

## First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

10:50 AM



*Welcome back to Worship at Spring Branch Presbyterian Church! Please enter through the Breezeway Narthex doors and follow the instructions of the Greeters and Ushers. Should you need a restroom, the Narthex family bathroom is available. After the service begins, both Narthex bathrooms will be available.*

*\* Those who are able please stand*

### Gathering in God's Name

#### **PRELUDE**

#### **WELCOME**

#### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We come from a world of darkness

**People: Into Christ's world of light.**

Leader: We come from a world of weariness

**People: Into God's strength and hope.**

Leader: We come from a slumbering world.

**People: Strengthened by the Spirit, we come to awaken our souls and watch for the coming of Christ!**

#### **LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE (HOPE)**

Marguerite Priest & Bryan Evenson

#### **HYMN**

*"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"*

Kyle Eveler

*(In lieu of Congregational singing, our Socially Distant Choir has pre-recorded our Hymns for this morning. You are invited to ponder the text as the images as shown on the screens.)*

Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

## Preparing for the Word

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: Our Creator God longs to mold us into a faithful people, a people in God's own image, a people radiating God's brightness. Today our faithful God stands ready to restore us, so that we may worship and know our loving God. All who wish to be so restored are invited to come to God in repentance as we pray together...

### CONFESSION OF SIN *(unison)*

**We confess, Gracious God, that we have not always turned to you for guidance. At times, we have allowed the world's time to dominate your time. Forgive us for our sins of hurriedness and impatience. Forgive us when we have slumbered instead of remaining alert, waiting and watching for you. Forgive us for allowing the world's fears to become our fears. Shine upon us this Advent season so that we may be restored unto you. Guide us into your time. As we call upon your name, hear our prayers and give us life. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

### SILENT CONFESSION

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(Based on 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13)*

Leader: And now may our God make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all. Christ promises to strengthen our hearts in holiness that we may be blameless before our God and creator at the coming of the Lord. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven. Alleluia!

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.**

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Hearing the Word

### TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Patty Blome

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(unison)*

**Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.**

### ANTHEM

*"Change My Heart, O God"*

Rebecca Castillo

Change my heart, O God;  
Make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God;  
May I be like you.

You are the Potter;  
I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me;  
This is what I pray.

### FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 13:24-37

## HYMN OF REFLECTION

*"Open the Eyes of My Heart"*

Pastor Kevin

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.  
Open the eyes of my heart;  
I want to see You, I want to see You.

Holy, Holy, Holy,  
Holy, Holy, Holy,  
Holy, Holy, Holy,  
I want to see You.

To see You high and lifted up,  
Shining in the light of Your glory.  
Pour out Your power and love;  
As we sing holy, holy, holy...

## SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 64:1-9

## SERMON

***"Life Rebooted, Part 1: Strong Hands"***

Rev. Dr. Kevin R. Boyd

*"...we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand..."* Isaiah 64:8

### Responding to the Word

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*unison*)

(*The Apostles' Creed*)

**I Believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

### A TIME OF GIVING

*Contributions may be placed in the wooden offering box in the Narthex on your way out, or you can give online at [www.springbranchpres.org/give](http://www.springbranchpres.org/give).*

## SHARING OF PRAYER CONCERNS

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.**

### Departing to Serve

## HYMN

*"Awesome God"*

Kyle Eveler

*(In lieu of Congregational singing, our Socially Distant Choir has pre-recorded our Hymns for this morning. You are invited to ponder the text as the images as shown on the screens.)*

Our God is an awesome God  
Who reigns from heaven above  
With wisdom, power, and love;  
Our God is an awesome God!

## CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: Lord God, we have sensed your power, your might, we stand in awe, painfully aware of our need for you.

