Our annual Advent Craft Fair of family fun will be on **December 8** at noon, including craft tables, family photos, face painting, cotton candy, hot dogs and popcorn! We need crafters! Please see Connie Robinson or Deb Sperling if you can help.

**Our Next Concert:** We welcome our very own Aaron Thacker and his colleague, Ben Shaver to our stage on **Sunday, December 8** at 3:00 pm. We hope your family and friends can join us for this concert, and some fellowship and good food following the music!

**Happy-Thon:** Envelopes in the pews are for donations to a Christmas event coordinated by Downtown Sykesville Connection, our Sykesville Police Department, and the counseling department of Piney Ridge Elementary School for children of families in our area. It is hosted at Fairhaven on December 15 with refreshments, entertainment, and the gift giving.  Each young child has a wish list for toys and older children receive gift cards.  There is a matching grant from IMPAQ International, LLC if they raise over $1500 in donations that will augment Sykesville Main Street funds.  Fairhaven will provide the food. Our tax deductible donations will help with gift purchases for the children. Please make your check payable to SPC and write “2019 Happy-Thon” on the memo line.

**ESCAPE LUNCHES:** Tuesday evening, **December 10** at 7:00 pm at the Manse, we again have the opportunity to share our good fortune with our Sykesville neighbors. We will be making 82 bag lunches for the Wednesday free lunch at St. Paul’s Methodist Church. ESCAPE is a collaborative effort of many of our area churches to help our neighbors in need. There will be a sign-up sheet at Church to supply the food we will need. Please join us!

**C.I.A. (Community In Action):** At the C.I.A. on **December** 2, the children will be making limited edition Craft Christmas Ornaments to be proudly displayed on the Church Christmas tree. These limited edition Christmas Ornaments are being made to support the Sykesville Food Bank. Your generous donation for each Christmas Ornament will help raise desperately needed money to support the food bank. After your Christmas Ornament is returned to you, you can proudly display it for years to come on your own Christmas tree. Each and every ornament will come with a letter of authenticity to verify that it was created by the children at C.I.A.

**Christmas Pageant:**  This year for the Christmas Pageant we are making a slide show to play during the pageant.  We would like the slide show to be of Christmas pictures that have significance to you - any picture from anytime in your life or a picture of you or your family now. Please email your pictures to spc.office@verizon.net or bring your photo to the Advent Craft Fair and one of the youth will take a picture of your photo and send it for you.

**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.

**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.

**Prayers & Thanksgivings**

~ Prayers for *First of Westminster* from our Ministry Group.

~ “Thank you to the congregation for all of the prayers, meals, visits, calls, cards, emails and texts while I was recovering from by broken wrist and arm. I am most grateful for the love and compassion extended by this congregation. You are the BEST! Blessings to all.” - Barbara Nickell

***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. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Becca at 410-795-6152 or springfieldpastor@gmail.com.*

***Today:***

**Sunday December 1**

9:00 am Red Sea Parting Practice

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

12:00 noon Greening of the Church

***This Week:***

**Monday December 2**

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

**Wednesday December 4**

6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

**Thursday December 5**

7:00 pm Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting (Manse)

***Looking Ahead:***

**Sunday December 8**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

12:00 noon Advent Craft Fair

3:00 pm Concert – Aaron Thacker & Ben Shaver

**Monday December 9**

7:00 pm Head Huggers (Manse)

**Tuesday December 10**

10:30 am Prayer Group (Manse)

7:00 pm ESCAPE Lunch Packing

**Wednesday December 11**

6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

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)