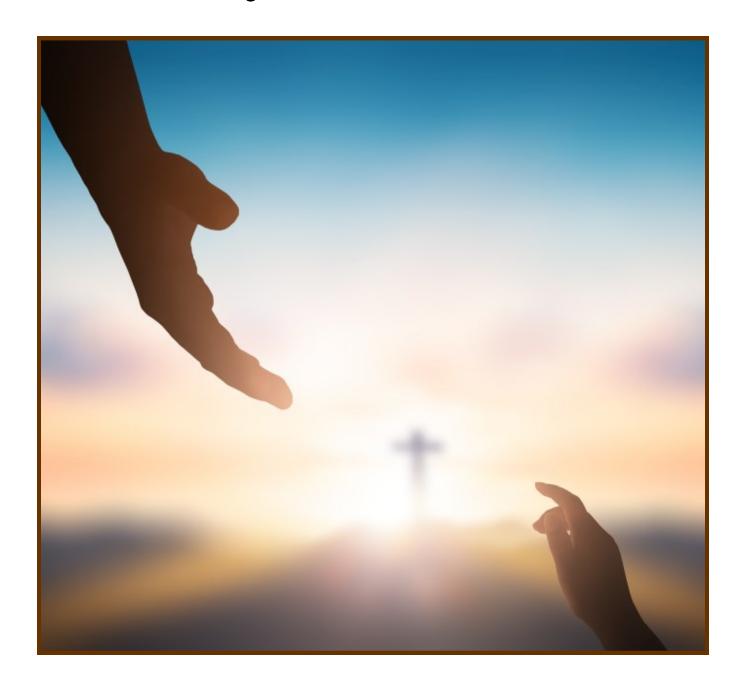
# Spring Branch Presbyterian Church



Sweet Hour of Prayer September 10, 2023

## 15th Sunday after Pentecost

**September 10, 2023** 

10:50 AM

## **SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER** "Prayer is at the Heart of Worship"

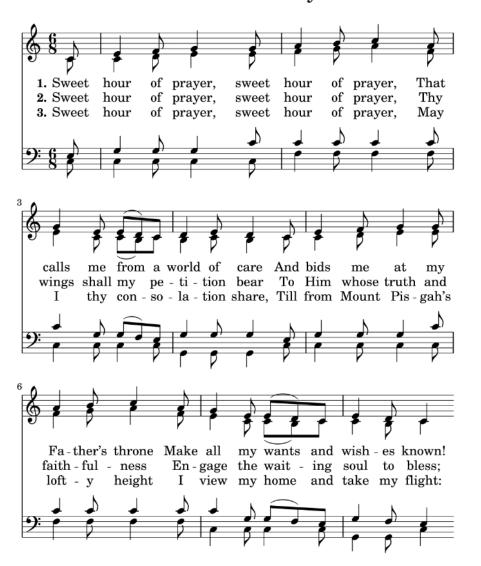
WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH

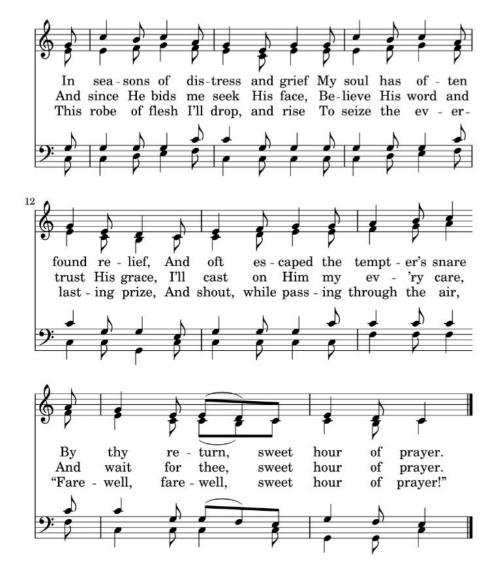
PREPARING OUR HEARTS

**SING** 

Enter in silence. Join in singing. Be filled with God's peace.

## Sweet Hour of Prayer





#### **OPENING PRAYER**

#### **SING**



#### **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

**Marguerite Priest** 

## **FIRST READING:** John 15:4, 5

Jesus said, "Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."

