

First Sunday After Christmas

December 27, 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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Praise be to God who has given His light to us.

People: Honor and praise to God for His most precious gift.

Leader: The darkness that enveloped the people,

People: Has been pierced by the Light.

Leader: Let us rejoice in God's blessed goodness!

**ALL: Come, let us worship the God
whose light brings hope to a weary world.**

HYMN

"Joy to the World"

(In lieu of Congregational singing, our young adults have pre-recorded our Hymns for this morning. You are invited to ponder the text as the images as shown on the screens.)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: Even in the midst of great joy and celebration, we know that our lives don't always reflect God's intentions, so please join me in the prayer of confession:

CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: When we allow darkness to overcome the light,

People: forgive us, Lord.

Leader: When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel,

People: have mercy on us, Father.

Leader: When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and hearing and touching the needs of others,

People: let your grace consume us, O God.

Leader: When the wars around us are of no concern,

People: forgive us, Lord, and move us to compassion for those who suffer.

Leader: When our caring is not extended to action,

People: move us to seek justice for our brothers and sisters.

ALL: We come to confess our sinfulness before you and before each other. Remove all barriers that divide us, and let there be no obstacle to our love for you and for one another. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God's light is present in this world.
Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness.
Present in the star, in all that guides us to love.

People: God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it. God's grace is in the world, and our mis-steps will not overcome it.

ALL: We are loved, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: God's light has been revealed to us in a newborn King. In joy, let us share that light with those around us. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another in a socially distant manner.

Hearing the Word

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Denise Wilborn

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*unison*)

ALL: Loving God, you sent your child into the world to teach and show us all the power that is in love and peace. As the scriptures are read and your word is proclaimed, help us to hear the voices of those who speak your truth, so that we may be filled with new understanding and a fresh desire to be a peaceable and loving people. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 148

ANTHEM

"The Work of Christmas"

SBPC Choir, December 2019

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations;
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music from the heart.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:22-40

MEDITATION

"Now the Work of Christmas Begins"

Responding to the Word

HYMN OF REFLECTION

"I Am the Light of the World"

Patty Blome

CHORUS:

I am the Light of the World
You people come and follow me.
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery
Of what you were meant to do and be.

1. When the song of the angels is stilled.
When the star in the sky is gone.
When the kings and the shepherds have found their way home.
The work of Christmas is begun!

2. To find the lost and lonely one,
To heal that broken soul with love,
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
To feel the earth below the sky above!

3. To free the prisoner from his chains,
To make the powerful care,
To rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill,
To see God's children everywhere.

4. To bring hope to every task you do,
To dance at a baby's new birth,
To make music in an old person's heart,
And sing to the colors of the earth!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(unison)*

A Christmas Affirmation

Written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing

**We believe that God has come to us as a little child,
making our weakness his strength,
securing our salvation by becoming one of us,
blessing us with a steadfast savior,
filling our hearts with joy to be shared with one another.**

**We believe that God has birthed righteousness and justice into the world,
giving us a law that will be written upon our hearts,
making the cause of the oppressed the highest priority,
declaring an everlasting reign of peace,
defeating the power of pain and suffering.**

**We believe that God calls us to participate in this reality of love,
inviting us to proclaim Christ's resurrection at the Table,
transforming us as disciples to go out into the world,
sending us forth to announce his kingdom of peace and comfort,
challenging us to see everyone as nothing less than beloved children.**

This we believe.

This we preach.

This we seek to embody in word and deed.

A TIME OF GIVING

Leader: Lord, each day that you lived among us, you gave lovingly and without reserve.
Today, let us follow your great example.

People: **Receive our expressions of love: our finances, our love of God and neighbor, our service and our prayers. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: God, today we choose to "Hark",
to listen to your voice,
to be still and know that you are God with us.
Hark! The herald angels sing,

People: **Glory to the newborn King.**

Leader: God, we hear your promise of "peace on earth",
but we know that the nations have not yet embraced your peace.
God, we pray for places where there is war, anger and broken lives.
Hark! The herald angels sing,

People: **Glory to the newborn King.**

Leader: God, you came to earth to dwell with us in flesh and blood.
May we know you as Emmanuel, God with us,
and may we share your presence with those around us.
Hark! The herald angels sing,

People: **Glory to the newborn King.**

Leader: God, we hear that Jesus was "born that we no more may die."
Be with those who are grieving at this time.
Help us to embrace your promise of second birth and resurrection,
and live it out even here on earth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,

People: **Glory to the newborn King.**

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

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mile he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

BENEDICTION

Leader: It has been done! The News has been shared!

People: A Savior is born!

Leader: But that is the beginning of the story, a story that has not yet ended.

People: A story that includes us, a story of which we are a part.

Leader: So we go out to live the story,

People: to tell of the Hope that is being born among us this Christmas,

Leader: to share the Love of the season with the world,

**People: to be agents of Peace in times of trouble,
to sing songs of deep and abiding Joy.**

Leader: As you go, may God go with you, challenging you to respond to God's call in ways that are new, unexpected and a little unsettling. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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

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Calendar of Events

December 27 — Sunday

Young Adult Sunday

9:30 am Explorers SS Class (Zoom)
9:30 am Saints Under Construction (CR)
10:50 am Worship

December 28 — Monday

6:30 pm Drive-In Movie Night



January 1 — Thursday



January 3 — Sunday

9:30 am Explorers SS Class (Zoom)
9:30 am Saints Under Construction (CR)
10:50 am Worship

January 4 — Monday

7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting

January 5 — Tuesday

9:15 am Congregational Care Meeting
11:00 am Pastor's Bible Study

January 6 — Wednesday

9:30 am PW Moderator (Zoom)
10:15 am PW Board Meeting (Zoom)



Announcements & Events



Idea Spring Presents A Drive-In Movie Night



Sponsored by Spring Branch
Presbyterian Church & Academy

Monday, Dec. 28th
6:30 PM
1215 Campbell Road
(Please arrive by 6:20 PM)

Reservations are requested at
secretary@springbranchpres.org so
that we will have plenty of snacks &
parking spaces available!



www.springbranchpres.org/ideaspring

CVLI #504213186

The Flowers this morning are given by Jennifer and Todd Miller to the Glory of God and in memory of Wix and Ferrel Thorpe.

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.)

"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-12days/>. If you would prefer a printed copy, please contact Spring Branch Presbyterian Church secretary@springbranchpres.org.

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.



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

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
 Denise Wilborn

Neal Dikeman
 Sarah Dikeman

Serving today in Worship:

Virtual & In-Person Liturgists: Young Adults

Time For Young Disciples: Denise Wilborn

Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel

PowerPoint: Patty Blome

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