**(Large Print)**

**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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

****

A close-up of a piece of paper

Description automatically generated

**April 7, 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: Jesus said,

**People: “Follow me.”**

Leader: Jesus said,

**People: “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”**

Leader: Jesus said,

**People: “Forgive seventy times seven.”**

Leader: Jesus said,

**People: “Feed my sheep.”**

Leader: In response, we say:

**People: “Here’s my heart. Take and seal it. Seal it for thy courts above.”**

**ALL: Let us worship God with all our hearts.**

**\*HYMN***More Love to Thee, O Christ* GTG #828

More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee!  
Hear thou the prayer I make on bended knee.  
This is my earnest plea: more love, O Christ, to thee;  
More love to thee, more love to thee!

Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest.  
Now thee alone I seek; give what is best.  
This all my prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to thee;  
More love to thee, more love to thee!

Then shall my latest breath whisper thy praise;  
This be the parting cry my heart shall raise.  
This still its prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to thee;  
More love to thee, more love to thee!

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: For the last seven weeks we have been following the life and faith of Peter. Despite being one of Jesus’ most loyal disciples, Peter still made mistakes. He was faithful and messy, humble and afraid, loving and cautious. Friends, we’re a lot like Peter. Despite our faith, we make mistakes. Despite our belief, we carry unbelief. Despite our love, we can cause hurt. So like Peter, let us return to God in prayer, confessing the truth of our lives. God’s grace does not stop with that humble yet fearful disciple. God’s grace reaches all the way to us. Let us pray:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious and Loving God, like Peter, we crawl out of the boat only to sink. You tell us your truth and we push it away. We ask about forgiveness and are surprised by abundance. We profess our faith and deny it three times. We run to the empty tomb and leave in silence. Over and over again, we find ourselves wandering along the journey of faith. Tether us to your heart. Forgive our surprise, our denial, and our limited imagination. Call us out of the boat once more. We are eager to return to you. With humble hearts we pray, amen.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**RESPONSE***Jesus Knows the Inmost Heart*  Tune #427 (v.2)

Jesus knows the inmost heart: nothing can be hidden.

Jesus knows the inmost heart: nothing can be hidden.

Jesus knows our deepest fears, knows the pain of hidden tears.

By his words of love and peace every heart can find release.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: Friends, the first time that Peter saw Jesus after the crucifixion, Jesus asked him three times, “Do you love me?” This repetition was not because Jesus doubted Peter’s word. This repetition was Jesus offering Peter grace. You see, the last time Jesus and Peter were together, Peter said three times, “I do not know that man.” So when Jesus returned, he asked Peter, “Do you love me?” And in that moment, he allowed Peter to turn his denial into love. So let us profess this grace together:

**People: The grace of our God knows no end. When we stumble, when we fall, when we deny God or cause harm, Jesus meets us where we are and offers us a second chance. So, we rest in this good news. Does God love us? Yes, yes, yes. God loves us. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God for a love that never ends.**

**\* MUSICAL RESPONSE OF PRAISE** *Calm to the Waves*

Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind. Jesus whispers, “Peace, be still.”

Balm to our hearts. Fears at an end. In stillness, hear His voice.

**\* 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 second chances and new life, we have spent our days wandering. Like Peter we have had milled about through nearly every state of faith. We have had courageous days and convicted days, learning days and questioning days. We have had days where we run to you, days for diving out of the boat, days for deep joy, and days where the pain of the world feels too close to bear. So as we bring our wandering hearts to you, we ask that you draw us in. Allow this story to spark something new in us. Allow this story of grace to give us pause and pull us in. We are listening. Amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON**  *John 21:1-10*

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. 2Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. 3Simon Peter said to them, ‘I am going fishing.’ They said to him, ‘We will go with you.’ They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. 4Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5Jesus said to them, ‘Children, you have no fish, have you?’ They answered him, ‘No.’ 6He said to them, ‘Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.’ So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. 7That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord!’ When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. 8But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

9When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. 10Jesus said to them, ‘Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.’

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** *John 21:11-19*

11So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. 12Jesus said to them, ‘Come and have breakfast.’ Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ because they knew it was the Lord. 13Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. 15When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ 16A second time he said to him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Tend my sheep.’ 17He said to him the third time, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ And he said to him, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep. 18Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.’ 19(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, ‘Follow me.’

