**(Large Print)**

**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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

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A close-up of a leaf

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**March 10, 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** *La Paix & La Rejouissance* George Frederick Handel

Four Winds Flute Quartet – Mary Stojak, Paula Grapes, Beth Ream and Linda Caviglia

**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: On our worst days,

**People: God is good.**

Leader: On our best days,

**People: God is good.**

Leader: When life is consistent,

**People: God is good.**

Leader: And when life turns on its head,

**People: God is good.**

Leader: Day and night, Monday through Sunday,

**People: God is good. God is here. God is love.**

Leader: Let us hold tight to that good news!

**People: Let us worship God!**

**\*HYMN***Be Thou My Vision* GTG #450

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tower;  
Raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;  
Thou, mine inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: There’s a moment in our scripture today when Jesus turns to Peter, named “the rock” of the church, and says, “Get behind me, Satan!” I don’t know about you all, but that’s a pretty bad day for Peter. It’s a pretty bad day when Jesus calls you Satan! Fortunately, this absurd moment comforts me with the knowledge that even Peter made mistakes. Peter, who was given the keys to Heaven. Peter, Jesus’ right-hand man, made mistakes just like us. And still, Jesus chose him. Knowing that, let us speak honestly with God. For even on our worst days, we belong to God, and that will never change. Join me in prayer:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, we often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense. Like Peter, we want to yell out, “This should not happen!” We want to control scenarios beyond our reach. We want to hold your world in our hands. Forgive us for the moments when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity. Forgive us for**

**arguing when we could listen. Forgive us for fixating on one truth, when we could open ourselves up to many. Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen. With hope in our 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, know the pain of hidden tears.

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

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: Friends, no matter how many times you have dug your heels in, no matter how many fights you have wanted to pick with God, no matter how many times you have disagreed, raged, or clung to what you know instead of embracing holy change – we worship a God of grace. Nothing can separate us from God’s love, not even a stubborn attitude or a tense heart, so let us hear and believe the good news of the gospel together:

**People: God’s love for us will always be deeper than we can imagine. We are seen. We are loved. And we are forgiven. Now follow Peter, and go be the Church in the world. Amen.**

**\* 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!**

**\* 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**

Listening God, if we could attach ourselves to you, we would. We would scribble your Scripture onto our tender hearts. We would weave your good news into the fiber of our being. We would bind ourselves to you, but instead, we wander. Instead of attaching ourselves to you, we find ourselves swept up in the business of the day. Like a seesaw of faithfulness, we move back and forth, up and down, constantly trying to find you in the midst of it all. So speak clearly to us now. Quiet the distractions long enough for us to affix ourselves to your good news. We are listening, we are hungry, we are hopeful. Amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22*

1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures for ever. 2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble 3 and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. 17 Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction; 18 they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death. 19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; 20 he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction. 21 Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. 22 And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Matthew 16:21-23*

21From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, ‘God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.’ 23But he turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *“I’m Fixed Upon It”* Rev. Becca Price

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\*HYMN** *The Way* (see last page)

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Leader: I believe in a God of second chances,

**People: A God who sees through my stubbornness and holds my fear with tenderness.**

Leader: I believe that this God of second chances uses ordinary people like Peter to do good in the world.

**People: Therefore, I believe and hope that God can use me too.**

Leader: I believe that from time to time, God invites us to imagine the impossible. I believe that from time to time, God invites us to change our minds.

**People: This change is holy and important work, although challenging. When fear and scarcity plague me, or when the impossible feels out of reach, I believe that God meets me with grace and invites me to follow.**

Leader: Thanks be to God for a love like that.

**People: Amen.**

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

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

OFFERTORY *Sheep May Safely Graze* J.S. Bach arr. Morland

**\*** 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** *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go* GTG #833

O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine’s blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain  
that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life’s glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red  
life that shall endless be.

**\* 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** *Allegro from Sonata in F Major* G.P. Telemann

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

Today 3/10 Next Week 3/17

Sunday Opener: Barbara Cornell Beth Oates

Ushers/Greeters: Elizabeth Meirowitz Don Vasbinder

Bob Rogers Need Volunteer

Lay Leader: Tony Caviglia Ron Holmes

Fellowship Host: Connie Gibbons Belle Vasbinder

**Sunday March 17, 2024 Lectionary**

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

**Happy Birthday!** March 12 – Samuel Schermer

March 16 – Heather Caviglia

**Announcements**

**Special Offering:** During the season of Lent, we receive the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. Officially, the dates are **March 10 and 17**, but we will be happy to have them any time. This is the 75th anniversary of OGHS which has been restoring hope, rebuilding dreams, and empowering communities creating a world that reflects God's love. This offering is divided approximately in thirds, each going to Presbyterian Disaster Relief (PDA), growing food security in the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), and partnering in progress with the Self-Development of People program that responds to racism, oppression, poverty, and injustice.

**ESCAPE Lunches:** My heartfelt thanks to all six who helped assemble lunches for ESCAPE and to everyone who contributed the fixin's! Our next turn comes the last Tuesday in April so watch for a sign-up sheet. ~ Barbara Cornell

**Announcements:** If you would like to have anything listed in these announcements, please email your information to the Church Office by Wednesdays. Thank you!

***Today:***

**Sunday March 10 – 4th Sunday in Lent**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

***This Week:***

**Tuesday March 12**

7:00 pm CoCaMO Meeting (Manse)

**Wednesday March 13**

6:16 – 7:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:30 – 8:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

**Thursday March 14**

7:00 pm Session Meeting (Manse)

***Next Week:***

**Sunday March 17 – 5th Sunday in Lent**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

**Wednesday March 20**

6:16 – 7:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:30 – 8:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

**Saturday March 23**

7:00 pm Family Game Night (Fellowship Room)

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 am - 3:00 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**e-mail:**[*spc.office@verizon.net*](mailto:spc.office@verizon.net)