**(Large Print)**

**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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

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**April 9, 2023**

**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: What are you looking for?

**People: The light before dawn.**

Leader: What are you looking for?

**People: A reason to hope.**

Leader: What are you looking for?

**People: Joy after grief and flowers after winter.**

Leader: What are you looking for?

**People: A place to belong.**

Leader: What are you looking for?

**People: We are looking for the Messiah.**

Leader: Good news! Come in. Love is alive!

**People: Surely God is in this place. Let us worship our risen Savior!**

**\*HYMN** *Christ the Lord is Risen Today!* #245

1. “Christ the Lord is risen today!” Alleluia! All creation, join to say: Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2. Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia! Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

3. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia! Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia! Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

4. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia! Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia! Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia! Risen Christ, triumphant now.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

I’ve heard this familiar story:

As a teenager, my younger brother used to yell down the stairs, “Mom! I can’t find my tennis shoes!” My mother would lovingly holler back, “Have you checked your closet!” My brother would assure her that he had and tell her they were nowhere to be found.

Like clockwork, my mom would then walk up the creaky stairs of our two-story home, and like some parental magic trick, pull my younger brother’s shoes from his closet. The shoes were there the whole time. He just couldn’t see them.

Friends, sometimes our relationship with God can feel a little bit like that. We seek after God. We swear that we’re looking, and yet so often we miss when the Divine is right under our noses.

So let us pray together, knowing that our seeking has its limits, but God’s love does not. Let us pray:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of Resurrection,**

**We confess, like a dog with a bone, we run aimlessly. We chase our tails, looking for things that provide answers to the suffering of the world, looking for comfort to our longest nights. You meet us in the darkness before dawn, but we mistake you for the gardener. Forgive us for seeking after worldly things. Forgive us for forgetting to seek you. Speak to us. Call us by name, that we might recognize you in our midst. With hope and gratitude, we pray. Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**RESPONSE** *Restore in Us, O God (verse 1)* 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: Family of faith, regardless of how many times we lose sight of God, God never loses sight of us. We might spend our whole days seeking, but we are always found. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel, the good news proclaimed in resurrection:

**People: What once was lost is found. We are held in God’s loving embrace: forgiven, claimed, and sent to serve. Alleluia! Amen**

**\* MUSICAL RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*  Tune #240

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name.

**\* 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**

Rabbouni, Teacher,

We have spent the past six weeks asking questions. We have turned over every rock. We have shined a light in every dusty corner. We have opened the blinds. We have wrestled with truth. We have sought after you. So, on this Easter morning, bring wisdom to our seeking. Move through this room until the walls echo with the sound of alleluias. Roll back the stone that might prevent us from drawing closer to you. Calm our hearts. Say our names. Awaken us to your presence in our midst. We are here. We are listening. We are seeking after you. Alleluia. Amen

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Matthew 28:1-10* NT page 32

**The Resurrection of Jesus**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON**  *John 20: 1-18* NT page 108

**The Resurrection of Jesus**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

**Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene**

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

**SERMON** *Who Are You Looking For?*Rev. Becca Price

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\*HYMN** *Who Are You Looking For?* (see insert)

1. Who are you looking for? A body in the tomb? The grave is death but God has breath. The Spirit’s wings need room. Who are you looking for? He is not here but raised. The empty tomb is now a womb New life! Let God be praised!

2. Who are you looking for? The man of Galilee? He is not here but always near. Lift up your head and see. Who are you looking for? Your rabbi and your friend. Is God in flesh who conquered death. Whose reign is without end.

3. Who are you looking for? An answer to pin down? We cannot know where God will go. But seeking we are found. Who are you looking for? God will not be boxed in. What we have found is love unbound Dynamic as the wind.

**THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE** (see insert)

**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 OUR LORD’S PRAYER**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)

**Dear God, where don’t we seek after you? We look for you in the mirror, in strangers, in sunrises, on mountain tops, in the laughter of children, and in meals shared together. We look for you on the city streets, in hospital rooms, in jail cells, in poetry, and hymn melodies. We look for you everywhere.**

**Sometimes the seeking is hard, but then at other times, we come to this Table and all are fed, and all are welcomed, and there is room for everyone, and no one is turned away, or made to feel unworthy. And in those moments, we see you clearly. So, thank you for meeting us in our seeking. Even when we stray, please keep seeking us. Gratefully, we pray. Amen.**

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

OFFERTORY *Forever (We Sing Hallelujah)* arranged by Heather Sorenson

**\*** SONG OF THANKS *We Give Thee but Thine Own (v. 1)* #708

We give thee but thine own, what-e’er the gift may be;

All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord from thee.

