**(Large Print)**

**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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

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**March 3, 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: If you ask the sky who God is,

**People: The sky will tell you of God’s reach.**

Leader: If you ask the day who God is,

**People: The sun will tell you of God’s warmth.**

Leader: If you ask the night who God is,

**People: The moon will tell you of God’s comfort.**

Leader: Psalm 19 proclaims, “The heavens are telling the glory of God.” Friends, are we listening?

**People: We are listening! We will sing of God’s glory.**

**ALL: Let us worship God!**

**\*HYMN***When Morning Gilds the Skies* GTG #667

When morning gilds the skies, my hear awaking cries:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth’s wide circle round in joyful notes resound:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let air and sea and sky from depth to height reply:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this the eternal song through all the ages long:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: In our Scripture for today, Jesus asks the disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” Peter said, “You are the Messiah.” Have you ever wondered if his voice faltered when he answered? Did he respond loudly and with confidence, or with a tentative whisper? We’ll never know. The text doesn’t provide those details. But we can trust that no matter how we speak to God, when we speak, God is listening. So friends, join me in the prayer of confession. Whether you whisper these words or speak them with conviction, may you trust that our gracious and merciful God is listening with love. Let us pray together:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Leader: Holy God, some days, we are quick to declare your goodness. Like Peter, we see you in our midst and we are confident in our faith. Other days, we are distracted and uncertain, desperate for answers.

**People: Forgive us for losing sight of you.**

Leader: Some days we are quick to trust your blessings –

**People: Trusting that we are called, that we can make a difference.**

Leader: Other days, our praise falls silent and doubt creeps in.

**People: Forgive us for losing sight of ourselves.**

Leader: We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith. But for the days when we are far from you and far from ourselves, we ask for your tender grace.

**People: Pull us closer toward you. Remind us of the mountaintop moments of our faith. 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, whether we speak to God in a whisper or with clear conviction, with questions or with answers, with hope in our hearts or with doubt in our throats – God will always listen with love and mercy. So let us rest in this good news:

**People: Regardless of how loudly we live our faith – we belong to God. We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven. Speak that good news with confidence. 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!**

 (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 Lord, for generations people have bowed their heads, have prayed the Psalms, have asked for presence in their lives. For generations people have whispered, “May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable and pleasing to you, O God,” For generations we have gathered here, we have quieted our minds, we have prayed to feel your presence in our midst. So once again, just as the generations before, we turn our hearts to your Word. Still our busy minds so that we might truly comprehend what you have to say to us today. With joy and hope we pray. Amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Psalm 19*

1 The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. 2 Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. 3 There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; 4 yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, 5 which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. 6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hidden from its heat. 7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; 8 the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; 9 the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring for ever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.
12 But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults. 13 Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON**  *Matthew 16:13-20*

13Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ 14And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ 15He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ 16Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ 17And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. 18And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. 19I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’ 20Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

 **All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *Praise the Mount* Rev. Becca Price

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\*HYMN**  *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* GTG #475

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to 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!

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I’m come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here’s my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

**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 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** *Here at the Peak* (see last page)

**\* 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**

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

 Today 3/3 Next Week 3/10

Sunday Opener: Linda Caviglia Barbara Cornell

Ushers/Greeters: Sharon Pappas Elizabeth Meirowitz

 Cynthia Smith Bob Rogers

Lay Leader: Don Vasbinder Tony Caviglia

Fellowship Host: Linda Caviglia Connie Gibbons

**Sunday March 10, 2024 Lectionary**

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:103, 17-22; 1 Ephesians 2:1-10;

John 3:14-21

**Happy Birthday!** March 2 – Linda Black

 March 4 – Charles Sperling

 March 5 – Andrea Lane

 March 5 – Patty Salmon

 March 6 – Sue Holmes

**Announcements**

**Daylight Saving Time** begins at 2:00 am next Sunday, March 10, so don’t forget to set your clocks ahead one hour, or you’ll be late to church!

***Today:***

 **Sunday March 3 – 3rd Sunday in Lent**

10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Fellowship

***This Week:***

**Tuesday March 5**

7:00 pm ESCAPE Lunch Packing (Manse)

**Wednesday March 6**

6:16 – 7:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

 7:30 – 8:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

***Next Week:***

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

10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Fellowship

 **Tuesday March 12**

7:00 pm CoCaMO Meeting

**Wednesday March 13**

6:16 – 7:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

 7:30 – 8:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

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*