**(Large Print)**

**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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



**January 6, 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. A head set is available upon request.

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** [Adapted from Psalm 72]

Leader: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king’s son.

**People: May He judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.**

Leader: May the mountains yield prosperity for the people and the hills, in righteousness.

**People: May He defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

Leader: May He live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

**People: May He be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.**

Leader: In His days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

**People: For He delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.**

Leader: He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

**People: From oppression and violence He redeems their life; and precious is their blood in His sight.**

**ALL: Let us praise our God!**

**\* HYMN** *The First Nowell*

The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

**Refrain:** Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. [**Refrain**]

And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. [**Refrain**]

This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
o’er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay. [**Refrain**]

Then entered in those wise men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. [**Refrain**]

Then let us all with one accord, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Generous God, alike the Magi, we long to come to you, and offer our gifts in boldness and to greet you with the awe that you rightly deserve. Yet, in our lives -- our day to day activities -- we forget to look up and see the stars, and to stand in awe of your creation. You lead us, by stars, by words, by prayer, but we do not follow. We do not take our gifts, all of us, our very being, as an offering to you. Forgive us, renew us, and restore us, as we seek to be people who come to you in joy and offer ourselves for your mission and purpose in this world. Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**RESPONSE** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*  (verse 3)

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!

So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.

No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,

Where meek souls will receive Him, the dear Christ enters in.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: Christ came in love and as a gift to this Earth, not to reject us, but to redeem us.

**People: Praise be to God whose love and grace overflows in abundance! Amen.**

**\* MUSICAL RESPONSE OF PRAISE** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,

Ever more your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!

**\* 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**

Generous God, as we hear your texts, may every voice and distraction be silenced, so that we may fully encounter your Word. Amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Isaiah 60:1-6*

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 2 For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. 3 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 4 Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses’ arms. 5 Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. 6 A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Matthew 2:1-12*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ 3When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 6 “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’ 7Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ 9When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**TIME WITH YOUNG PEOPLE**

**SERMON** *The Quest of the Magi* Rev. Becca Crate

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\* HYMN** *As with Gladness Men of Old*

As with gladness men of old, did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet, ever seek thy mercy seat.

**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 *All Creation, Clap Your Hands* arr. Jeffery Honoré

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

As they offered gifts most rare, at the 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**  *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

**Refrain:**  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. [**Refrain**]

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. [**Refrain**]

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume, breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [**Refrain**]

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. [**Refrain**]

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: Guided by an ordinary star,

**People: They found the extraordinary,**

Leader: A Savior in a manger,

**People: A King in a stable.**

Leader: With humbleness and guidance,

**People: Let us go in gentleness, living out the miraculous awe of epiphany. Amen.**

**\* UNISON AMEN**

**POSTLUDE** *[All are invited to stay and listen, but feel free to leave after the Unison Amen if you prefer.]*

**Sunday January 13 Lectionary**

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

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

Today 1/6 Next Week 1/13

Sunday Opener Bob Rogers Barbara Cornell

Greeters & Ushers Bob Rogers & Elizabeth Meirowitz &

Martha Streaker Connie Robinson

Lay Leader Ron Holmes Barbara Cornell

Sunday School Amy Vasbinder Connie Robinson

Fellowship Barbara Cornell Barbara Nickell

**Church Attendance:** December 24 - 21 (5:30) December 30 - 32

- 78 (8:00)

- 4 (11:00)

**Church Cleaning:** Jan. 11, 12 or 13 - Deb & Charlie Sperling

**Happy Birthday!** January 6 - Alex & Emily Sperling

**Happy Anniversary!** January 6 - Tim & Beth Oates

**Announcements**

**2019 Sunday School:** New beginnings! Starting on **January 13**, 2019, Sunday School will begin after the sermon.

**Shepherd’s Staff Coat Drive:** If you would like to donate a new or gently used coat to Shepherd’s Staff, please see Julie Ballard on or before **January 13.**

**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.

**C.I.A. (Community In Action)** will meet on **January 14 and**

**January 21** 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. Beginning in February, C.I.A. will meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday each month.

**Prayers & Thanksgivings**

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

***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.*

***Today:***

**Sunday January 6 - Epiphany of the Lord**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

12:30 pm Assessment Interpretation (Elders)

***This Week:***

**Tuesday January 8**

10:30 am Prayer Group (Manse)

**Wednesday January 9**

6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

**Thursday January 10**

7:00 pm Session Meeting (Manse)

***Looking Ahead:***

**Sunday January 13**

10:30 am Worship & Sunday School

11:30 am Fellowship

6:00 pm Confirmation Class (Manse)

**Monday January 14**

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

7:00 pm Headhuggers (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)