#### **SILENCE**

#### **SCRIPTURE**

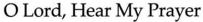
Scripture readings are a way to go to the "inexhaustible wellspring" by which God gives himself to thirsty human beings" (Origen, third century). The Bible is a "letter from God to creatures" that enables us to "discover God's heart in God's words" (Gregory the Great, sixth century).

#### **SILENCE**

When we try to express communion with God in words, our minds quickly come up short. But, in the depths of our being, through the Holy Spirit, Christ is praying far more than we imagine. When we let Christ pray silently within us, we discover the depths of our being inhabited by God's presence.

2.

#### \*SING



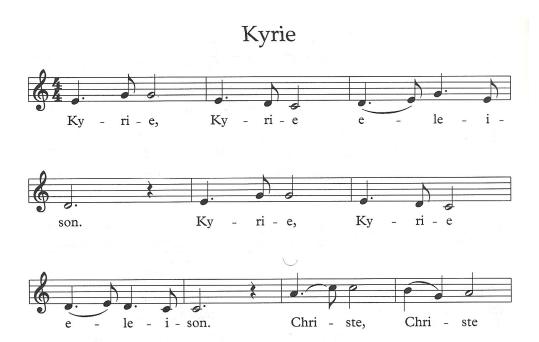


#### **SECOND READING:** Luke 18:10-14

"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would no even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified, rather the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but those who humble themselves will be exalted."

#### **SILENCE**

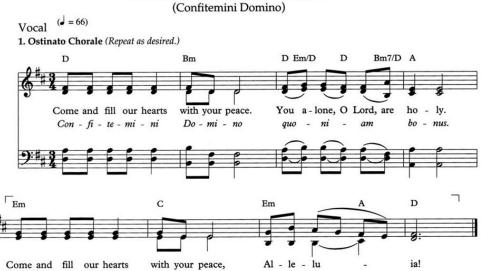
#### \*SING





## THIRD READING (Responsive): Psalm 130 RESPONSE "Come and Fill Our Hearts"

## Come and Fill Our Hearts



Al - le - lu

ia!

Do - mi - no,

Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD; Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni

#### **RESPONSE**

#### THE PSALM

Jesus prayed the Psalms, the age-old prayers of his people. Christians have always found a wellspring of life in the Psalms. They place us in the great communion of all believers. In this prayer, our joys and sorrows, our trust in God, our thirst and even our anguish find expression.

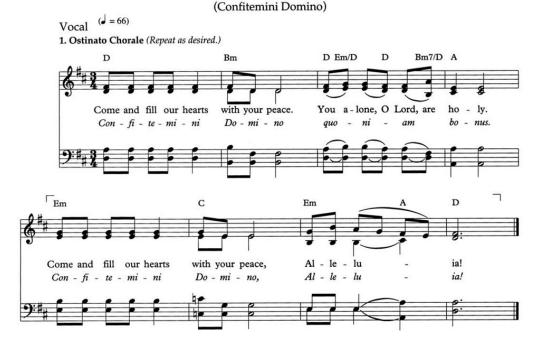
After each stanza of the Psalm, we respond with *Come and Fill Our Hearts*.

4.

If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

#### **RESPONSE**

## Come and Fill Our Hearts



I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning,

#### **RESPONSE**

Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

#### **RESPONSE**

## **FOURTH READING:** Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.



**MEDITATION** 

"Between You and God"

**RESPONSE** 

"Come and Fill Our Hearts" (see pg. 5)

#### 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.

"God In Your Loving Mercy"



#### **OFFERING**

**ANTHEM** 

"Take My Life and Let it Be"

Choir

#### **SENDING PRAYER**

Lord, make us instruments of Your peace.

Where there is hatred,

let us sow Love.

Where there is injury,

Pardon;

Where there is doubt,

Faith:

Where there is despair,

Hope;

Where there is darkness,

Light;

Where there is sadness,

Joy.

O Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled,

as to console;

to be understood,

as to understand;

to be loved,

as to love;

For it is in giving

that we receive,

It is in pardoning

that we are pardoned

And it is in dying

that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

(Prayer of St. Francis of Assissi)

#### **BLESSING TO GO FORTH**

#### A RESPONSE TO GO FORTH



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The worship tradition represented in this morning's service began many years ago in the ecumenical French monastic community called Taize. It offers a quiet service of meditation, reflection, readings and music. The experience finds its true meaning in the active participation of all assembled by focusing and deepening our faith through the power of prayer. Therefore, participate as the Spirit moves you, whether that be in song, prayer, or quiet meditation.

Much of our modern personal need is for entertainment. We have "busy" souls. The liturgy that has developed around the Taize community is primarily for the Worship of God, but it is also meant to quiet the soul. This quietness does not happen at once, but gradually during the worship. There is repetition in the words of the music, there are many periods of silence, and the readings are read slowly—all so that we may experience deep quiet growing in our hearts. Then we may be still and be at peace in the Presence of God.

## **Announcements & Events:**

**The Flowers** for this morning are given by Marguerite Priest, to the Glory of God, and are in honor of those First Responders and all who died on September 11, 2001.

**The PW Day Circle** will meet on Wednesday, September 13th, at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room. Please contact Patti Nanney if you'd like to attend via Zoom. A salad Luncheon will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a salad to share. The **Evening Bible Study** will meet on Monday, September 11th, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Please contact Sarah or Ashley Powell if you are interested in attending. The Introduction & Lesson 1 videos are available at the following link: <a href="https://www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/sacred-encounters">www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/sacred-encounters</a>.

**Join us for Wednesday Night Supper this Wednesday,** September 13th, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Kay & Betty are making Chopped Steak with Toppings! Please email Kay Craig at <a href="mailto:kay@craig-heidt.com">kay@craig-heidt.com</a> to place your dinner order. We hope to see you there!

**During the month of August, SBPC was collecting funds for MAM's Back to School Uniform Voucher Drive.** MAM coordinates with school guidance counselors and local vendors to provide school uniforms for local needy families. MAM's 2023 goal is to provide \$50 uniform vouchers to 3,000 children. There's still an opportunity to contribute if you haven't had a chance to do so! Donations can be placed in the offering plate this morning or mailed to the church office. Please make checks payable to SBPC, and write *MAM Back to School* in the memo line. We also welcome online donations, which can be given at this link: <a href="https://givebutter.com/mambacktoschool/springbranchpresbyterianchurch1">https://givebutter.com/mambacktoschool/springbranchpresbyterianchurch1</a>.

**September Birthday Celebration** — Please join family, friends, and congregation members on Sunday, September 17th, right after Worship as we celebrate those in our church community born in September. Linger for conversation, fellowship, and light snacks.

The Gathering Place will meet on Monday, September 18th, at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The theme for this month is *Lawrence Welk!* Please see Sarah Dikeman or Jacquie Ballesteros if you'd like to help out.

**Please join us for our first ZIP Trip of the year!** We will touring the Buffalo Bayou Cistern on Wednesday, September 20th at 10:00 AM. The cost is \$8.00 per person. We will discuss lunch and transportation options at our first meeting on September 13th. Please contact Marguerite Priest at 281-435-3941 or <a href="megriest@hotmail.com">megriest@hotmail.com</a> for more information.

**The Faith Development Team will be hosting two listening sessions** for our SBPC family to share your thoughts and ideas on the types of programs you would like to see our team develop over the next year. *Dinner & Discussions* will be on Wednesday, September 20th, from 6:00-7:00 PM. We invite you to grab your dinner from the Fellowship Hall and join us in the Library. *Coffee & Conversations* will be held immediately after Worship in the Conference Room on Sunday, September 24th. We ask for you to please RSVP to Miguel in the Church Office if you plan to come.

**Sunday Craft Workshop** — Our next fun Sunday Craft Workshop is on September 24th from 2:00-4:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We will be making fall-themed décor. One is a centerpiece for a table, and the other three hang on a wall or door. Please email or call Kay Craig to reserve your spot. You will need to pay in advance as we have to purchase the supplies ahead of time. The deadline for registration is Sunday, September 17th.

