**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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

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**April 21, 2024 - 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**

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE**

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!** (Greetings and Announcements)

**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**

Leader: Church, where do you see God?

**People: We see God in the wide reach of the sky, in the towering height of mountains, in the depths of the sea, and in the vividness of the flowers.**

Leader: Church, where do you see God?

**People: We see God in early morning sunrises, in the quiet after a snow, in the reaching of rivers and tributaries, and in the stars that light the night.**

Leader: And in your seeing, what do you know?

**People: We know that God is here, and we know that God is good.**

Leader: Let us worship the God of creation!

**People: Let us worship our with-us God.**

**\*HYMN***Morning Has Broken* GTG #664

Morning has broken like the first morning;

Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.

Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!

Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain’s new fall sunlit from heaven,

Like the first dew-fall on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,

Sprung in completeness where God’s feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,

Born of the one light Eden say play!

Praise with elation; praise every morning,

God’s recreation of the new day!

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: One of the things that is amazing about the Earth is that even after a fire, a flood, or an oil spill, new life always finds a new way to grow. Friends, God’s grace is like that. No matter the mistakes we make, the mess we create, or the harm we do, God’s love for us is unending. Trusting in that good news, let us turn to the prayer of confession with confidence that even here, grace is in bloom.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Leader: Creator God, we have lost our way.

**People: In the beginning, humanity was instructed to care for creation. However, in pursuit of our own wealth and efficiency, we have done the opposite.**

Leader: The oceans are heavy with plastic and the ice caps are melting by the hour.

**People: Animals and plants are treated as a means to an end and corporations fill the atmosphere with pollution.**

Leader: Policies and practices are slow to change.

**People: Forgive us, God.**

Leader: Bring us back to the garden,

**People: Fill our hearts with compassion for your world.**

Leader: Show us where we can make a difference,

**People: Help us to see your fingerprints in every glimpse of the natural world.**

Leader: With hope in our hearts for a better day, we pray,

**ALL: Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**RESPONSE***Restore in Us, O God*  Tune #434 (v.3)

Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy;

Baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: Friends, when it comes to creation care, we have a lot to confess. But even here, even now, God’s grace for us is like a mighty rushing stream. So trusting in God’s unrelenting mercy, may we be inspired to action. Join me in proclaiming these words of forgiveness:

**People: Just as flowers that bloom after the fire, there is nothing that God cannot redeem. We are known. We are loved, we are made new. So may we roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty with the work of justice, compassion, and mercy. Thanks be to God for this new day! Alleluia and Amen!**

**\* MUSICAL RESPONSE OF PRAISE** *We Are Forgiven* Tune #447

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

**\* 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** *Visio Divina*

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON**  *Psalm 148:1-10*

1 Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!
2 Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! 3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! 4 Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created. 6 He established them for ever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed. 7 Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, 8 fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command! 9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! 10 Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Genesis 1:9-31*

9And God said, ‘Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.’ And it was so. 10God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. 11Then God said, ‘Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.’ And it was so. 12The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. 13And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

14And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, 15and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.’ And it was so. 16God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. 17God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, 18to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. 20And God said, ‘Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.’ 21So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. 22God blessed them, saying, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.’ 23And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. 24And God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.’ And it was so. 25God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. 26Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’
27 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.’ 29God said, ‘See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. 30And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.’ And it was so. 31God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

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

 **All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *Somewhere East of Eden*Rev. Becca Price

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\*HYMN** *For the Beauty of the Earth* GTG #14

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind’s delight,
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;
For that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

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

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

 OFFERTORY

**\*** SONG OF THANKS  *Sing to God, with Joy and Gladness*Tune #657

Sing to God, with joy and gladness, hymns and psalms of gratitude;

With the voice of praise discover that to worship God is good.

God unites the scattered people, gathers those who wandered far,

Heals the hurt and broken spirits, tending every wound and scar.

 **\*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\* HYMN** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* GTG #39

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

**Refrain:**
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **[Refrain]**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **[Refrain]**

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: Now, as you leave this place, may your heart swell for the beauty of this Earth.

**People: May it break for the suffering of creation.**

Leader: May we long with the conviction to do something about it.

**People: May we always be aware of the holy ground beneath our feet.**

Leader: In the name of the Creator, the created, and the source of creativity:

**People: We go in peace and do the good work that is ours to do. Amen.**

**\* UNISON AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

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

 Today 4/21 Next Week 4/28

Sunday Opener: Ron Holmes Barbara Cornell

Ushers/Greeters: Connie Gibbons Steve & Donna Mazer

 Cynthia Smith

Lay Leader: Barbara Cornell Christy Yeager

Fellowship Host: Bob & Diana Steppling Rebekah Schermer

**Happy Birthday!** April 23 – Morgan Mazer

**Sunday April 28, 2024 Lectionary**

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

**Announcements**

**ESCAPE Lunches:** Four times a year our church contributes 48 free lunches for ESCAPE to distribute  at St Paul's in downtown Sykesville. Our next turn is Tuesday **April 30**. Join us at the Manse at 7 pm, or sign up to bring some of the food needed. Thank you to everyone involved in this outreach!

**Fellowship:** A new sign-up sheet is available at fellowship for upcoming months. Remember,  you can sign up to host a  Sunday or you may just want to bring something to celebrate a family event or to wish a friend a happy birthday!

**It’s Springtime!** Our annual Plant Sale is coming up! Save some of your spring flower purchases to buy at Buppert's. When you purchase with their flier, Buppert's will donate a percentage for our local missions. More information to follow…

***Today:***

 **Sunday April 21**

10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Fellowship

***This Week:***

**Wednesday April 24**

6:15 – 7:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

 7:30 – 8:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

 **Saturday April 27**

7:00 pm Family Game Night (Fellowship Room)

***Next Week:***

**Sunday April 28**

10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Fellowship

 **Tuesday April 30**

7:00 pm ESCAPE Lunch Packing (Manse)

 **Wednesday May 1**

6:15 – 7:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

 7:30 – 8:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

**Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 am – 3 pm**

**Springfield Presbyterian Church**

 10:30 am Worship (and Sunday School 1st & 3rd Sundays)

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/Accompanist:** Aaron Thacker

**Bell Choir Director:** Daria Dodonova

**Youth Group Coordinator:** Dylan Vasbinder

**Administrative Assistant:**Donna Mazer **Email:***spc.office@verizon.net*