**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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

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**September 29, 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: This morning, we come together to hear the story of Esau and Jacob.

**People: We see the discord in their family,**

Leader: We see the discord in our families,

**People: From our nuclear family to the families of nations who continue to battle.**

Leader: We come here, in this frayed world, because you are our peace.

**People: We come before you, because we need to learn how to be reconciled in even the most difficult of situations.**

Leader: As we come and worship you, in prayer and praise,

**People: We come seeking forgiveness and renewal,**

Leader: We come as your beloved children, who forever proclaim that you are our God.

**ALL: Let us join our voices – let us worship our God!**

**\*HYMN** *I Need Thee Every Hour* GTG #735

I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like thine can peace afford.

**Refrain:**
I need thee, O I need thee, every hour I need thee!
O bless me now, my Savior--I come to thee!

I need thee every hour; stay thou near by;
Temptations lose their power when thou art nigh. **[Refrain]**

I need thee every hour; teach me thy will,
And thy rich promises in me fulfill. **[Refrain]**

I need thee every hour, Most Holy One;
O make me thine indeed, thou blessed Son. **[Refrain]**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: The story of Esau and Jacob is a difficult one to hear, because of the discord between the brothers and the favoritism of the parents. Maybe it is hard to hear because it comes too close to home. Because to be human means that there are times when we have felt at odds with our siblings or we have felt like our parents favored another. At times, perhaps it has been a rational feeling, but at others, it has stirred animosity and hatred. In our humanity, let us come before God, who favors and treasures us all, as we confess our sin:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Generous and Loving God, in the present of your love and peace, we come before you knowing that you seek a better way for humankind. In the divisions that have brought us pain, we seek your healing. In the times when we have been the one to inflict injury, we ask for your forgiveness. From our Biblical story today, to the sacred story you call us into today, we know that you are at work in the reconciliation of all. God of us all, renew, restore, and redeem us once again, in full forgiveness, so we may be peacemakers and symbols of your love. 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: Hear the Good News: God’s love never fails and when we seek reconciliation with God and with one another, God is quick to forgive.

**People: Thanks be to the God who continues to offer mercy and grace! Thanks be to God for a love like that! 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**

Generous and Loving God, in the reading of the Scripture, may your Word be heard; in the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. Amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Genesis 27:1-27a* OT page 22

When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called his elder son Esau and said to him, ‘My son’; and he answered, ‘Here I am.’ 2He said, ‘See, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. 3Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field, and hunt game for me. 4Then prepare for me savory food, such as I like, and bring it to me to eat, so that I may bless you before I die.’ 5Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game and bring it, 6Rebekah said to her son Jacob, ‘I heard your father say to your brother Esau, 7“Bring me game, and prepare for me savory food to eat, that I may bless you before the Lord before I die.” 8Now therefore, my son, obey my word as I command you. 9Go to the flock, and get me two choice kids, so that I may prepare from them savory food for your father, such as he likes; 10and you shall take it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies.’ 11But Jacob said to his mother Rebekah, ‘Look, my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I am a man of smooth skin. 12Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be mocking him, and bring a curse on myself and not a blessing.’ 13His mother said to him, ‘Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my word, and go, get them for me.’ 14So he went and got them and brought them to his mother; and his mother prepared savory food, such as his father loved. 15Then Rebekah took the best garments of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob; 16and she put the skins of the kids on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. 17Then she handed the savory food, and the bread that she had prepared, to her son Jacob. 18So he went in to his father, and said, ‘My father’; and he said, ‘Here I am; who are you, my son?’ 19Jacob said to his father, ‘I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, so that you may bless me.’ 20But Isaac said to his son, ‘How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?’ He answered, ‘Because the Lord your God granted me success.’ 21Then Isaac said to Jacob, ‘Come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not.’ 22So Jacob went up to his father Isaac, who felt him and said, ‘The voice is Jacob’s voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.’ 23He did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands; so he blessed him. 24He said, ‘Are you really my son Esau?’ He answered, ‘I am.’ 25Then he said, ‘Bring it to me, that I may eat of my son’s game and bless you.’ So he brought it to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank. 26Then his father Isaac said to him, ‘Come near and kiss me, my son.’ 27So he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his garments, and blessed him.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Genesis 27:30-43*OT page 23

