**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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

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A close-up of a pink and green background

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**May 12, 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: Today we celebrate God’s work through the actions of women,

**People: From the strength shown in many to pursue their dreams,**

Leader: To the fortitude shown in many who work from dawn to dusk,

**People: From the women of Scripture whose stories inspire ours,**

Leader: To the women before us today who continue to embody those ancestorial women’s values and ideas.

**People: We celebrate them all, as mothers of children, mothers of invention, and mothers of creativity.**

Leader: Let us praise God for this great gift.

**People: Let us come together in gratitude and praise! Let us worship God! Alleluia and Amen.**

**\*HYMN***God of the Women* (to the tune of GTG #450 "Be Thou My Vision")

God of the women who answered your call,  
Trusting your promises, giving their all,  
Women like Sarah and Hannah and Ruth —  
Give us their courage to live in your truth.

God of the women who walked Jesus' Way,  
Giving their resources, learning to pray,  
Mary, Joanna, Susanna, and more —  
May we give freely as they did before.

God of the women long put to the test,  
Left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,  
Quietly asking: "Who smiled at my birth?" —   
In Jesus' dying you show us our worth.

God of the women who ran from the tomb,  
Prayed with the others in that upper room,  
Then felt your Spirit on Pentecost Day —  
May we so gladly proclaim you today.

O God of Phoebe and ministers all,  
May we be joyful in answering your call.  
Give us the strength of your Spirit so near  
That we may share in your ministry here.

Tune: Traditional Irish melody ("Be Thou My Vision")  [(MIDI)](https://www.carolynshymns.com/midifiles/slane.midi)  
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**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: This morning is not about saying that any gender on the spectrum is better, but rather, it is about acknowledging the ways that God continues to work in and through women to create real and viable change. On this Mother’s Day, we come before God to acknowledge the ways that we have fallen short of helping women or being the women we are called to be. So, let us come before God, who is, as our confessions say, the Mother and Father of us all, who will hear our prayer:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Generous and Loving God, we give you thanks for the gift of women, from the women in Scripture to the women before us today. We know that there have been times where we have taken them for granted though. We have been complacent in not working for equality in the gender wage gap. We have often put women and men in gender roles that do not suit them and diminish their lives. We have watched women fight for equal rights as the world spins and we have prayed, but not acted. Change our hearts, O God, inspire us and move us, as we ask humbly for your forgiveness. Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**RESPONSE***Restore in Us, O God* GTG #434 (v. 3)

Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy;

Baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: As we come together as the body of Christ, we are reminded that there is no longer male or female, but humankind; a beloved people who will always be received into the arms of grace.

**People: Thanks be to God who hears our confession and forgives us. God renews and inspires us with the waters of baptism to be change-makers and justice-keepers in this world. Alleluia and amen!**

**\* MUSICAL RESPONSE OF PRAISE** *We Are Forgiven* GTG #447

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

**\* 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 Glory, open our hearts and minds, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Exodus 1:15-21*

15The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 16‘When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.’ 17But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. 18So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, ‘Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?’ 19The midwives said to Pharaoh, ‘Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.’ 20So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. 21And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Joshua 2:2-21*

2The king of Jericho was told, ‘Some Israelites have come here tonight to search out the land.’ 3Then the king of Jericho sent orders to Rahab, ‘Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come only to search out the whole land.’ 4But the woman took the two men and hid them. Then she said, ‘True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they came from. 5And when it was time to close the gate at dark, the men went out. Where the men went I do not know. Pursue them quickly, for you can overtake them.’ 6She had, however, brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax that she had laid out on the roof. 7So the men pursued them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. As soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut. 8Before they went to sleep, she came up to them on the roof 9and said to the men: ‘I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that dread of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt in fear before you. 10For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites that were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. 11As soon as we heard it, our hearts failed, and there was no courage left in any of us because of you. The Lord your God is indeed God in heaven above and on earth below. 12Now then, since I have dealt kindly with you, swear to me by the Lord that you in turn will deal kindly with my family. Give me a sign of good faith 13that you will spare my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death.’ 14The men said to her, ‘Our life for yours! If you do not tell this business of ours, then we will deal kindly and faithfully with you when the Lord gives us the land.’

15 Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the outer side of the city wall and she resided within the wall itself. 16She said to

them, ‘Go towards the hill country, so that the pursuers may not come upon you. Hide yourselves there for three days, until the pursuers have returned; then afterwards you may go on your way.’ 17The men said to her, ‘We will be released from this oath that you have made us swear to you 18if we invade the land and you do not tie this crimson cord in the window through which you let us down, and you do not gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your family. 19If any of you go out of the doors of your house into the street, they shall be responsible for their own death, and we shall be innocent; but if a hand is laid upon any who are with you in the house, we shall bear the responsibility for their death. 20But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be released from this oath that you made us swear to you.’ 21She said, ‘According to your words, so be it.’ She sent them away and they departed. Then she tied the crimson cord in the window.

