**(Large Print)**

**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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



**December 24, 2021 - 7:00 pm**

**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**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader:An unmarried teenage girl was invited— to carry Christ into this world.   
**People: An ordinary carpenter was invited— to be a father to a child unlike any other.**

Leader: The shepherds were invited— outcast and isolated, included at the manger. **People: The Magi were invited— foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.**

Leader: And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were invited— then we can trust that we too are invited.

**People: This story is for us. This love is for us.**

Leader: Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home. Amen.

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES AND CHRIST CANDLE**

A: In God’s house, there is hope— for God loves us too much to leave us just as we are. Light the candle of hope.

B: In God’s house, there is peace— for all that separates us from God falls away.

Light the candle of peace.

A: In God’s house, there is joy— because God created music, and coffee, and dance floors, and laughter that is contagious, and endless rounds of peek-a-boos with babies; and if those things have God’s fingerprints, then God’s house surely exudes joy. Light the candle of joy.

B: In God’s house, there is love— because God is love, from start to finish, and that love exists for us all. Light the candle of love.

A: And in the center of our hope,

B: In the center of our peace,

A: In the center of our joy,

B: In the center of our love, is God—who came to this earth to dwell among us.

A: So tonight we light the Christ candle, for God’s love just could not stay away.

B: Welcome home. Amen.

**Sung Response**:

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!**

**Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.**

**Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;**

**The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**\* 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.

**THE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**FIRST READINGS**

*Psalm 62:1-2*

For God alone my soul waits in silence; from God comes my salvation. **God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall never be shaken.**

*Isaiah 9:2-7* OT page 600

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.   
3 You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 4 For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *I Wonder as I Wander* arr. Michael Helman

**SECOND READINGS**

*Isaiah 12:2*

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid.

**For the Lord God is my strength and my might; and has become my salvation.**

*Luke 1:26-35, 38*

26In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.’ 29But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ 34Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ 35The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 38Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

**\* HYMN** *To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary* GTG #98

To a maid whose name was Mary, the angel Gabriel came.  
“Fear not,” the angel told her, “I come to bring good news;  
Good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news.”

“For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all,  
Who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest;  
You are most blest, most blessed; God chose you, you are blest!”

But Mary was most troubled to hear the angel’s word.  
What was the angel saying? It troubled her to hear,  
To hear the angel’s message, it troubled her to hear.

“Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.  
His name shall be called Jesus, God’s offspring from on high.  
And he shall reign forever, forever reign on high.”

“How shall this be?” said Mary, “I am not yet a wife.”  
The angel answered quickly, “The power of the Most High  
Will come upon you shortly, your child shall be God’s child.”

As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words.  
“Behold, I am your handmaid,” she said unto her God.  
“So be it; I am ready according to your word.”

**THIRD READINGS**

Salvae Regina: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee.

**Blessed are thou among women and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus.**

*Luke 1:39-55*

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.’ 46And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, 47and 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.’

**\* HYMN** *My Soul Gives Glory to My God*

My soul give glory to my God; my heart pours out its praise.

God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.

My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is God’s name.

All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.

Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,

Remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

**FOURTH READINGS**

J. B. Ebling

All my heart today rejoices, as I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices;

‘**Christ is born,’ their choirs are singing, till the air, everywhere, now with joy is ringing.**

*Luke 2:1-14* NT page 54

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3All went to their own towns to be registered. 4Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!’

**ANTHEM** *Ding Dong! Merrily on High Street* Larry Shackley

**FIFTH READINGS**

Traditional This, this is Christ the King,

English Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Ballad **Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

*Luke 2:15-20* NT page 55

15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**ANTHEM**  *On This Still, Silent Night* Laura Farnell

**SIXTH READINGS**

*Colossians 1:15-16*

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;

**for in Him all things in heaven and on earth were created,**

**things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers; all things have been created through and for Him.**

*John 1:1-14, 16*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. 16From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

**\* HYMN**  *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* GTG #119

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.

Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful, all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;

With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,

Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,

Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

Meditation: *Invited Home* Rev. Becca Crate-Price

**THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** *Mary, Did You Know?* Arr. Anna Laura

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**THE COMMUNION OF CHRIST’S PEOPLE**

## INVITATION [Luke 2:12; Micah 5:4]

Leader: A child is born for us in Bethlehem, wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.

**People: He will be our Shepherd, feeding his flock in the strength of the Lord.**

## 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… “…dedicated to your service.”]

**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**

**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.**

**SHARING OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

**\* LIGHTING THE CANDLES**

The candle lighting will take place during the singing of *Silent Night.*

**\* HYMN** *Silent Night, Holy Night!* GTG #122

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
’Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia:  
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!”