**\*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\* HYMN** *Christ Is Alive!* #246

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

2. Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.

3. In every insult, rift, and war where color, scorn, or wealth divide, Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.

4. Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call, and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: As you leave this place, may God bless you with seeking.

**People: We will seek out the hungry, the weary, the good in every person we pass.**

Leader: Go to seek out the hopeful, the faithful, the God in each of us.

**People: We shall seek and wonder.**

Leader: And so, may we find what we are looking for. In the name of our loving God, who is always seeking us, let us go in peace. Amen.

**\* UNISON AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

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

Today 4/9 Next Week 4/16

Sunday Opener: Beth Oates Ron Holmes

Ushers/Greeters: Beth Oates Elizabeth Meirowitz

Bob Rogers Don Vasbinder

Lay Leader: Max Carroll Tim Oates

**Communion Servers:**

1. Barbara Cornell 2. Barbara Nickell 3. Linda Black

4. Sharon Pappas 5. Diana Steppling 6. Bob Steppling

7. Alex McClung 8. Beth Oates 9. Elizabeth Meirowitz

**Happy Birthday!**

April 3 – Barbara Cornell April 3 – India Oates

April 7 – Wes McClung April 12 – Lisa Rogers

April 13 – Kelsey Robinson April 15 – Belle Vasbinder

April 19 – Debbie Sperling April 23 – Morgan Mazer

***Today:***

**Sunday April**

9:30 am Early Easter Eats Coffee Hour

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

***This Week:***

**Tuesday April 11**

7:00 pm CoCaMO

**Wednesday April 12**

6:15 – 7:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:30 – 8:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

**Thursday April 13**

7:00 pm Session Meeting

***Looking Ahead:***

**Sunday April 16**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

**Sunday April 16, 2023 Lectionary**

Acts 10:34-43 or Jer. 31:1-6 and Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; Col. 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43; Matt. 28:1-10

**Announcements**

**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](mailto: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).

**Blessing 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.

**Congregational Meeting:** Springfield Will hold its election of officers on April 16 following worship.

**Easter Egg Hunt:** We joyfully invite children (and the young at heart!) to join us outside after worship for an Easter Egg Hunt.

**Flowering of the Cross:** Have you seen the beautiful flowered cross outside? Come and flower the cross and feel free to take a photo to celebrate this resurrection morning!

**Holy Humor Sunday:** Next Sunday, April 16th, we will celebrate ‘holy humor Sunday’ with fun hymns and abounding laughter! We hope you can join us!

**Aaron Thacker Concert:** Our own talented pianist will be playing a concert, here, on April 16 at 3 pm. A reception will follow.

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Springfield Presbyterian Church**

10:30 am Worship

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:** Linda Caviglia

**Accompanist/Organist:** Aaron Thacker

**Youth Group Coordinator:** Dylan Vasbinder

**Administrative Assistant:**Donna Mazer**e-mail:**[*spc.office@verizon.net*](mailto:spc.office@verizon.net)

***The flowers in the Sanctuary were given by:***

**Bob & Diana Steppling**

*In Memory of Ira Evans and Phil Evans and*

*Jack & Betty Steppling*

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**Connie Gibbons and Cathy Marsh**

*In Memory of Marian Davis, and*

*Charlie and Frances Marsh*

**Christy, Shane, Sean and Gwen Yeager**

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*John and Elizabeth Yeager*

**Barbara Nickell**

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Description automatically generatedIn Memory of Jim Nickell Jr., Jim Nickell Sr.,*

*Harvey and Sara Noyes*

**Bob and Lisa Rogers**

*Shape

Description automatically generatedIn Memory of Theresa Rogers and Mary Williams*

**The Vasbinder Family**

*In Memory of Isabelle and William, Jeannette and George,*

*Janet and Bob, Kurt, Brian, and Nettie Studley*

**Julie Ballard**

*In Memory of Niece and Nephews: Jeanie, Jeff, and Joseph*

*Phillip Ballard*

**Ron and Gwen Grubb**

*In Memory of Clyde and Florence Miller, William and Ruth Grubb,*

*Shape

Description automatically generatedJim Miller and Kathy Zink*

**Linda Black**

*In Memory of Barbara and Charles Dockendorf*

**John and Stephanie Bunting**

*In Memory of Jeanie Nicholas, Archie Bunting and Phillip Ballard*

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*In Memory of Charles and Elaine Cleland*

*In Appreciation for Our Springfield Family*

**Linda Caviglia**

*In Honor of Tony Caviglia, my wonderful husband*

**Sharon Pappas**

*In Appreciation for The Springfield Leadership Team*

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**Linda Black**

*In Appreciation for Sharon Pappas, for her many years*

*Of loving dedication to the church*