



Spring Branch Presbyterian Church

Who's Who:

Minister: All Members of the Church
Pastor: Rev. Mark Plunkett
Administrator: Jorida Vakiari
Ministries Coordinator: C. Miguel Carlin
Administrative Assistant: Ethan Mitchell
Music Director: Gabriel Perez
Accompanist: Jonathan Craft
AV Director: Ethan Mitchell
AV Technician: Ben Dethloff
Academy Director: Renee Henry

Ministry Teams:

Administration Leader: Jacquie Ballesteros
Congregation Leader: Kay Craig
Faith Development Leader: Kathryn Dethloff
Mission Leader:
Worship Leader: Donald McDaniel
Treasurer: Neal Dikeman

The Session

Clerk: Elizabeth Powell

Moderator: Rev. Mark Plunkett

Class of 2024

Charles Fairchild
Glenn Lanan
Donald McDaniel
Jennifer Miller

Class of 2025

Jacquie Ballesteros
Kathryn Dethloff
Stephen Earnest

Class of 2026

Kay Craig
Sarah Dikeman
Ethan Mitchell

Academy Board

Laurie Mitchell
Jani Shepard

Jim Kunkel
Web Trevathan

Neal Dikeman
Ashley Powell

Serving today in Worship:

Liturgists: Choir Members
Children's Moment: Megan Hogg
Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel
PowerPoint: Megan Hogg

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website: www.springbranchpres.org
www.facebook.com/springbranchpres
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“The Voices of Christmas”
December 17, 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

10:50 AM

**Those who are able please stand*

Gathering in God's Name

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH

(Please sign the Friendship Book located in the pew rack next to the center aisle.)

PRELUDE

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ENTERS THE SANCTUARY

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: As farmers wait for rainfall
As prisoners wait for freedom

ALL: We wait for the coming of God.

Leader: As exiles yearn for home
As peacemakers yearn for justice

ALL: We long for the coming of God.

Leader: As travelers search for shelter
As disciples look for answers

ALL: We prepare for the coming of God.

By: Ruth Burgess

THE CANDLE OF JOY

Mario, Lauren, Dominic, and Luca Tacchi

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (v. 3) GTG, No. 85

*Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
for the King of glory.*

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***GLORIA**

"Love Has Come" (v. 1)

GTG, No. 110

*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.*

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar

December 17 — 3rd Sunday of Advent

9:15 am Church Nursery
9:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am Children's Sunday School (GP 3)
9:45 am Choir Practice (Choir Room)
10:50 am Worship
12:00 pm Called Congregational Meeting
4:00 pm Cub Scouts: Tiger Cub (GP 1 & 2)
5:00 pm Blue Christmas Service (S)

December 18 — Monday

10:00 am The Gathering Place
7:00 pm Horizon's Bible Study on Zoom

December 19 — Tuesday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
6:00 pm Cub Scouts: Wolf (GP 1 & 2)

December 20 — Wednesday

PresPress Articles Due

December 21 — Thursday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
7:00 pm Rainbow's End Meeting* (GP 2)

December 22 — Friday

6:30 pm SBM Arc Meeting* (FH)

December 23 — Saturday

11:00 am Hot Meals
6:00 pm CENTI Church Service* (GP)

December 24 — 4th Sunday of Advent

10:00 am Brunch (FH)
10:50 am Worship (S)
5:30 pm Refreshments (Breezeway)
6:00 pm Candlelight Communion Worship



December 25— Monday

Church & Academy Closed



December 26 — Tuesday

Church & Academy Closed

December 27 — Wednesday

December 28 — Thursday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)

December 29 — Friday

December 30 — Saturday

6:00 pm CENTI Church Service* (GP)

*Outside SBPC Reservations & Events

(CR) Conference Room
(FH) Fellowship Hall
(GP) Gathering Place
(L) Library
(P) Parlor
(S) Sanctuary

Announcements & Events:

The Choir is presenting *The Voices of Christmas* this morning. This is an intimate look at the Christmas story through scripture and song. We will share stories of some of the most important people in the Christmas stories, and look at what those stories mean for us today.

The Flowers for this morning are given by Marguerite Priest, to the Glory of God, and are in celebration of Bryan's 46th birthday!

There will be a Called Congregational Meeting immediately following Worship today, Sunday, December 17th. The purpose of the meeting is to Elect the Nominating Committee.

The Christmas Joy Offering begins this week. When you give, you are faithfully supporting current and retired church workers through assistance in their time of need, and cultivating racial ethnic education and leadership development. Please use the offering envelopes in your Bulletin this week, and make checks payable to "SBPC" and write "Christmas Joy Offering" in the memo line. This offering will be collected today and December 24th.

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. *(If you pay by check, please make checks payable to SBPC and put "PCHAS Ornament Tree" in the memo line.)*

The Gathering Place will meet tomorrow, December 18th, at 10:00 AM! The theme for this month is *Candy Land Christmas!* The Academy children will be reprising their pageant for our guests. If you are interested in helping out, please see Jacquie Ballesteros or Sarah Dikeman.

The PW Evening Bible Study will meet on Monday, December 18th at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Please contact Sarah or Ashely Powell if you are interested in attending. The Lesson 4 video is available at the following link: www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/sacred-encounters.

