**(Large Print)**

**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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

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A group of people silhouettes

Description automatically generated

**January 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: Arise, shine; for your light has come! The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**People: Jesus Christ is the light of the world!**

Leader: Nations will come to His light, and rules will seek His radiance.

**People: Jesus Christ is the light of the world!**

Leader: He will judge the people with righteousness and defend the cause of the poor.

**People: Jesus Christ is the light of the world!**

Leader: The mystery of the ages is revealed; the eternal plan of God is known to all.

**People: Jesus Christ is the light of the world!**

Leader: Let us kneel before Him to give Him honor, glory, and praise.

**People: Jesus Christ is the light of the world!**

Leader: Let us offer Him all the treasures of our hearts and our lives.

**People: Jesus Christ is the light of the world!**

**\*HYMN***Arise, Your Light Is Come!* GTG #744

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit’s call obey;

Show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;

Proclaim the captives’ liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,

Bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!

Rise up like eagles on the wing; God’s power will make us strong.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: Sometimes, it feels like all we get are cloudy nights and the stars are hidden from view. In the same way, life and our minds can feel cloudy, and we cannot see the light of Christ before us. As we sin, things can lose clarity quickly, but we know that God longs for us to see a star – a guiding light – and to follow that light that shines forth the truth. So let us come together in prayer, to ask for a clear sky and clear minds, so that we can be disciples of Christ in this time and place. Let us pray:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of Glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**RESPONSE** *Restore in Us, O God*  Tune #434

Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;

Renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: The mercy of the Lord is like rain, like showers that water the earth. Let us proclaim together,

**ALL: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Alleluia and Amen!**

**\* MUSICAL RESPONSE OF PRAISE** *Blessed Assurance* Tune #839

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood. This is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; This is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

**\* 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**

Holy One, Giver of all light, lift up our hearts and minds to Christ, who is the morning star that never fades. By the light of your Holy Spirit reveal to us your saving Word and lead us to offer our lives to you in service and in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON**  *Isaiah 60:1-6*

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 2 For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear

over you. 3 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 4 Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses’ arms. 5 Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. 6 A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Matthew 2:1-12*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ 3When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 6 “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’ 7Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ 9When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11On

entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** StargazingRev. Becca Price

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\*HYMN** *We Three Kings of Orient Are* GTG #151

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

**Refrain:**  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. **[Refrain]**

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. **[Refrain]**

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. **[Refrain]**

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. **[Refrain]**

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

## **INVITATION**

## **THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

[The Pastor continues… “…who forever sing to the glory of your name.”]

**IN PRAISE OF GOD** Tune #552

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of Power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

[The Pastor continues… “…proclaim the one crucified and risen.”]

**IN PRAISE OF CHRIST** Tune #553

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

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

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**SHARING OF THE MEAL**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)

**Dear God, take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the living bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of**

**us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So, Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of the earth, and citizens of the commonwealth of Heaven. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

OFFERTORY

**\*** SONG OF THANKS *In the Bleak Midwinter* Tune #144

What can I give him poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

**\*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\* HYMN** *Christ, Be Our Light* GTG #314

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,

Your holy people, light for the world to see.

**Refrain:**

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice. **[Refrain]**

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread,

Broken for others, shared until all are fed. **[Refrain]**

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building,

Sheltering others, walls made of living stone. **[Refrain]**

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. **[Refrain]**

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: Family of faith, as we leave this place, we go into a weary world

**People: So let us speak tenderly and advocate for the weariness amongst us and around us.**

Leader: Let us do the good that is ours to do.

**People: Let us choose connection and hold onto hope.**

Leader: And remember, that Christ took on flesh for us. We are God’s beloved.

**People: So let us go rejoicing, for this weary world needs it. Amen!**

**\* UNISON AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

**Sunday January 14, 2024 Lectionary**

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

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

Today 1/7 Next Week 1/14

Sunday Opener: Ron Holmes Barbara Cornell

Ushers/Greeters: Connie Gibbons Tim & Beth Oates

Don Vasbinder

Lay Leader: Ron Holmes Barbara Cornell

Fellowship Host:

Communion Servers: 1. Diana Steppling 4. Elizabeth Meirowitz

2. Barbara Nickell 5. Linda Black

3. Alex McClung

**Happy Birthday!** January 1 – Bobby Barrett

January 3 – Bob Steppling

January 5 – Carl Anderson

January 15 – Elizabeth Meirowitz

**Announcements**

**2023 Happy-Thon:** Happy-Thon, an event sponsored by Downtown Sykesville Connection, sent a thank you for our donation to their Christmas event. With funds from our church budget and your donations, we sent $581.00. They raised a total of $14,144, enabling them to assist 28 families with grocery needs and provide gifts for 68 children!

**Inclement Weather:** If we feel the need to cancel in-person Worship, there will be a message on the Church answering machine, as well as on Facebook. You may also receive an email with that information.

***Today:***

**Sunday January 7**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

12:00 noon Calendar Planning Meeting (large classroom)

***This Week:***

**Tuesday January 9**

7:00 pm CoCaMO Meeting (Manse)

**Wednesday January 10**

6:00 – 7:30 pm Bell Choir Practice ?

7:30 – 8:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

**Thursday January 11**

7:00 pm Session Meeting (Manse)

***Next Week:***

**Sunday January 14**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

2:00 pm Louise Clark’s Funeral at

Pritt’s Funeral Home, Westminster

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)