December 26, 2021 – 10:30am
Springfield Presbyterian Church
Order of Worship - Christmas I
Theme – Chosen Home

Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle
Leader: Whenever we light this candle we proclaim:
**People: Christ is the Light of the world and center of our lives.**

Gathering of the People
Leader: The Lord be with you!
**People: And also with you!** [Greetings and Announcements]

Call to Worship
Leader: Jesus said, “This is my Father’s house.”
**People: So come into this space just as you are.**
Leader: Come into this space speaking your truth.
**People: Come into this space with your authentic self.**
Leader: This is God’s home.
**People: This is our home.**
Leader: Let us worship God.

\* Hymn Angels We Have Heard on High – GtG #113

Call to Confession
Research shows that on average, humans make about 35,000 choices in a day. In the prayer of confession, we acknowledge the moments when our choices do not reflect God’s love and we ask for grace. So let us pray together, trusting that God is with us in each of those 35,000 moments, cheering us on, and guiding us home. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

**Generous God, we could offer welcome, but we often choose judgment. We could choose action, but we often choose silence. We could choose advocacy, but we often choose comfort. We could choose truth, but we often choose ignorance. We could choose God, but we often choose ourselves. Forgive us, gracious God, for the moments when we chose poorly. Open our hearts to choose you, to choose community, to choose love. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

Silent Prayers of Confession

Response

Words of Assurance
Leader: Family of faith, no matter how we choose, we cannot lose God’s love. It is undeserved, overwhelming, ever-present, and always with us. So may we accept God’s grace, and use it as fuel for better days.
**People: Let us hear and believe the good news of the Gospel: No matter how many times we walk away, God always welcomes us home. We are loved. We are forgiven. We are invited. Thanks be to God, amen.**
Response:

The Peace
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you!
**People: And also with you!** (You may greet those around you)

The Proclamation of the Word

Prayer of Illumination
Author God, scripture tells us that when Jesus taught in the temple, all who heard were amazed. We want to be amazed too. We want to hear your word with new ears. We want to be unraveled and transformed by the truth tucked between those sentences. We want to be opened up by the hope in these holy pages. We want to be amazed. So as we read today, transport us to those early days in the temple. Open our hearts so we can hear your word like never before. We are listening. We are grateful. Amen.

Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:41-52
**41**Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. **42**And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. **43**When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. **44**Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. **45**When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. **46**After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. **47**And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. **48**When his parents[[a](https://gmail.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f1606ba25f61bd2fff7873030&id=b71e1e2b10&e=ea8fc2a60a)] saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.” **49**He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”[[b](https://gmail.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f1606ba25f61bd2fff7873030&id=b04dbb41fe&e=ea8fc2a60a)] **50**But they did not understand what he said to them. **51**Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. **52**And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years,[[c](https://gmail.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f1606ba25f61bd2fff7873030&id=2c2d663019&e=ea8fc2a60a)] and in divine and human favor.

*Reflection*

*The Response to the Word*

*\* Hymn*  Joy to the World – GtG #134

|  |
| --- |
| *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.”**And now, in confidence and in gratitude, we say the prayer together that Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, taught us to pray…**Our Father,** **who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven and give us this day our daily bread** **and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.****For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**Hymn Go Tell It On the Mountain – GtG #136 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.**  Postlude **Liturgy from Sanctified Art – Closer to Home Series 2021** |