**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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

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**September 15, 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**

**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: Come, let us journey together in faith.

**People: We come, trusting in God, who guides each step.**

Leader: Just as Abraham listened for God’s voice,

**People: We open our hearts to hear God’s call today.**

Leader: Just as Isaac felt bound and then freedom,

**People: We feel ourselves free to explore the Word anew.**

Leader: We remain faithful, trusting God’s provision and promise,

**People: So, with grateful hearts we come together,**

**ALL: Let us worship 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: Like Abraham, we are called to trust and obey God, even when we feel conflicted by the call. Humbly, we acknowledge that we often falter in our faith, clinging to what is familiar or fearing what is unknown. But, friends, we know that our God is gracious and merciful, inviting us to enter into prayer with sincere hearts. So, let us come together in prayer, trusting in God, whose love never fails:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, we come before you, seeing the trust that Abraham had in you on that mountaintop moment. We long to have that trust, that faith, for such an act – yet your call remains the same. Help us, O God, when the promises seem too extravagant to believe in your extravagant love that surpasses our understanding. Help us to walk wisely and bravely into the future unknown, for you will continue to shepherd us all of our days. Forgive us and renew us this day, O God, as we come before you in faith and hope. Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**RESPONSE** *Out of the Depths* GTG #424(v. 3)

In you alone, O God, we hope, and not in our own merit.

We rest our fears in your good word; uphold our fainting spirit.

Your promised mercy is my fort, my comfort, and my strong support;

I wait for it with patience.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: Friends, we trust in the good news that God loved us first and continues to love us even amid our sinful ways. We celebrate that God has forgiven us, today and every day, when we come before God with hope and humility.

**People: Let us raise our voices and with joy, celebrate the grace and mercy of God and the forgiveness we receive today! Alleluia and amen!**

**\* MUSICAL RESPONSE OF PRAISE** *God, How Can We Forgive*

GTG #445 (v. 2)

When we have missed the mark, and tears of anguish flow,

How can you still release our guilt, the debt we owe?

The ocean depth of grace surpasses all our needs.

A priest who shares our human pain, Christ intercedes.

**\* 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**

Gracious and Loving God, as we hear about Abraham’s journey of trust, we also put our trust in your Word. We also will hear of Isaac’s binding and then freedom, and we remember how you have unbound us from our own perceptions and given us freedom to hear you speak to us today. Grant us grace to hear and the wisdom to know how you continue to speak to us today. We pray all of this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Psalm 13* OT page 468

1 How long, O Lord? Will you forget me for ever? How long will you hide your face from me? 2 How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? 3 Consider and answer me, O Lord my God! Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death, 4 and my enemy will say, ‘I have prevailed’; my foes will rejoice because I am shaken. 5 But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. 6 I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Genesis 22:1-12*OT page 17

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, ‘Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ 2He said, ‘Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go

to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.’ 3So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. 4On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. 5Then Abraham said to his young men, ‘Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.’ 6Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. 7Isaac said to his father Abraham, ‘Father!’ And he said, ‘Here I am, my son.’ He said, ‘The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?’ 8Abraham said, ‘God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.’ So the two of them walked on together. 9When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. 11But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, ‘Abraham, Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ 12He said, ‘Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.’

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

 **All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *Unbound by God’s Promise*Rev. Becca Price

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\* HYMN** *How Great Thou Art* GTG #625

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder, consider all the worlds thy hands have made,

I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed:

**Refrain:**

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,

How great thou art! How great thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:

How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,

When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze: **[Refrain]**

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,

That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin: **[Refrain]**

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!

Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, “My God, how great thou art!” **[Refrain]**

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

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

 OFFERTORY

**\*** SONG OF THANKS  *A Grateful Heart* GTG #652 (v. 1)

A grateful heart is what I bring, a song of praise, my offering.

Among the saints I lift my voice: in you, O God, I will rejoice.

 **\*** 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:As we go from this place,

**People: We remember the faith of Abraham who trusted God in the face of the unknown.**

Leader: As we go from this place,

**People: We celebrate our many freedoms, found in God’s love.**

Leader: As we go from this place,

**People: We go with joy, with hope, with trust, that God will always provide. Alleluia and amen!**

**\* UNISON AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

**Sunday September 22, 2024 Lectionary**

Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

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

 Today 9/15 Next Week 9/22

Sunday Opener: Linda Caviglia Bob Rogers

Ushers/Greeters: Don Vasbinder Steve and Donna Mazer

 Elizabeth Meirowitz

Lay Leader: Diana Steppling Barbara Cornell

Fellowship Host:

**Announcements**

**Concert:** The first concert in our 16th season is **TODAY** at 3:00 pm, featuring Lin Ching-Yi, an exceptional classical pianist. Originally from Taiwan, Lin swiftly established himself in France, North America, Spain, and Taiwan, after winning the Texas State International Piano Competition, Marbella International Piano Competition, and Taipei Taiwan International Piano Competition. In 2024, he completed his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the Peabody Institute under the tutelage of Alexander Shtarkman. He will be performing music by Bach, Beethoven and Schumann. Please join us for this special performance in our intimate sanctuary, and the reception following the concert.

***Today:***

 **Sunday September 15**

10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Fellowship

3:00 pm Concert (Sanctuary)

***This Week:***

 **Wednesday September 11**

6:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:30 pm Adult Choir Practice

***Next Week:***

**Sunday September 22**

10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Fellowship

 12:00 noon RGEF Meeting (Library)

 **Wednesday September 25**

6:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:30 pm Adult Choir Practice

**Saturday September 28**

7:00 pm Family Game Night (Fellowship Room)

**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*