

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

January 31, 2021

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: Our help is in the Lord in whom we trust!

People: We have come, surrounded by a state of anxiety, conflict, confusion, and uncertainty.

Leader: The Lord of love greets us.

People: The Lord of power brings us grace, peace, and healing.

ALL: May the risen Lord surround us as we gather both near and far, filling our beings with songs and words of worship.

HYMN

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

(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.)

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but though art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION *(Romans 5:5, 8; Hebrews 4:16)*

Leader: God's love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us.

People: Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God in confidence as we confess our sins together.

CONFESSION OF SIN *(unison)*

Holy and Merciful God, we acknowledge that this crisis has exposed our idols. We accept that we have placed our trust and hope in stability, in consistency, and technology. And now, as we recognize our lack of control over this disease, help us turn to you: the only true source of stability in a world that is constantly changing. Help wean us off of the idols of this world, that we might see your goodness and strength as our goodness and strength. Help us to turn our eyes upon the needs of others and not merely ourselves. Comfort us with a peace that surpasses anything we could understand. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news! Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

People: **Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. In the name of 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)*

Loving Lord, you have always shown us the way from darkness into the light. For all of us struggling now to see the light, we ask that you shine it a bit brighter in our world. Grant us all the grace to see a way forward through the present darkness. In Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM

"Gloria" from Gospel Mass

SBPC Choir, March 2016

Glory to God in the highest, peace to all men of good will.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we adore Thee, we glorify Thee.
We give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we adore Thee, we glorify Thee.
Lord God, King of heav'n Father, Almighty One.
Glory be to Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, the Father's only Son.
Glory to God in the highest, peace to all men of good will.

Thou who takes away all the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Thou who takes away all the sins of the world, receive our prayers.
Thou who sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty in heav'n, have mercy on us.

For Only Thou art holy, only Thou art the Lord.
Only Thou art holy, only Thou art most high.
Only Thou art holy, only Thou art the Lord.
Only Thou art holy, only Thou art most high.

We've come to praise Your name today, we want to serve You in ev'ry way.
Let the loud hosanas ring, shouting to praises to God our King.
In the name of the Father. Name of the Son. In the name of Holy Ghost.
The Blessed Three in One, The Blessed Three in One. Amen!

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

HYMN OF REFLECTION

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us and sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
O brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with sliver gleam,
Sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All who for love of God forgive,
All who in pain or sorrow grieve,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears;
So, even in the midst of tears,
Sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sisters, brothers, take your part,
And worship God with humble heart.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
Sing Praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

SERMON

"How Free is Free?"

Rev. Dr. Kevin R. Boyd

"But take care that this liberty of yours..." -1 Corinthians 8:9

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.

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

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred of minds
Is like to that above. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

Leader: God of love and hope, you made the world and care for all creation, but the world feels strange right now.

People: **We are worried that they might get ill, we are anxious for family and friends.**

Leader: Send us forth in peace and boldness of faith.

People: **We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists, and all who are working to care for the ill, and to discover the right medicines to help. We thank you for being with us even in these anxious times. Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.**

Leader: Let us go in assurance of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit is indeed with us!

People: **Amen!**

POSTLUDE

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

+++++

Calendar of Events

January 31 — Sunday

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

February 1 — Monday

7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting

February 2 — Tuesday

11:00 am Pastor's Bible Study
1:30 pm Congregational Care Meeting

February 3 — Wednesday

9:30 am PW Moderator (Zoom)
10:15 am PW Board Meeting (Zoom)
6:00 pm Drive-Thru WNS: Cane's!
7:00 pm Property Meeting (Zoom)

February 7 — Sunday

Souper Bowl of Caring
9:30 am Explorers SS Class (FH)
9:30 am Saints Under Construction (CR)
10:50 am Worship

February 8 — Monday

5:00 pm Academy Board Meeting

February 9 — Tuesday

11:00 am Pastor's Bible Study

February 10 — Wednesday

9:30 am PW Circle

Announcements & Events

The Flowers this morning are given by Marguerite Priest to the Glory of God, and in loving memory of Joy Stennis Purfurst and "Bob" Robert J. Priest.

You are invited to attend Pastor's Bible Study with Kevin. The group gathers at 11:00am on Zoom on Tuesday mornings. Watch your email for instructions to join. We hope to see you there!

Join us for our next Drive-Thru Wednesday Night Supper this Wednesday, February 3rd at 6:00 PM! On the menu is Cane's Chicken Tenders, Broccoli and Rice Casserole, Salad, Texas Toast, and Homemade Chocolate Cake. Please contact secretary@springbranchpres.org to place your dinner order.

Spring Branch Presbyterian will once again participate in the annual Souper Bowl of Caring campaign! We invite the congregation to bring a canned food item or cash/check donation on Sunday February 7th to worship. We are also offering an online option this year for you to share with your family and friends! The link to give donations online is: <https://forms.tacklehunger.org/collections/view/1470855>. All donations that are received will benefit the Fair Haven Food Pantry. All food donations brought to the Drive-Thru Dinner on Wednesday, Feb. 3rd will be put towards our Souper Bowl of Caring count! We will also be accepting monetary donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring at the Drive-Thru on Wednesday.

The PW Day Circle will meet on Wednesday, February 10th at 9:30 AM via Zoom to discuss Lesson 6 of *Into the Light*. **The Evening Bible Study** will meet on Tuesday, February 16th at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Please contact Carol Davis at caroldavis@entouch.net to receive a Zoom invitation for both studies. The Lesson 6 video can be viewed at www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/into-the-light.

Would you like to beautify the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings while honoring a loved one or commemorating a special occasion? **The 2021 Flowers Sign-Up Calendar is located in the Narthex!** The cost per arrangement is \$65.00. Checks should be written to SBPC and mailed to the Church Office or placed in the Offering Box on Sunday mornings.

The 2021 Offering Envelope Books are now available in the Narthex. Please sign your name by the number that corresponds to your book number. If you already have a book of offering envelopes, you can continue to use it since it doesn't correspond to specific dates. Thank you for your continued commitment!

Scholarship Applications are now available for interested students. Completed applications are due by May 1st for the year applying, and should be turned in to Sarah Dikeman for the Women's Scholarship and Ken Crawford for the Men's Scholarship. The 2021-2022 Scholarship Application can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.springbranchpres.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2021-2022-Scholarship-Application.pdf>.

Serving today in Worship:

Liturgist: Miguel Carlin

Time For Young Disciples: Pastor Kevin

Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel

PowerPoint: Patty Blome

Socially Distant Choir: Patty Blome, Rebecca Castillo, Kyle Eveler,

Megan and Jeff Hogg, Emily, Gary, and Laurie Mitchell

Gabe Perez, Lin Sabala

e-mail: churchoffice@springbranchpres.org

website: www.springbranchpres.org

www.facebook.com/springbranchpres

CCLI License # 11266777

1215 Campbell Rd

Houston, TX 77055

713-464-7659