

# Spring Branch Presbyterian Church



## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**December 24, 2024**

6:00 PM

*\*Those who are able please stand  
(Please remain seated for the Carols)*

### We Celebrate the Light of Christ Coming Into the World

*"Arise. Shine. For your light has come." -Isaiah 60:1*

**PRELUDE** String Quartet

### THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ENTERS THE SANCTUARY

### WELCOME

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

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Psalm 97)

Leader: The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice!

**People: Righteousness and justice are all around Him.**

Leader: The heavens proclaim his righteousness.

**People: All the peoples of the earth behold his glory.**

Leader: For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth.

**People: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous!**

**ALL: Give thanks to his holy name!**

**\*HYMN** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (v. 1, 3) GTG, No. 133

### THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Clara and Piper Dikeman, Jackie Dillard, Jim Kunkel, Lu Taylor

Leader: With choirs of angels and all the heavenly host, we sing:

**People: Glory to God in highest heaven!**

Leader: And on earth, peace and goodwill to all!

**People: Glory to God in highest heaven!**

Leader: The Word became flesh and lived among us.

**People: Glory to God in highest heaven!**

Leader: We have seen His glory!

**People: Glory to God in highest heaven!**

**ALL: And on earth, peace and goodwill to all! The Prince of Peace is born!**

**SCRIPTURE READING** Isaiah 52:7-10 Red Pew Bible OT 683

**CAROL** "Joy to the World" (v. 1, 4) GTG, No. 134

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: O God, you search us out and know us, and all that we are is open to you. We confess that we have sinned.

**People: In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

Leader: When we make no room for Christ, and fail to welcome him into our lives,

**People: In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

Leader: When we follow shooting stars and squander our gifts in Herod's court,

**People: In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

Leader: When we seek to cut down those who might rise above us,

**People: In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

Leader: When we sanitize your birthplace and erase from memory the poor and displaced,

**People: In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

Leader: When we sing sweet sentiments over Christ's birth, and fail to rejoice over his everyday presence,

**People: In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

Leader: We turn to you, O Christ, perfect union of Spirit and flesh;

**People: We renounce evil; we claim your love; we choose to be made whole. Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news of Christmas: Today God reveals to us the wonders of divine love.

**People: For unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given. His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

Leader: By the mighty power of God, we are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen!

**CAROL** "Angels We Have Heard on High" (v. 1, 3) GTG, No. 113

**SCRIPTURE READING** Matthew 1:18-25 Red Pew Bible NT 1

**CAROL** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (v. 1, 3) GTG, No. 119

### We Remember With Awe and Wonder the Savior's Birth

*"Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing which the Lord has made known to us." -Luke 2:15b*

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT** Pastor Savannah

**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 2:1-7 King James Version

**CAROL** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (v. 1, 2) GTG, No. 121

**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 2:8-20 King James Version

**CAROL** "The First Nowell" (v. 1, 2) GTG, No. 147

**MESSAGE** "The Unexpected Arrival" Rev. Mark Plunkett

### We Return a Portion of the Blessings God Has Given Us

### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(Benefiting the PCUSA Christmas Joy Offering)

**OFFERTORY** "O Holy Night" Sophia Saenz

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**Gracious God, on this holy night in which the good tidings of angels, shepherds, and magi fill our hearts, we give you thanks for those who have wrapped up your gifts to us in our own time with their stories, music, caregiving, and service in this and other faith communities. We dedicate our offerings of help, hope and healing for them, and modeling ourselves on their care for your church, pledge our gifts of time and prayer, energy and skills in the ongoing ministries of Emmanuel, God present with us. Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

**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.**

### Sacrament of Holy Communion

*"Do this in remembrance of Me." -Luke 22:19b*

### SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Invitation

The Words of Institution

Serving of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We Take the Light of Christ Into the World**

*"The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."-John 1:5*

**\*HYMN** "Silent Night" GTG, No. 122

1. The ushers will light their candles from the Christ Candle.
2. Your candle will be lit from the person next to you.
3. To light your candle, tip it into the lighted candle next to you. **NEVER** lean a lighted candle.
4. Make sure that the candle cup is lower than the top of the candle. It is only there to protect your hands from hot wax.
5. When all of the candles are burning, we will sing Silent Night.
6. On your way out, please extinguish your candle and give it to an usher.