**THIRD SCRIPTURE LESSON**  *Luke 2:36-38*

36There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, 37then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. 38At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *Our Ancestorial Mothers*Rev. Becca Price

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**REFLECTIVE ANTHEM** *There is a Line of Women* Siskin Green

There is a line of women extending back to Eve  
Whose role in shaping history God only could conceive.  
And though, through endless ages, their witness was repressed,  
God valued and encouraged them through whom the world was blessed.

So sing of Sarah to laughter she gave birth;  
And sing of Tamar who stood for women‘s worth;  
And sing of Hannah who bargained with her Lord;  
And sing a song of Mary who bore and bred God‘s Word.

There is a line of women who took on powerful men  
Defying laws and scruples to let life live again.  
And though, despite their triumph, their stories stayed untold  
God kept their number growing, creative, strong and bold.

So sing of Shiphrah with Puah close at hand,  
Engaged to kill male children, they foiled the king‘s command.  
And sing of Rahab who sheltered spies and lied;  
And sing a song of Esther preventing genocide.

There is a line of women who stood by Jesus‘ side,  
Who housed him while he ministered and held him when he died.  
And though they claimed he‘d risen their news was deemed suspect  
Till Jesus stood among them, his womanly elect.

So sing of Anna who saw Christ‘s infant face;  
And sing of Martha who gave him food and space;  
And sing of all the Marys who heeded his requests,  
And now at heaven‘s banquet are Jesus‘ fondest guests.

Siskin Green (arr. Margaret McClarty, Jane Bentley, and Suzanne Butler); Music: John Bell

**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  *Sing to God, with Joy and Gladness*Tune #657

Sing to God, with joy and gladness, hymns and psalms of gratitude;

With the voice of praise discover that to worship God is good.

God unites the scattered people, gathers those who wandered far,

Heals the hurt and broken spirits, tending every wound and scar.

**\*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\* HYMN** *For All the Faithful Women* GTG #324

For all the faithful women who served in days of old,

To you shall thanks be given; to all, their story told.

They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.

To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your power to save.

We praise your name for Miriam, who sang triumphantly while Pharoah’s vaunted army lay drowned beneath the sea;

For Ruth, who left her homeland and ventured forth in faith,

Who pledged to serve and worship Naomi’s God till death.

We sing of busy Martha, who toiled with pot and pan

While Mary sat in silence to hear the word again.

We praise the other Mary, who hastened to the tomb

And found her Lord arisen, dispelling doubt and gloom.

Lord, hear our praise of Dorcas, who served the sick and poor.

Her hands were cups of kindness, her heart an open door.

O God, for saints and servants, our fervent prayer we raise,

That, faithful in your service, our lives may sing your praise.

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: We go from this place with inspiration,

**People: Encouraged by the stories of women from Scripture.**

Leader: We go from this place seeking change,

**People: To continue to do the good work God calls us to do.**

Leader: We go from this place in gratitude,

**People: For our mothers and our mentors, and all the women who have touched our lives. Amen.**

**\* UNISON AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

**Sunday May 19, 2024 Lectionary**

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

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

Today 5/12 Next Week 5/19

Sunday Opener: Bob Rogers Linda Caviglia

Ushers/Greeters: Sharon Pappas Elizabeth Meirowitz

Alex McClung Cynthia Smith

Lay Leader: Bob Steppling Linda Caviglia

Fellowship Host: Connie Gibbons Barbara Nickell

**Happy Birthday!** May 18 – Georgia Hodges

**Announcements**

**Pentecost Offering:** A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people. It also addresses the needs of at-risk children. We will again send the 40% retained by local congregations to Mission of Mercy to support the physical well-being of these children. You cannot learn if you have a toothache, fever, or need glasses. The offering will be received **TODAY** **& May 19**.  If you would like to add an additional portion for Mission of Mercy, please make that note on the memo line of your check.

**Just a Note:** Pastor Becca will be out of town from May 13-15.

**It’s Springtime!** Our annual Plant Sale runs from 5/1 to 5/27. Save some of your spring flower purchases to buy at Buppert's. When you purchase with their flier, Buppert's will donate a percentage for our local missions. Fliers are available in the Narthex.

***Today:***

**Sunday May 12 – Happy Mother’s Day!**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

***This Week:***

**Tuesday May 14**

7:00 pm CoCaMO Meeting (Manse)

**Wednesday May 15**

6:15 – 7:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:30 – 8:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

**Thursday May 16**

7:00 pm Session Meeting (Manse)

***Next Week:***

**Sunday May 19 – Senior Recognition**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship – Ice Cream Cake!

**Wednesday May 22**

6:15 – 7:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:30 – 8:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

**Saturday May 25**

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

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