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

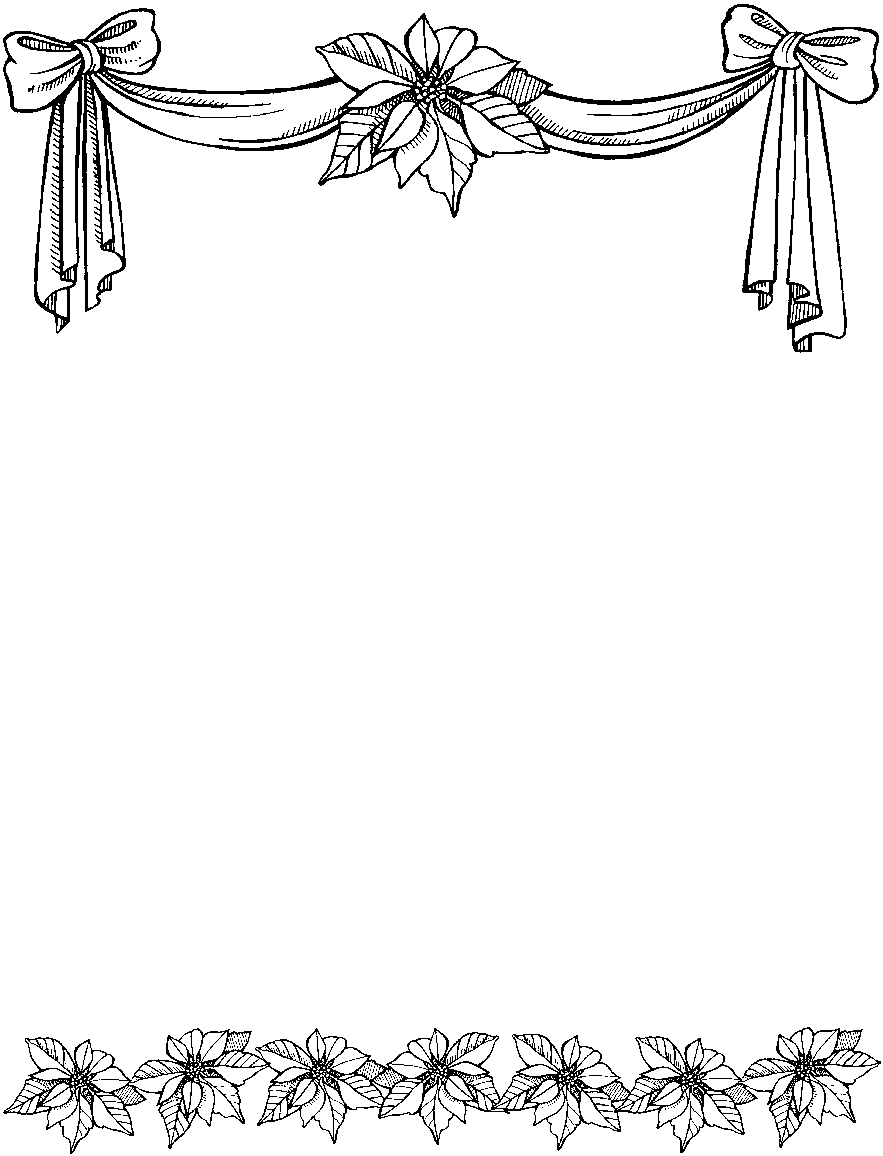
Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:  
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

(Extinguishing the lights)

**\* BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Hallelujah Chorus* G.F. Handel

Congregational Sing-Along (music available)

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**The Christmas Flowers in the Sanctuary were given by:**

***The Black Family*** *- In Memory of Barbara Dockendorf*

***Tony & Linda Caviglia*** *-**In Appreciation for our SPC Church Family*

***Steve & Donna Mazer*** *-**In Appreciation for our Family and Friends*

***Sharon Pappas*** *- In Memory of my Grandfather, Leslie*

***Bob & Lisa Rogers*** *- In Memory of Mary Williams; In Honor of Theresa Rogers*

***Bob & Diana Steppling*** *- In Memory of Jack & Betty Steppling;*

*Ira Evans, Philip Evans*

***The Vasbinder Family*** *- In Memory of Janet & Bob; William & Isabelle; Jeannette & George; Kurt; Nettie Studley; Brian Schlecht*

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**Worship Services for the next two Sundays (12/26/21 and 1/2/22) will be via Zoom only at 10:30 am:**

Meeting ID: 852 4517 1418  
Passcode: 653171