

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 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** (Prayer by Cecil Kerr, Northern Ireland)

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, you are the way of peace.

People: Come into the brokenness of our lives and our land with your healing love.

Leader: Help us be willing to bow before you in true repentance, and to humble ourselves to each other in real forgiveness.

People: By the fire of your Holy Spirit, melt our hard hearts; Consume the pride and prejudice which separate us.

ALL: Fill us, Lord, with your perfect love, which casts out fear, and binds us together in that unity which you share with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Gabe Perez

(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 come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE (PEACE)

Ken and Linda Crawford

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: God sent his only Son into this world that we might have life, follow Him, and experience peace. Do we recognize our failure to live up to Christ's ideal?

People: We do.

Leader: Then let us confess our sins together:

CONFESSION OF SIN *(unison)*

God of glory, you call on us to prepare the way for Jesus' birth. Forgive us if we put our time and energy into making all sorts of material preparations for Christmas; buying gifts; ordering food; baking cakes; writing cards - all important, but preparations which give temporary pleasure compared to the lasting peace which Christ gives. God of glory, you call on us to prepare the way for Jesus' birth by helping to make smooth the rough places in people's lives, by seeking to reduce the mountainous problems some people experience. Forgive us when we fail to become involved with the pain of other people by pleading seasonal busy-ness. God of glory, you call on us to prepare the way for Jesus' birth by being agents of comfort and mercy. Forgive us for all the times we put our own personal comfort before that of others. For confusing being comfortable with being comforting. God of glory, we confess that all too often we do spend more time on making preparations for our own pleasure than preparing for Jesus to be born anew in our hearts and lives - in our families, our communities, our nation. Help us to prepare ourselves faithfully to receive the Christ-child. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(Psalm 85:9, 10)*

Leader: Listen to what God promises: salvation happens when love and faithfulness meet together, when righteousness and peace kiss. This is surely the gospel of Jesus Christ. In him we experience salvation. Thanks be to God.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hearing the Word

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Denise Wilborn

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(unison)*

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Make us hungry for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

ANTHEM

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Gabe Perez

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 1:1-8

HYMN OF REFLECTION

"Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People"

Gabe Perez

"Comfort, comfort now my people;
Tell of peace!" So says our God.
"Comfort those who sit in darkness
Mourning under sorrow's load.
To my people now proclaim
That my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover,
And their warfare now is over."

Straight shall be what long was crooked,
And the rougher places pain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now on earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That God's word is never broken.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

SERMON

"Life Rebooted, Part 2: That Which Lasts"

Rev. Dr. Kevin R. Boyd

"The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever." -Isaiah 40:8

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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Invitation

Sharing of Prayer Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

The Words of Institution

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Breaking of the Bread

Serving of the Elements

Prayer After Receiving

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.

Departing to Serve

HYMN

"He Came Down"

Gabe Perez

He came down that we may have love; He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have peace; He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forevermore.

CLOSING PRAYER (*unison*)

Dear Lord, Through the darkness, help us to look for your wisdom.

Let nothing come between us.

Send us from this place awake and aware.

Keep us grateful each day

**for the blessings of family and friends,
not merely for material things.**

Keep us prayerful especially for this difficult world,

and for those who are so in need of healing and an end to violence.

May this be our Advent prayer today.

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 Don and Barbara Tremble to the Glory of God, and in celebration of Ron and Peggy’s anniversary.

You are invited to attend Pastor’s Bible Study with Kevin. The group gathers at 11:00am on Zoom on Tuesday mornings. We hope to see you there!

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.

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.*)

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

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 7 — Monday

- 7:00 pm Faith Development Meeting

December 8 — Tuesday

- 11:00 am Pastor’s Bible Study

December 9 — Wednesday

- 9:30 am PW Circle (Zoom)

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
- 7:00 pm Mission Team Meeting

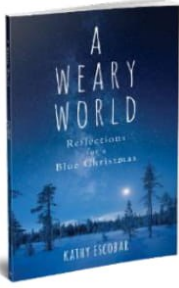
December 15 — Tuesday

Reimbursement Deadline

- 11:00 am Pastor’s Bible Study

December 16 — Wednesday

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



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.*

You are invited to attend Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary's Virtual Holiday Gathering on Thursday, December 10th at 6:00 PM. You can watch a special invitation from President Theodore J. Wardlaw [here](#). Carol Davis is assisting Rev. Rose Niles (*the SBPC 2021 Women's Retreat Leader*) with recruitment for this event. If you are interested in attending, please contact Carol at caroldavis@entouch.net.

"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-2/>. 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/ZHzb91hCcyx1eyRM3fA>.

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: Elizabeth Powell

Time For Young Disciples: Denise Wilborn

Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel

PowerPoint: Patty Blome

e-mail: churchoffice@springbranchpres.org

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www.facebook.com/springbranchpres

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