**People: As we begin this Advent journey, teach us to turn to you with our fears and sorrows. Keep our hearts softened to your invitation.**

Leader: Keep us as clay in your gentle potter's hands

**People: that we might know the transforming power of the Spirit in all of our new beginnings. To the praise and glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*Thank you for joining us for Worship this morning! Please wait for the Ushers to dismiss you by row.*

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## Announcements & Events

**You are invited to attend Pastor's Bible Study with Kevin.** The group gathers at 11:00 AM on Zoom on Tuesday mornings. Watch for details of how to join this study. We hope to see you there!

**Join us for our next Drive-Thru Wednesday Night Supper this Wednesday at 6:00 PM.** The Trembles are preparing Hamburgers! Email [secretary@springbranchpres.org](mailto:secretary@springbranchpres.org) to place your dinner order.

**Dust off your Halos—It's time for our annual Angel Tree Christmas Program!** Although this ministry is virtual this year, we are still serving local children. Each child will receive a \$40 gift card to Walmart, which you will purchase directly through Angel Tree. We encourage SBPC folks to join together with another member or family if the \$40 is out of your individual price range. The SBPC Virtual Angel Tree Website can be accessed here: <https://vat.angeltreetool.org/61b9fe72-cb77-4454-a778-fdd56e9cfe24>. This is our Access Code: 8DXUI (8dxui). Laurie created an [informational video](#) for how to access, select, and purchase the gift cards for our Angel Tree children. If you have any additional questions, please reach out to her.

One of our long-time Missions in December is the **PCHAS Ornament Tree.** During Advent time, we hang ornaments on a Christmas tree. Each of the ornaments has a PCHAS tag attached with a suggested donation amount. You take the ornament home with you and leave the donation in the basket provided. We will donate the entire amount to PCHAS at the end of the month. If you would like to donate money to PCHAS virtually, you can give online at [www.springbranchpres.org/give](http://www.springbranchpres.org/give) and click on SUPPORT OUR MISSION OF THE MONTH. *(If you pay by check, please make checks payable to SBPC and put "PCHAS Ornament Tree" in the memo line.)*

### November 29 — First Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 am Explorers SS Class (FH)
- 9:30 am Saints Under Construction (CR)
- 10:50 am Worship
- 1:30 pm A Weary World (Zoom)

### December 1 — Tuesday

- 9:15 am Congregational Care Meeting
- 11:00 am Pastor's Bible Study
- 7:00 pm Session (Zoom)

### December 2 — Wednesday

- 9:30 am PW Moderator (Zoom)
- 10:15 am PW Board Meeting (Zoom)
- 6:00 pm Drive-Thru WNS: Hamburgers!

### December 6 — Second Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 am Explorers SS Class (FH)
- 9:30 am Saints Under Construction (CR)
- 10:50 am Worship
- 1:30 pm A Weary World (Zoom)

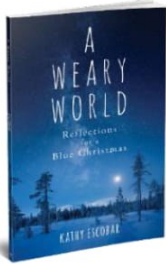
### December 8 — Tuesday

- 11:00 am Pastor's Bible Study

### December 9 — Wednesday

- 9:30 am PW Circle (Zoom)





You are invited to join our discussion groups each Sunday of Advent. 2020 has been a tough year. *A Weary World: Reflections for a Blue Christmas*, by Kathy Escobar, includes daily scriptures and readings which will provide discussion and reflection prompts. The discussion group will be a safe place to share and express your feelings and stories as you feel called to do. *The goal of this group study will be to enact in our lives the four central themes of the book: honoring reality, practicing honesty, embracing paradox, and borrowing hope.* Beginning Sunday, November 29 we will gather by Zoom at 1:30pm for the four Sundays of Advent.

Let Denise Wilborn know you are interested in participating by email to [faithdevelopment@springbranchpres.org](mailto:faithdevelopment@springbranchpres.org). Zoom invitations will be sent each week. Personal copies of the book may be ordered from: Amazon (paperback and Kindle); Barnes and Noble (paperback and Nook); Cokesbury (paperback); The Thoughtful Christian (paperback); or Westminster John Knox Press (paperback). *If you do not have or do not want to purchase the book, you are still welcome to join us. Each Sunday we'll begin with a prompt to include all who are present.*

### *Let Us Light Candles*

SBPC's Church wide Devotionals for 2020

This year's church wide devotional will take a bit different format. This particular year is stretching and exercising our creativity as we seek to stay connected and continue to reach out to the community at large.

