**(Large Print)**

**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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

**![chrch7c[1]]()**

**May 14, 2023 - 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: Every day and every moment, the Spirit calls us to something new.

**People: And so by the power of the Spirit, we have been called here.**

Leader: We have been called to learn, to pray, to teach, to praise.

**People: We have been called to go from this place and be the example of God’s love and Spirit to the world.**

Leader: So, let us come together, through God’s mighty mercies, to join together in this sacred time together.

**People: Let us worship our God, the Trinity, three-in-one. Amen.**

**\*HYMN***Come, Thou Almighty King GTG #2*

Come, thou almighty King, help us thy name to sing;
Help us to praise: Father, all glorious, o'er all victorious,
Come, and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come, thou incarnate Word, merciful, mighty Lord,

Our prayer attend. Come, and thy people bless,
And give thy word success; Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

Come, holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart,
And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power.

To thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be, hence evermore!
Thy sovereign majesty may we in glory see,
And to eternity love and adore.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: Sometimes, our hearts are a bit like Thomas, where we wish we could see Jesus face to face, to touch his wounds, to know his physical presence. That faith would be easier. God has given us the Spirit, who abides in us and through us. Following the Spirit often feels like a leap of faith, a bit of mystery, and can feel frightening in our world. Yet, this is what God calls us to do, so let us come together in prayer to confess our fear with the promise that God will lift us up in confidence:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Generous and Loving God, we wish you could walk alongside us, pointing out exactly what to do and sharing with us your stories. We know we can hear your voice in prayer, but sometimes we lose sight of a greater gift you offer – the gift of the Spirit. We have failed to listen to the Spirit. We have hushed her words to us, her presence, and her guidance because it all feels too mysterious and uncertain. Help us trust in the Spirit, renew us and revive us to a greater faith, beyond ourselves. Restore us, Lord, we pray. Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**RESPONSE** *Have Mercy, God, upon My Life* (verse 1) Tune #421

 Have mercy, God, upon my life, and make me clean within:

 Pour out your ever-faithful love and wash away my sin.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.

**People: God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth! By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.**

**\* MUSICAL RESPONSE OF PRAISE** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

 Come, thou fount of every blessing; tune my heart sing thy grace;

 Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above; praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it, mount of God’s unchanging love!

**\* 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 Grace, by the power of your Holy Spirit, open our minds, that as the scriptures are read and your word is proclaimed, we may be led into your truth and taught your will, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON**  *John 14:15-21*

15 ‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. 17This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. 18 ‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Acts 17:22-31*

22Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 23For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.” 29Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. 30While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

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

 **All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *The Advocate*Rev. Becca Price

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\*HYMN** *God of the Women* (to the tune of #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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**NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

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

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

OFFERTORY *If You Love Me* By: Joel Raney

**\*** SONG OF THANKS *Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord* #707 (verse 4)

Take thou ourselves, O Lord, heart, mind and will; through our surrendered souls thy plans fulfill. We yield ourselves to thee: time, talents, all; we hear, and henceforth heed, thy sovereign call.

**\*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\* HYMN** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;

Suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: The Spirit is here – the Advocate is ready,

**People: To lead us, to guide us, to help us create powerful change in God’s name.**

Leader: We rejoice in God’s Spirit who lives within our very selves,

**People: And we listen closely to the great mysteries of God who continues to lead us today.**

Leader: So, we go from this place in humility,

**People: And we live renewed, empowered, and ready to be God’s people in a new way.**

**\* UNISON AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

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

 Today 5/14 Next Week 5/21

Sunday Opener: Bob Rogers Beth Oates

Ushers/Greeters: Sharon Pappas Sharon Pappas

 Connie Gibbons Cynthia Smith

Lay Leader: Bob Steppling Hubert Hoehn

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

**Happy Anniversary!** May 20 – Bob & Lisa Rogers

**Sunday May 21, 2023 Lectionary**

Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

**Announcements**

**Upcoming Concerts: Thursday, May 18** at 7:00 pm will be a year-end concert in our Sanctuary for the Freedom Area Ringers bell choir which Linda Caviglia directs. The choir will be playing a variety of popular melodies, including *Rainbow Connection* (from the *Muppet Movie*), *Yesterday* and *Eleanor Rigby* by the Beatles.

If you can’t make it on the 18th, there will be a concert on **Sunday afternoon, May 21 at 3:00 PM** in our Sanctuary. Some of the FAR members and some members of the bell choir from Geneva Presbyterian Church in Potomac, MD under the direction of Ben Shaver will be joining forces to play the same music plus a couple more (*Stairway to Heaven* being one of them). The **Presbytones** will also be playing on the morning of the 21st in our regular worship service!

We hope you can come and join us for some or all of these upcoming events!

**Outsmart the Scammers:** Incidents of fraud are on the rise, and scammers’ tactics are becoming more complex. While no one is immune, there are steps you can take to “Outsmart the Scammers”. Our own Dylan Vasbinder, a financial advisor with Edward Jones, will present strategies you can use at a seminar on Thursday, **May 25** from 7 – 8 pm in the Sanctuary. If you and a guest are interested in attending, please RSVP to Dylan at 410-549-1829 or Dylan.vasbinder@edwardjones.com by May 19.

**Spring Plant Sale:** Our friends at Buppert's /Doran's Chance Farm are very generous in our community, donating produce to "Community Table" and other causes. For many years they have donated back to Springfield 10% of the purchases we make using a special flyer that you can pick up at church. This will run from May 1 to 21, so plan your gardening and go see their beautiful choices!

**Springfield Membership:** Are you interested in finding out more about our faith community and becoming a member? We would love to answer any questions you have. Please contact Pastor Becca at springfieldpastor@gmail.com for more information.

**Congregational Care / Mission & Outreach (CoCaMO):** Do you know of a member or friend of our church family who is ill, needs prayers, would like call, a visit or a card, or might benefit from meal train? If so, please contact the Church Office (410-795-6152), Cathy Marsh (410-549-6916) or Diana Steppling (862-266-2242).

**Pastor-Parish Committee:** The Pastor-Parish Committee invites you to share your concerns, suggestions, and gratitude. We have a form in the Narthex and a lock-box that we will open weekly and we ask that you share your name and be specific. We look forward to reading your comments so that we can continue to grow into the body of Christ.

**Blessing Bags and Comfort Bags** are in the Narthex. Please feel free to pick up a few. Handing one out to someone in need gives you a very real way to meet their immediate needs by providing them with some basic supplies and a little bit of comfort.

**Prayers and Thanksgivings**

~ Prayers of strength and healing for Lisa Rogers’ brother Guy who has stage 4 prostate cancer and is not doing well.

***Today:***

 **Sunday May 14 – Happy Mother’s Day!**

 10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Fellowship

***This Week:***

**Monday May 15**

7:00 pm CoCaMO Meeting (Manse)

**Wednesday May 17**

 6:15 – 7:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:30 – 8:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

 **Thursday May 18**

7:00 pm Freedom Area Ringers Concert (Sanctuary)

***Looking Ahead:***

 **Sunday May 21**

 10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Fellowship

 3:00 pm Bell Concert (Sanctuary)

 **Wednesday May 24**

 No Choir Practice

 **Thursday May 25**

7:00 pm “Outsmart the Scammers” Seminar (Sanctuary)