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *“Here’s My Heart”*Rev. Becca Price

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\*HYMN** *Jesus Calls Us* GTG #720

Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;  
Day by day his sweet voice soundeth saying, "Christian, follow me."

Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,  
From each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,  
Still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."

Jesus calls us: by thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call,  
Give our hearts to thy obedience, serve and love thee best of all.

**\* AFFIRMING OUR FAITH**

**We believe in a God who shows up in our lives – surprising and catching us off-guard in the best of ways.**

**We believe in a God who cares for God’s people – a shepherd who longs for the sheep to be fed and tended.**

**We believe in a God who took on flesh – a God whose love changed the world as we know it.**

**We believe that this here-and-now God invites us out of the boat,**

**calling ordinary people like Peter, like us, into a life of service and community.**

**And so we give our hearts. We give our whole hearts and nothing less. Amen.**

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

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

OFFERTORY

**\*** SONG OF THANKS *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

Tune #645

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.

With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled: to God all praise and glory!

**\*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\* HYMN** *Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons)* GTG #726

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,

Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?

Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,

And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the “you” you hide if I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,

Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.

Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: Beloved Wanderers, as we leave this place, may we carry our curious hearts on our sleeves.

**People: May we look for God in every face and find the courage to get out of the boat and run to the tomb and speak of your faith.**

Leader: When the world falls apart, may we hear God’s voice deep within,

**People: Hear it saying, “Take heart, it is I, be not afraid.”**

Leader: We are called. We are blessed.

**People: And we know that in our ups and downs, we always belong to God.**

Leader: So let us go in peace and trust that good news.

**People: Amen!**

**\* UNISON AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

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

Today 4/7 Next Week 4/14

Sunday Opener: Donna Mazer Linda Caviglia

Ushers/Greeters: Elizabeth Meirowitz Beth Oates

Bob Rogers Don Vasbinder

Lay Leader: Sharon Pappas Tim Oates

Fellowship Host: Belle Vasbinder Mark & Diane Chaplik

**Sunday April 14, 2024 Lectionary**

Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

**Happy Birthday!** April 3 - Barbara Cornell

April 3 – India Oates

April 7 – Wes McClung

April 12 – Lisa Rogers

April 13 – Kelsey Robinson

**Announcements**

**Congregational Meeting:** Our  meeting to elect a new slate of elders to the class of 2026 is called for **TODAY**, immediately following our worship service. The slate of officers: Leah Halvorson and Ron Holmes, if re-elected, will stay on for another term and Barb Nickell will be elected to complete this class of three elders being elected to serve a two-year term. Our by-laws state Session is to be composed of three elders elected to two-year terms, eligible for one renewal, but may be re-elected after rotating off for at least one year. Thanks to the nominating committee: Co-chairs Beth Oates and Steve Mazer, and Barbara Cornell, Christy Yeager, and Belle Vasbinder. As always, huge thanks to current members serving to guide our work and programs: Leah Halvorson, Ron Holmes, Steve Mazer, Alex McClung, Bob Steppling, and Tim Oates.

**Care Package for Henry Halvorson:** Would you like to write a note to be placed in our care package for Henry? He is now stationed in Monterey, California and attends the Defense Language Institute. Feel free to provide your own card or see Sue Holmes for blank note cards. Please be sure to give all cards to Sue by **TODAY.**

**Upcoming Concert:** Mark your calendars for our upcoming concert on Sunday, **April 14** at 3:00 pm when we welcome Springfield Tradition to our Sanctuary. Denny Kopp and Max Allision, formerly members of the bluegrass group known as Iron Ridge, will perform traditional bluegrass music. Bring your family and friends for good music and good food at the reception following the concert.

**Noisy Offering:** On Easter Sunday, during our Noisy Offering, we raised **$165 dollars!** All this small change will make a **BIG change** as we donate this money to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). To find out about all the good that PDA is doing, please go to their website, <https://pda.pcusa.org/>, and know that your contributions will reach far and wide.

***Today:***

**Sunday April 7**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Congregational Meeting

12:00 noon Fellowship

***This Week:***

**Tuesday April 9**

7:00 pm CoCaMO Meeting (Manse)

**Wednesday April 10**

6:15 – 7:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:30 – 8:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

**Thursday April 11**

7:00 pm Session Meeting (Manse)

***Next Week:***

**Sunday April 14 – Holy Humor Sunday**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

3:00 pm Concert (Sanctuary)

**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*](mailto:spc.office@verizon.net)