**\*CHARGE, BENEDICTION, AND BLESSING** John 1:1-5

**\*POSTLUDE**

**May the blessings of the Christ Child be with you!**  
**Merry Christmas!**  
-Spring Branch Presbyterian Church

Portions of tonight's Worship Service are taken from  
[www.worship-blogspot.com](http://www.worship-blogspot.com)

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**Serving today in Worship:**

**Readers:** Gary Mitchell, Beth Mizwa,  
Daniel Powell, Marguerite Priest,  
Nina Rach

**Children's Moment:** Pastor Savannah

**Usher Captain:** Donald McDaniel

**PowerPoint:** Patty Blome

**Acolytes:** Jayden & Lillie Earnest

*e-mail: [churchoffice@springbranchpres.org](mailto:churchoffice@springbranchpres.org)*

*website: [www.springbranchpres.org](http://www.springbranchpres.org)*

*[www.facebook.com/springbranchpres](http://www.facebook.com/springbranchpres)*

*Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM*

*CCLI Streaming License # 20797349*

*CCLI License # 11266777*

*1215 Campbell Rd*

*Houston, TX 77055*

*713-464-7659*

**String Quartet**

Jennifer Alger  
Steven Hakel  
Doreen Hanrahan  
Rex Spencer



**Announcements & Events:**

**The Christmas Joy Offering continues today.** 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, and make checks payable to "SBPC" and write "Christmas Joy Offering" in the memo line.

**The Poinsettias are here!** If you contributed to the purchase of one (or more), don't forget to take them home after the Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service tonight.

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 2025 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!

Would you like to beautify the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings while honoring a loved one or commemorating a special occasion? **The 2025 Flower 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 plate on Sunday mornings.

**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!

**Please join us for Unwind in January on the 6th at 6:00 PM for a Potluck Dinner at Kay Craig's house** (1748 Pine Village, 77080). Please RSVP only if you plan to attend and send me (Jacquie Ballesteros, [jballesteros1103@gmail.com](mailto:jballesteros1103@gmail.com)), with an idea of what you plan to bring. Iced tea and water will be provided. Please join us!

**Wednesday Night Supper will resume on Wednesday, January 8th, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.** We hope you can join us then!

**Un-Decorating the Sanctuary:** The Worship Team is seeking volunteers to help remove the Greens from the Sanctuary on January 12, 2025, immediately after the Worship Service. As usual, many hands make for light work. Pizza will be provided for volunteers. So that lunch can be planned, please contact Donald McDaniel at [dmcdan77007@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dmcdan77007@sbcglobal.net) or 713-294-4005 to sign up.

**Pastor Mark has begun facilitating a Zoom Bible Study** on the Gospel of Luke on Thursdays at 1:00 PM. The Zoom information is available in the Friday email if you are interested in giving it a try over your lunch hour. If you wish to receive the Zoom invite every week, please email Mark to get on his list.

**Handbells have returned!** Do you have hands for a joyful noise rather than a voice? - then handbells wants YOU! The Handbell Choir meets at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary on Wednesday nights. Please see Megan Hogg if you'd like to join.



*Merry Christmas*

*Matt and Sarah Dikeman*

*In Memory of Anne and Matt Dikeman, Sr.*

*In Memory of Sally and Ray Woolrich*

*In Memory of Wix and Ferrell Thorpe*

*Jan and Gerald Fitts*

*In Memory of Boots and Joyce Allen*

*In Memory of Grady and Amelia Fitts*

*Laurie and Gary Mitchell*

*In Memory of Dorothy Mitchell*

*In Memory of Harold and Virginia Miller*

*Patti and Steve Nanney*

*In Memory of Bob and Laverne Collier*

*In Memory of Todd and Christine Nanney*

*In Memory of Troy and Lorene Carr*

*Delia Nix*

*In Memory of the Nix Family*

*In Memory of the Ferrel Family*

*In Honor of Ali & Jacqueline Nix*

*Mark and Jeanne Plunkett*

*In Honor of our Grandparents and our Fathers*

*Marguerite Priest*

*In Honor of S. Bryan Evenson*

*In Honor and Memory of Family*

*Nina Rach*

*In Memory of Mark Haas*

*The Reynolds and Bigelow Families*

*In Memory of Dianne Bigelow*

*In Memory of Grandma Ann, Ann Metzinger*

*In Memory of Grandparents, Don and Doris Bigelow*

*The Reynolds and Bigelow Grandchildren*

*In Memory of Dianne Bigelow (Gamma)*

*Lu Taylor*

*Jorida Vakiari*

*In Honor of her parents,*

*Aleksandra and Vezir Muharremaj*