**(Large Print)**

**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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



**December 4, 2022 - 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.**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

Lay Leader: Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, “What are you afraid of?” From the voices of different generations, hear their answers:

Teenager: Not being enough.

Adult: Not making enough of a difference.

Child: Falling down.

Older Adult: That we will forget that we belong to one another.

Teenager: Climate change.

Adult: My child having to learn gun violence drills at school.

Child: Spiders.

Older Adult: Not having someone to take care of me; not having someone who knows my stories.

Teenager: My mental health slipping.

Adult: Ending up alone.

Child: Nightmares.

Older Adult: Stopping short of following God all the way.

Adult: Today we light the candle of peace, because we so desperately need God’s peace in the midst of all we fear.

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *[Psalm 29 excerpts]*

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

**People: The voice of the Lord is over the waters;**

Leader: The God of glory thunders,

**People: The Lord reigns over mighty waters.**

Leader: The voice of the Lord is powerful;

**People: The voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

Leader: May the Lord give strength to his people!

**People: May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

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

**\* HYMN** *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* GTG #87

“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God.  
“Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.  
To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.”

For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,  
Calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.  
O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.  
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: Fear can be a good thing. It can help us be attentive while driving down the highway. It can alert us to possible accidents. It can motivate us to do our best. However, fear can also be harmful. For so many of us, fear of the other, fear of failure, or fear of the unknown has led us to make sinful choices in our lives – choices such as building walls or tearing others down. Today, in confession, we ask for mercy and pray for guidance. As we confess, we come before an entirely merciful and loving God who says to us, “Do not be afraid.” My friends, let us pray together:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Patient God, you know just how often we make decisions from a place of fear rather than love. You know just how often we allow fear to take the place of logic, fanning unhealthy fires in our lives. You know just how often we tuck your words, “Do not be afraid” on dusty shelves and in the back of closets, stubbornly holding onto our own point of view. Forgive us for giving fear the microphone. Silence the voices of scarcity, shame, and rejection, which spark and feed so much of our fear, to recenter us in love. With hope we pray, amen.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**RESPONSE** *On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry*  Tune #96

Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight away for God within,

And let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: Family of faith, even when we forget God’s words, God does not forget us. Even when we lose our way, God does not lose us. Even when we fall short of make mistakes, God forgives and holds onto us.

**People: We are known, forgiven, and loved. Thanks be to God. Amen!**

**\* MUSICAL RESPONSE OF PRAISE** *Refrain from Angels We Have Heard on High* Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**\* 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**

Holy God, whether it’s through angels or music, friendships or sermons, study or nature – when you speak, we long to hear it. In a world as chaotic and broken as ours, we could use your words of hope and healing. With gratitude we pray, amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON**  *Isaiah 11:1-10*

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 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. 3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. 6 The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. 9 They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be

full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. 10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Luke 1:26-38*

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. 36And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37For nothing will be impossible with 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.

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**JESSE TREE**

**SERMON** *God Meets Us in Our Fear*Rev. Becca Price

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\* HYMN** *Hear I Am* (see last page of bulletin)

**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**

**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.**

**OFFERTORY** *Creation Will Be At Peace* by A.L. Page & J.P. Williams

**\*** SONG OF THANKS *As with Gladness Men of Old*  Tune #150

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** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* GTG #93

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart  
From earthly use for heaven’s employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.  
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: As you leave this place, may you go knowing that from generation to generation, we have been claimed and loved.

**People: From generation to generation, God has been by our side.**

Leader: From generation to generation, we are not alone.

**People: The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth, saying, “Go be the person you are called to be, love wildly, do justice, and come back soon.”**

Leader: May it be so. Amen.

**\* UNISON AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

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

Today 12/4 Next Week 12/11

Sunday Opener Barbara Cornell Bob Rogers

Ushers/Greeters Sharon Pappas Cynthia Smith

Bob Rogers Don Vasbinder

Lay Leader Tim Oates Diana Steppling

Communion Servers 1. Tony Caviglia 4. Linda Black

2. Linda Caviglia 5. Bob Rogers

3. Barbara Cornell

**Happy Birthday!** December 4 – Ryley Brown

**Sunday, December 11, 2022 Lectionary**

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

**Announcements**

**Youth Group Laser Tag:** We are hosting our annual laser tag on Saturday, **December 3** from 5:30 – 8:30 pm in partnership with St. Joe’s Church, and are expecting a BIG turnout! The event, food and drinks are all FREE, but would appreciate any donations to help fund future events. Please see Dylan Vasbinder to sign up and obtain parent waiver forms.

**Freedom Area Ringers Concert:** The Freedom Area Ringers will be having their Holiday Concert in our Sanctuary on Thursday, **December 8** at 7:00 pm, with a reception following the concert. The concert is free and open to the public.

**Our Upcoming Concert:** On Sunday, **December 11** at 3:00 pm, we will host harpist and vocalist Meghan Davis. This concert will feature a variety of music including selections for the holidays, and we look forward to her first-time appearance in our concert series. Please join us for the music and a reception following the concert!

**Mask Update:** Since COVID-19 is still with us, the Session has decided that masking and social distancing is encouraged but is optional. Though it is not a mandate, we seek to love one another by keeping each other as safe as possible. Thank you for your help in this endeavor.

**Pastor-Parish Committee:** The Pastor-Parish Committee invites you to share your concerns, suggestions, and gratitude. We have a form in the Narthex and a lock-box that we will open weekly and we ask that you share your name and be specific. We look forward to reading your comments so that we can continue to grow into the body of Christ.

**Springfield Membership:** Are you interested in finding out more about our faith community and becoming a member? We would love to answer any questions you have. Please contact Pastor Becca at [springfieldpastor@gmail.com](mailto:springfieldpastor@gmail.com) for more information.

**Congregational Care / Mission & Outreach (CoCaMO):** 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 4 – 2nd Sunday of Advent**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

***This Week:***

**Monday December 5**

6:00 pm Calendar Planning Meeting (Zoom)

7:00 pm HeadHuggers (Manse)

**Tuesday December 6**

7:00 pm CoCaMO Meeting (via Zoom)

**Wednesday December 7**

No Bell Choir or Adult Choir Practice

**Thursday December 8**

7:00 pm Freedom Area Ringers Concert (Sanctuary)

7:00 pm Session Meeting (Manse)

***Looking Ahead:***

**Sunday December 11 – 3rd Sunday of Advent**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

3:00 pm Concert (Sanctuary)

**Tuesday December 13**

7:00 pm ESCAPE Lunch Packing (Manse)

**Wednesday December 14**

5:45 – 7:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:30 – 8:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

**Thursday December 15**

7:00 pm Blue Christmas Service

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

**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 Price

**Email:** springfieldpastor@gmail.com

**Clerk of Session:** Sharon Pappas

**Minister of Music:** Linda Caviglia

**Accompanist/Organist:** Aaron Thacker

**Youth Group Coordinator:** Dylan Vasbinder

**Administrative Assistant:**Donna Mazer**e-mail:**[*spc.office@verizon.net*](mailto:spc.office@verizon.net)