**(Large Print)**

**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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



**![chrch7c[1]]()January 1, 2023 - 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.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\* HYMN** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* GTG #133

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

**Refrain:**O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Very God, begotten, not created! **[Refrain]**

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! **[Refrain]**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! **[Refrain]**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

On a day like today we may want to skip the prayer of confession because today is a day for joy. Why should we pause to think and talk about the ways we as humans mess things up? I hear that argument. However, I also believe that the joy of this day is even more joyful when we are honest about who we are. We humans tend to be messy, scattered, and full of doubt at times. Knowing that Jesus was born in a manger for us, and that Jesus loves and forgives us, is even better news. So let us confess together to God, knowing that the honest truth of our lives only makes this good news better. Let us pray:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, too often we feel as if change is hopeless. The problems of this world feel too big, the path forward is unclear, and we are not confident that we can truly make a difference. We give up hope. Together we pray: **Forgive us for extinguishing hope.**

Holy God, too often we believe that peace is a thing of fairy tales. Our spirits are anxious. Our bodies are weary. Our world is fractured. Instead of praying for peace – both in ourselves and in our society – we assume that peace is no longer on the table. We give it up. Together we pray: **Forgive us for extinguishing peace.**

Holy God, too often we paint joy as naïve – a luxury reserved for children and pets. We forget that you ate with friends, that you went to weddings, that you laughed and rested and hiked mountains. We forget that you knew joy, and that you want joy for us in this fractured world. Forgive us for turning away from your light.

Together we pray: **Forgive us for extinguishing joy.**

Holy God, too often we treat love like a vending machine. We put some coins in and assume that we’ll get something back. However, in our wiser moments, we know that love is not meant for keeping score. Love is meant to overflow, to spill out to our neighbors, to transform our world. Forgive us for holding love so tightly. Together we pray: **Forgive us for extinguishing love.**

**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: Faith of faith, sin separates us from things like hope, peace, and joy. Sin wiggles its way between us and love, both love of neighbor and love of self. Fortunately for us, God had something else in mind. God sent God’s only son to this world so that we could see another way. So friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: no matter how many times we turn our back on hope, or extinguish peace, or snuff out joy – no matter how many times we let love burn out – God continues to light our way.

**People: We are forgiven. We are seen. We are loved. The good news of this day – the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love of this day – exists for you. 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**

God of manger straw and swaddle cloth, God of silent nights and joyfully-chaotic mornings, we long to know you. The hustle and bustle of this time of year can be more than distracting, so for a moment, we pray, still our busy hearts. Quiet our minds. Help us to sink deeply into this day. Help us to pause here, to linger here, as we hear your good news spoken over us. God we long to know you, so speak to us now. With grateful hearts, we pray. With grateful hearts, we listen. Amen.

**POETIC READING OF SCRIPTURE** *John 1:1-5*

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.

**SERMON**  *Love Begotten* Rev. Becca Price

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\* HYMN** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* GTG #136

**Refrain:**
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. **[Refrain]**

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth. **[Refrain]**

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **[Refrain]**

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

**OFFERTORY**

**\*** 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** *Joy to the World* GTG #134

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: 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**

**(Announcements will return next week.)**

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

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**Clerk of Session:** Sharon Pappas

**Minister of Music:** Linda Caviglia

**Accompanist/Organist:** Aaron Thacker

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