**(Large Print)**

**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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

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**December 12, 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** Traditional Christmas Carols (Flute & Piano, Linda & Aaron)

**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 – JOY**

A: Joy is seeing people you love after months apart.

B: Joy is hearing, “Come on over, it has been too long!”

A: Joy is the stretches and giggles of a newborn child.

B: Joy is making it home when the journey is long.

A: Joy is your dog sliding to meet you at the door.

B: Joy is the energy of a new season.

A: Joy is feeling found when you thought you were lost.

B: So today we light the candle of joy, because the welcome God has for us is nothing short of joyful.

A: Rest in that good news. Let it wash over you.

B: Family of faith, we are close to home. Amen.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: A voice calls out in the wilderness.

**People: It sings of a home for all.**

Leader: It speaks of justice and peace.

**People: We could choose to ignore it. We could drown out that song. We could choose not to listen.**

Leader: Instead, we come into this space. We let the world grow quiet. We listen. A voice calls out in the wilderness. Do you hear it?

**People: We hear it. In listening, we worship. Let us draw near to God.**

**\* HYMN** *People, Look East*

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.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: It takes courage to tell the truth. John the Baptist knew it. His job as a prophet certainly could not have been easy. And you and I know it. Our job as people of faith—to create a home for all—has never been easy. In our prayer of confession, may we channel some of John the Baptist's courage to tell the truth about ourselves and our world. We do not do this to shame ourselves or guilt ourselves for being imperfect. We speak the truth out loud because we know that we

cannot grow and change without first being honest. So let us be brave. Let us be bold. Let us be truth-tellers as we confess together now to a God who couldn’t love us any more than God already does. Let us

pray. . .

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Expansive God, we know that the church is your house, and your house has room for everyone. Yet, too often, instead of setting the table for our neighbors, we block the door. Instead of welcoming all, we judge others by our own standards. Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic, holding on to fear instead of letting go with love. Remind us that your home is a home for all, that truth requires hard work, that truth requires uncomfortable justice. Help us to be bold enough to see it and brave enough to live it. With hope 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, God sent prophets like John the Baptist to us because this work is not easy. Helping create a world where all might have a home, and all might be loved, and all might know peace, is an audacious goal. Fortunately for us, when we mess up—when we lose our way or forget our call—we are met with grace. God could not love us any more or any less than God already does.

**People: So we rest in this good news: We are at home with God—forgiven, claimed, and loved. The door is always open for us. 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**

God, whose love is like the sun warming me from the inside, if you are my home, then your word is the streetlight guiding me there. So I want you to know— I am walking your way, we are walking your way, and we are looking for a light. And our feet are dirty— we’ve lost our way a time or two. And our bags are heavy— we’re carrying an array of grief and fear on our backs. But we’re on our way. We’re looking for your light. We’re listening for your word. When you see us coming, when you feel our hearts move, we hope you’ll run down the driveway and catch us. Leave the light on. We are on our way home. Gratefully we pray, amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Zephaniah 3:14-20*

14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! 15 The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. 17 The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing 18 as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. 19 I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. 20 At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON**  *Luke 3:1-18*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, ‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” ’

7John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 9Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’ 10And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’ 11In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ 12Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ 13He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’ 14Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’ 15As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’ 18So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *A Home for All*Rev. Becca Crate-Price

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\* HYMN** *A Home for All*

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

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**\*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\* HYMN** *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

**Refrain:**

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawns draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. **[Refrain]**

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. **[Refrain]**

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who hold us fast: God’s mercy must deliver us from the conqueror’s crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. **[Refrain]**

**\* 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**

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

Today 12/12 Next Week 12/19

Sunday Opener Bob Rogers Beth Oates

Greeters & Ushers Cynthia Smith & Jim & Mary

Don Vasbinder Rhodes

Lay Leader Diana Steppling Dylan Vasbinder

**Happy Anniversary!** December 14 – Linda & Tony Caviglia

**Happy Birthday!** December 14 – Dylan Vasbinder

December 15 – Grant Stinson

December 19 – Becky Spicer

**Sunday December 19, 2021 Lectionary – 4th Sunday of Advent**

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

**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!

**Upcoming Concert:** Join us **TODAY** 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 12 – 3rd Sunday of Advent**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

3:00 pm Concert (Sanctuary)

***This Week:***

**Wednesday December 15**

6:15 – 7:15 pmBell Choir Practice

7:30 – 8:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

***Looking Ahead:***

**Sunday December 19 – 4th Sunday of Advent**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

**Wednesday December 22**

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)