"Let Us Light Candles: Matthew 25 and the Work of Advent" in an online devotional which includes Christmastide and goes through Epiphany being offered through *Presbyterian's Today*. The seasonal scriptures and daily reflections are built through the framework of Howard Thurman's poem, "I Will Light Candles This Christmas." Thurman was a Baptist preacher and a mentor to the then student, Martin Luther King, Jr.



The devotionals will be sent by email each week. Here is the link if you would like to access the devotionals yourself: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/advent2020/advent-and-christmas-devotional-2020-week-1/>. If you would prefer a printed copy, please contact Spring Branch Presbyterian Church [secretary@springbranchpres.org](mailto:secretary@springbranchpres.org).

#### **I Will Light Candles This Christmas**

*By Howard Thurman*

I will light candles this Christmas,  
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,  
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,  
Candles of courage for fears ever present,  
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,  
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,  
Candles of love to inspire all my living,  
Candles that will burn all year long.

**We will have poinsettias for purchase again this year!** You can place your order in the Church Office, online at this form ([www.springbranchpres.org/poinsettia-order-form/](http://www.springbranchpres.org/poinsettia-order-form/)), or by emailing [secretary@springbranchpres.org](mailto:secretary@springbranchpres.org), today through Monday, December 21st! Please remember to indicate who you are honoring, and/or remembering with your payment of \$10.00 to SBPC. You can mail your payment to the Church Office or place it in the offering box on Sunday mornings. The names of those being remembered or honored will be shared with the congregation on Christmas Eve.

Through our Presbytery and partners like Houston Responds, we have been identifying ways we can continue to help our neighbors in Louisiana who have been impacted by Hurricanes Laura and Delta. **The Mission Team is partnering with Fuller Center for Disaster Recovery to plan a mission trip** to go help our neighbors with rebuilding their homes. All skill levels are welcome, and we are hoping to send a team the weekend of **January 15th-18th**. If you are interested in attending, please let Pastor Kevin or Miguel know. The deadline to sign up is December 17th.



# SPRING BRANCH Presbyterian Church

*relationships matter*  
GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD



## Who's Who:

Minister:	All Members of the Church
Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Kevin Boyd
Administrator:	Jorida Vakiari
Ministries Coordinator:	C. Miguel Carlin
Administrative Assistant:	Ethan Mitchell
Music Director:	Gabriel Perez
Accompanist:	Chip Colvin
AV Director:	Ethan Mitchell
Academy Director:	Renee Henry

## Ministry Teams:

Administration Leader:	Web Trevathan
Congregation Leader:	Kay Craig
Faith Development:	Denise Wilborn
Mission Leader:	Steve Blair
Worship Leader:	Megan Hogg
Treasurer:	Neal Dikeman

## The Session

Clerk: Elizabeth Powell

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Kevin Boyd

## Class of 2021

Kay Craig  
Margaret Ford  
Lisa Merritt  
Christopher Powell

## Class of 2022

Steve Blair  
Ethan Mitchell  
Web Trevathan  
Denise Wilborn

## Class of 2023

Silvia Argyriou  
Megan Hogg  
Elizabeth Powell  
Lu Taylor

## Academy Board

Elizabeth Earnest  
Stephanie Premer

Anne Johnson

Neal Dikeman  
Sarah Dikeman

## Serving today in Worship:

**Liturgist:** Miguel Carlin

**Time For Young Disciples:** Patty Blome

**Usher Captain:** Donald McDaniel

**PowerPoint:** Patty Blome

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[www.facebook.com/springbranchpres](https://www.facebook.com/springbranchpres)

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