## **Calendar of Events**

#### September 10 — Sunday

9:15 am Church Nursery 9:30 am Sunday School

9:30 am Children's Chime Choir (S) 9:45 am Choir Practice (Choir Room)

10:50 am Worship

12:15 pm Mission Team Meeting (CR) 6:00 pm BSA Committee Meeting (GP)

## September 11 — Monday

#### Rev. Mark Plunkett's 1st Day!

5:00 pm Faith Development Meeting (P)

6:00 pm Yoga (CR)

6:00 pm Special Olympics: Volleyball\* (GP)

7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

7:00 pm Horizon's Bible Study on Zoom

#### September 12 — Tuesday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)

5:30 pm Special Olympics: Bocce Ball\* (Field)

6:00 pm Basketball (GP)

6:30 pm Fellowship Meeting (CR)

7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship\* (FH)

#### September 13 — Wednesday

9:30 am PW Circle (CR & FH)

3:30 pm WOW (S)

5:00 pm Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3) 6:00 pm WNS: Chopped Steak! 6:00 pm Budget Meeting (CR)

#### September 14 — Thursday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)

5:30 pm Academy Board Meeting (P)

5:30 pm Special Olympics: Bocce Ball\* (Field)

6:00 pm Yoga (CR)

6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance\* (GP)

#### September 15 — Friday

7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program\* (YR)

#### September 16 — Saturday

8:00 am Presbyterian Men (CR) 6:00 pm CENTI Church Service\* (GP)



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 Monthly Birthday Celebration (Breezeway)

#### September 18 — Monday

10:00 am The Gathering Place (FH)

6:00 pm Yoga (CR)

6:00 pm Special Olympics: Volleyball\* (GP)

7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

#### September 19 — Tuesday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)

5:30 pm Special Olympics: Bocce Ball\* (Field)

6:00 pm Basketball (GP)

7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship\* (FH)

#### September 20 — Wednesday

#### PresPress Articles Due

10:00 am PW ZIP Trip: Buffalo Bayou Cistern!

3:30 pm WOW (S)

6:00 pm WNS: Lemon Pepper Chicken! 6:00 pm FD Dinner & Discussions! (L) 6:45 pm Worship Team Meeting (CR)

#### September 21 — Thursday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)

5:30 pm Special Olympics: Bocce Ball\* (Field)

6:00 pm Yoga (CR)

6:00 pm Cub Scout Kick-off Meeting (FH) 6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance\* (GP)

#### September 22 — Friday

6:30 pm SBM Arc Meeting\* (FH) 7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program\* (YR)

#### September 23 — Saturday

11:00 am Hot Meals

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





#### Who's Who:

#### Minister: All Members of the Church Administrator: Jorida Vakiari Ministries Coordinator: C. Miguel Carlin Administrative Assistant: Ethan Mitchell Music Director: Gabriel Perez Jonathan Craft Accompanist: 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: Liz Earnest
Worship Leader: Donald McDaniel
Treasurer: Neal Dikeman

#### **The Session**

Clerk: Elizabeth Powell Moderator: Rev. Andy Gans (Pines PC)

<b>Class of 2024</b>	<b>Class of 2025</b>	<b>Class of 2026</b>
Charles Fairchild	Jacquie Ballesteros	Kay Craig
Glenn Lanan	Kathryn Dethloff	Sarah Dikeman
Donald McDaniel	Stephen Earnest	Ethan Mitchell
Jennifer Miller	·	

#### **Academy Board**

Laurie Mitchell	Jim Kunkel	Neal Dikeman
Jani Shepard	Web Trevathan	Ashley Powell

### Serving today in Worship:

**Liturgists:** Megan Hogg, Glenn Lanan **Children's Moment:** Marguerite Priest **Usher Captain:** Donald McDaniel

PowerPoint: Patty Blome

e-mail: churchoffice@springbranchpres.org website: www.springbranchpres.org www.facebook.com/springbranchpres Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-4:30 PM CCLI Streaming License # 20797349 CCLI License # 11266777 1215 Campbell Rd Houston, TX 77055 713-464-7659