30As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, when Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of his father Isaac, his brother Esau came in from his hunting. 31He also prepared savory food, and brought it to his father. And he said to his father, ‘Let my father sit up and eat of his son’s game, so that you may bless me.’ 32His father Isaac said to him, ‘Who are you?’ He answered, ‘I am your firstborn son, Esau.’ 33Then Isaac trembled violently, and said, ‘Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me, and I ate it all before you came, and I have blessed him?—yes, and blessed he shall be!’ 34When Esau heard his father’s words, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, ‘Bless me, me also, father!’ 35But he said, ‘Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing.’ 36Esau said, ‘Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright; and look, now he has taken away my blessing.’ Then he said, ‘Have you not reserved a blessing for me?’ 37Isaac answered Esau, ‘I have already made him your lord, and I have given him all his brothers as servants, and with grain and wine I have sustained him. What then can I do for you, my son?’ 38Esau said to his father, ‘Have you only one blessing, father? Bless me, me also, father!’ And Esau lifted up his voice and wept. 39Then his father Isaac answered him: ‘See, away from the fatness of the earth shall your home be, and away from the dew of heaven on high. 40By your sword you shall live, and you shall serve your brother; but when you break loose, you shall break his yoke from your neck.’

41Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, ‘The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob.’ 42But the words of her elder son Esau were told to Rebekah; so she sent and called her younger son Jacob and said to him, ‘Your brother Esau is consoling himself by planning to kill you. 43Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; flee at once to my brother Laban in Haran.

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

 **All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *The Birthright*Rev. Becca Price

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\* HYMN**  *Live Into Hope* GTG #772

Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed.

The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God’s own jubilee!

Live into hope! The blind shall see with insight and with clarity,

Removing shades of pride and fear, a vision of our God brought near.

Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak the right to be,

The right to have one’s daily bread, to hear God’s word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed.

God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.

**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** *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.

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader:Go out into the world in peace.

**People: Let us have courage and hold on to what is good.**

Leader: We will return no one evil for evil,

**People: We will help the suffering, we will honor all,**

Leader: We will love and serve the Lord.

**People: We do all this, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, who leads us today and everyday. Alleluia and amen!**

**\* UNISON AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

**Sunday October 6, 2024 Lectionary**

Job 1:1; 2:1-10; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

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

 Today 9/29 Next Week 10/6

Sunday Opener: Barbara Cornell Beth Oates

Ushers/Greeters: Bob Rogers Sharon Pappas

 Leah Halvorson Don Vasbinder

Lay Leader: Max Carroll Alex McClung

Fellowship Host:

**Announcements**

**Women’s Group:** Our Spring Survey found strong interest in starting a Women's Group. This group can take on many different forms, such as Bible study, prayer, fellowship, trips, etc. These kinds of groups can strengthen our relationships and are an exciting opportunity. Please come and **join us after worship on October 6 in the Sanctuary to find out more!**

**Blessing of the Pets:** We will gather in the church parking lot for a Blessing of the Pets on **October 6** at 1 pm. If it is raining, the blessing will move to

**October 13.** If you cannot bring your pet to the parking lot, please let Pastor Becca know, and she will arrange an at-home blessing for your pet.

**Chat and Chew:** It’s Rincon time again! What are your afternoon plans on **October 27**? Why not join us for a fun and relaxing lunch opportunity! Fill your

belly with delicious food and your heart with great conversations. The atmosphere and service is great, and separate checks make it so simple. The restaurant is only 5 minutes from church. If you are interested, please sign up on the clipboard in the Fellowship Room. Rincon Grill, 577 Johnsville Road, Eldersburg on **October 27** at 1:00 pm. Hope to see you there! You’ll be glad you came.

***Today:***

 **Sunday September 29 – Noisy Offering**

10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Fellowship

 12:00 noon RGEF Meeting (Library)

***This Week:***

 **Tuesday October 1**

7:00 pm ESCAPE Lunch Packing (Manse)

**Wednesday October 2**

6:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:30 pm Adult Choir Practice

***Next Week:***

**Sunday October 6 – World Communion Sunday**

10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Fellowship

 1:00 pm Blessing of the Pets

 **Monday October 7**

7:00 pm HeadHuggers (Manse)

**Wednesday October 9**

6:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:30 pm Adult Choir Practice

 **Thursday October 10**

7:00 pm Session Meeting (Manse)

**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*