You are invited to join us for the Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve Service! Hot Chocolate and Cookies will be served at 5:30 PM. The service will begin at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

Copies our Advent Devotional for this year, "*The Light of Grace: Welcoming God's Amazing Gift of Christ*" are available for pickup from the Narthex, Parlor, and Church Office. *"In honor of the 250th anniversary of the hymn 'Amazing Grace,' these devotions enlighten the heart, mind, and soul with the good news that the Light of the World graces us with his presence every day of our lives."*

Poinsettias are available for purchase again this year. A sign-up sheet is located in the Church Office & Narthex to place your order until Thursday, December 21st. Remember to indicate who you are honoring, and/or remembering, with your payment of \$10 to SBPC, which you can drop off in the Church Office, or during Worship in the offering plate.

Please don't forget to turn in your Pledge Card and Time & Talent Pledge. You can find blank copies in the Narthex, Church Office, or Parlor. There is a box in the Narthex for submitting cards. Cards can also be mailed to the Church Office, to the attention of Jorida. Thank you for your continued commitment!

We have a church-wide retreat in the works for March 14th-17th at Mo-Ranch in Hunt, TX! This is spring break week, so we're hopeful that we can have a big group go - including our families! This retreat will be Thursday-Sunday, with the option to stay with a small group into Monday. There will be lots of time for spiritual development, fellowship, recreation, worship, and good food! The total cost per person is \$185 for adults and \$120 for kids, for 3 nights, including all meals. We are asking those who would like to attend to please complete the registration form, reserve your room to secure the space you'd like, and pay \$75/person to the church. Copies of the registration form are available in the Narthex and in the Friday email. Please see Ethan Mitchell for any questions. We hope that you will join us!

Hearing and Responding to the Word

CANTATA	<i>"The Voices of Christmas"</i>	Choir
INTRODUCTION	<i>"Of the Father's Love"</i>	Choir
VOICE OF ISRAEL	Isaiah 40:3-5	Red Pew Bible OT 667
	<i>"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"</i> (v. 1, 6, 7)	GTG, No. 88
VOICE OF ISAIAH	Isaiah 11:1-3	Red Pew Bible OT 640
	<i>"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"</i>	GTG, No. 129
VOICE OF BETHLEHEM	Luke 2:1-5	Red Pew Bible NT 58
	<i>"Make My Life a Bethlehem"</i>	Choir
VOICE OF SILENCE	John 1:14	Red Pew Bible NT 92
	<i>"Carol of Joy"</i>	Choir
VOICE OF THE ANIMALS	Luke 2:6-7	Red Pew Bible NT 58
	<i>"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"</i>	GTG, No. 128
VOICE OF JOSEPH	Matthew 1:19-21	Red Pew Bible NT 1
	<i>"The Hands That First Held Mary's Child"</i>	Choir
VOICE OF MARY	Luke 2:19	Red Pew Bible NT 58
	<i>"Treasures of the Heart"</i>	Choir

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Megan Hogg

VOICE OF THE ANGELS

Luke 2:8-14

Red Pew Bible NT 58

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"The Jesus Gift"

Choir

VOICE OF THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2:15-18

Red Pew Bible NT 58

"How Great Our Joy"

Choir

OUR VOICES

"The Work of Christmas"

Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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 in LOVE

***BENEDICTION**

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

***THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD**

***POSTLUDE**



Welcome Visitors

You are joyfully welcomed as you worship with us today. In the worship bulletin, you will see an asterisk (*) which invites you to stand as you are able throughout today's service. If you have any questions about Spring Branch Presbyterian Church's ministries and programs, you are invited to speak with Pastor Mark, an elder, an usher, or any other member of our church family. Also, the ushers have additional information for you as you leave today. We hope you will come back and that you consider Spring Branch as your church home.

Worship 10:50 am

Worship: Spring Branch Presbyterian Church welcomes families of all ages and sizes. For families with young children, relax! God put the wiggle in all children (and adults), we understand. You are invited to sit closer to the front so your children can hear, see, and experience worship with those around them. Remember, children and youth learn through what they observe. Participate and engage yourselves fully.

Celebrate Advent and Christmas with Us!



Sunday, December 17, 10:50 am

*3rd Sunday of Advent Worship
Choir Cantata*

Sunday, December 17, 5:00 pm

*Blue Christmas Worship in the Sanctuary
"Voices from Bethlehem: A God Who Cares"*

Sunday, December 24

*Brunch in the Fellowship Hall, 10:00 am
4th Sunday of Advent Worship, 10:50 am in the Sanctuary
"Voices from Bethlehem: The Angel Gabriel Witnesses"*

Sunday, December 24, 6:00 pm

*Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve Service
Cookies & Hot Chocolate in the Breezeway at 5:30 pm
"Voices from Bethlehem: The Innkeeper's Wife Speaks"
"Voice from Bethlehem: A Shepherd Speaks"*

Sunday, December 31, 10:50 am

*The Baptism of the Lord
"Voices from Bethlehem: Simeon and Anna Rejoice"*

Epiphany Sunday, January 7, 10:50 am

"Voices from Bethlehem: The Magi's Witness"

