

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 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: Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: For the Lord, our God is coming to us!

Leader: Tell the poor, gather the lowly.

People: For the Lord, our God is coming to us!

Leader: The trees of the fields and all nature are awaiting eagerly the redemption of the earth.

People: For the Lord, our God is coming to us!

ALL: Let us praise the God of our salvation. Let us hail God's Anointed One with shouts of joy. Let us worship God!

HYMN

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

(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.)

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of God's grace!

To God all glory, praise, and love
Be now and ever given
By saints below and saints above,
The church in earth and heaven.

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE (JOY)

The Earnest Family

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: Is anyone in need of a Savior? Do we need forgiveness? Do we need strength and guidance?

People: **Each of us stands in need. So, let us trust God as we pray.**

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 *(from Isaiah 25:11)*

Leader: Hear the good news! The ways of the Lord are mercy and truth. There is pardon for our iniquities. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

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

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hearing the Word

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Kevin

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(unison)*

O God, the joy of this day, the hope for every day to come. Move in our midst, fill us with your Spirit, and make us one. May our words, as well as our actions, and even the secret thoughts of our hearts be focused upon the One who died for all, your only begotten son. Amen.

ANTHEM

"In The Bleak Midwinter"

SBPC Choir, December 2019

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day
A breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall down before,
Ox and ass and camel which adore.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart. Give my heart.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

HYMN OF REFLECTION

"Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine"

Rebecca Castillo

Joseph dearest, Joseph mine, help me cradle the child divine;
God reward thee and all that's thine in paradise, so prays the mother Mary.

Refrain:

He came among us at Christmastime, at Christmastime, in Bethlehem;
Let us bring him from far and wide Love's diadem: Jesus, Jesus, lo, he comes,
And loves, and saves, and frees us!

All shall come and bow the knee; wise and happy their souls shall be,
Loving such a divinity, as all may see in Jesus, Son of Mary.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:46-55

SERMON

"Life Rebooted, Part 3: Expecting Better"
"My soul exalts in the Lord..." -Luke 1:46

Rev. Dr. Kevin R. Boyd

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.

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

"Love Has Come"

Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

CLOSING PRAYER (*unison*)

Leader: This week, remember that the good news of Jesus’ birth has the power to bring us great joy this Christmas season and beyond!

People: **Our joy isn’t dependent on what is going on in our lives, in our world, or the people that we are with. It doesn’t depend on the gifts we give or the gifts we receive.**

Leader: No earthly thing can ever give us complete joy. Our joy comes from our faithful God!

People: **May that same joy that flooded the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, the hosts of heaven, and Mary and Joseph, claim us and send us on our way with rejoicing. 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

The Flowers this morning are given by Marguerite Priest to the Glory of God and in joyful celebration of Bryan’s 43rd birthday.

Please turn in all outstanding receipts for reimbursement to Jorida in the church office no later than this Tuesday, December 15th.

Join us for the last Drive-Thru Wednesday Night Supper of 2020 this Wednesday at 6:00 PM. Kevin is cooking Street Tacos! Contact secretary@springbranchpres.org to place your dinner order.

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 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.*)

Thank you to everyone that has sponsored an Angel Tree Child this year! All 20 SBPC Angel Tree Children have been sponsored!

December 13 — Third 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 14 — Monday

- 5:00 pm Academy Board Meeting
- 6:00 pm Worship Team Meeting
- 7:00 pm Mission Team Meeting

December 15 — Tuesday
Reimbursement Deadline

- 11:00 am Pastor’s Bible Study

December 16 — Wednesday

- 6:00 pm Drive-Thru WNS: Street Tacos!

December 20 — Fourth Sunday of Advent
Blue Christmas Service

- PresPress Articles Due**
- 9:30 am Explorers SS Class (FH)
 - 9:30 am Saints Under Construction (CR)
 - 10:50 am Choir Cantata
 - 1:30 pm A Weary World (Zoom)

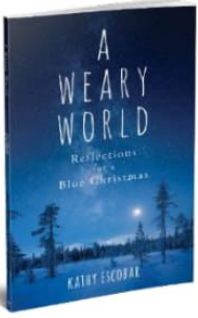
December 21 — Monday
Drive-In Christmas Caroling

- December 22 — Tuesday**
- 11:00 am Pastor’s Bible Study

December 24 — Thursday
Christmas Eve Service in the Parking Lot

- December 26 — Saturday**
- 11:00 am Hot Meals





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. 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: Matthew 25 and the Work of Advent” is an online devotional which includes Christmastide and goes through Epiphany being offered through *Presbyterian's Today*. 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. Here is the link to access the devotionals: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/advent2020/advent-and-christmas-devotional-2020-week-3/>. If you would prefer a printed copy, please contact Spring Branch Presbyterian Church secretary@springbranchpres.org.

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/), or by emailing 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.

The Worship Team needs your help as we plan our Christmas activities. We are putting together a special Christmas message to the congregation that will be shared on Christmas Day. In order to make this project a success, we need members and friends to send a brief video message saying “Merry Christmas” to the SBPC family. We will be accepting messages through December 20, 2020. We ask that the messages be sent to this link: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/ZHzb91hCypx1eyRM3fA>.

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.



Family Movie Night

Monday, December 28, 2020 at 6:30 PM

Among the seasonal and outreach events planned for this time of year, we will be having another drive-in movie night between Christmas Day and New Year's Day. We want to gather as safely as possible during this time. We will show a traditional classic film which family members of all ages will enjoy. Save the date and watch for additional information on the church website and other communications.



The Christmas Joy Offering reflects that God is with us, through the generous gifts that support church leaders among us, retired, present and future, who have pointed us to God. Even as we support our current and former church leaders through the Assistance Program through the Board of Pensions, God is calling new leaders for our church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color—offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come. This offering will be collected on December 20th and 24th.

Ways to Give:

- Through your congregation
- Text JOY to 56512 to learn more or donate
- Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy

"God is with us." -Matthew 1:23

Serving today in Worship:

Liturgist: Donald McDaniel

Time For Young Disciples: Pastor Kevin

Usher Captain: Marguerite Priest

PowerPoint: Patty Blome

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