**(Large Print)**

**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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



**December 24, 2019 - 8:00 pm Traditional Service**

**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** *Once in Royal David’s City* Arr. Keven McChesney

*In the Bleak Midwinter* Setting by Arnold B. Sherman

*Earth Shall Ring* Arr. Margaret R. Tucker

**GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE**

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!** (Greeting)

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

**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.**

**INTROIT** *Nova! Nova!* By Michael Bedford

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**People: Glory to God in the highest!**

Leader: For a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us.

**People: Glory to God in the highest!**

Leader: He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**People: Glory to God in the highest!**

Leader: To us is born in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

**People: Glory to God in the highest!**

Leader: And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

**People: Glory to God in the highest!**

Leader: Christ is born! Give Him glory!

**People: Let us worship the newborn King!**

**\* HYMN** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ our Lord. 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: Jesus Christ was born for us, to save us from our sin, to give us new life.

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Alleluia, 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**

Leader: Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace. **Amen.**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Isaiah 9:2-7*

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.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON**  *Luke 2:1-14*

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 Saviour, 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 favours!’

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Mary, Did You Know* Soloist Aaron Thacker

**TIME WITH YOUNG PEOPLE**

**SERMON**  *A Glorious Scandal* Rev. Becca Crate

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\* HYMN** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

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!”

**Refrain:**  
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. **[Refrain]**

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. **[Refrain]**

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

OFFERTORY *African Angel Carol* Arr. Sheldon Curry

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

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

**COMMUNION OF CHRIST’S PEOPLE**

## SPECIAL MUSIC (Video) At This Table Idina Menzel

## 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… “…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**

“For this I pray to God.” / “For this I give thanks to God.”

**Congregational Response: “Hear our prayer, O God.”**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**SHARING OF THE MEAL**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)

**God of grace and peace, as you have shared your life with us through the child in the manger and this simple meal together, let us share your life with others as the body of Christ in the world. Amen.**

**\* 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.

**\* LIGHTING THE CANDLES**

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

**\* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (extinguishing the candles)

**\* CLOSING HYMN** *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: Christ has come!

**People: To bring light into this dark world!**

Leader: To revive and renew His beloved children!

**People: To say that there is a new way of living!**

Leader: Christ came into a broken and fractured world,

**People: So we become people who embody hope, joy, peace, and love.**

**\* UNISON AMEN**

**POSTLUDE** *Hallelujah Chorus* By Handel Congregation Sing-Along

**Sunday December 29 Lectionary**

Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

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

Christmas Eve 12/24 Next Week 12/29

Sunday Opener Jennifer Wise Barbara Cornell

Greeters & Ushers Steve & Donna Mazer (8:00 pm) Bob Rogers &

Volunteeer

Lay Leader Charlie Sperling (5:30 pm) Max Carroll

Dylan Vasbinder (8:00 pm)

Sunday School N/A Connie Robinson

Fellowship N/A Shona Klein & Barbara Cornell

**Christmas Eve Communion Servers:**

**5:30 pm Service 8:00 pm Service**

1. Diana Steppling 1. Don Vasbinder 6. Sharon Pappas

2. Ed Newsome 2. Jim Wise 7. Barbara Nickell

3. Connie Robinson 3. Sue Holmes 8. Bob Steppling

4. Charlie Sperling 4. Tim Doyle 9. Linda Black

5. Bob Rogers

**Church Attendance:** December 8 – 58 December 15 - 38

**Church Cleaning:** December 27, 28 or 29 – Sandy & Ed Newsome

**Happy Birthday!** December 27 – Brent Bourgoin

December 31 – Lindsey Mazer

**Announcements**

**Offering Envelopes:** Be sure to pick up your 2020 offering envelopes in the Narthex. If you do not currently receive envelopes and would like a set for 2020, please let Donna in the Church Office know. We also offer electronic transfer of funds for your offering on an ongoing basis. If you are interested, please email [spc.office@verizon.net](mailto:spc.office@verizon.net) and Donna will get you the form to sign up.

**Blessing Bags** are in the Narthex. Please feel free to pick up a few. Handing one out to someone in need gives you a very real way to meet their immediate needs by providing them with some basic supplies.

**Inclement Weather:** If we feel the need to cancel Worship and Sunday School, there will be a message on the Church answering machine, as well as on Facebook. You may also receive an email with that information.

**Prayers & Thanksgivings**

~ Dear Church Family, we want to thank you all for the amazing (and quick) outpouring of love you showed Josh and his USS Abraham Lincoln shipmates. Seven large boxes of snacks, toiletries, reading materials, treat-bags, and cards were collected and mailed to the Persian Gulf. All of these “Hugs from Home” will bring happiness and comfort to our military men and women who are unexpectedly

away from their loved ones this holiday season. As parents, we too appreciate the love shown to us throughout this difficult time.

With love and gratitude, Ed & Sandy Newsome

~ Prayers for *Korean United 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. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Becca at 410-795-6152 or springfieldpastor@gmail.com.*

***Today:***

**Monday December 24 - Christmas Eve**

5:30 pm Family Christmas Eve Service

8:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service

***This Week:***

**Wednesday December 25 – Merry Christmas!**

No Choir Practices

***Looking Ahead:***

**Sunday December 29**

10:30 am Worship & Sunday School

11:30 am Fellowship

**Wednesday January 1 – Happy New Year!**

No Choir Practices

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)