

Spring Branch Presbyterian Church



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2023

6:00 PM

**Those who are able please stand*

We Celebrate the Light of Christ Coming Into the World

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

PRELUDE String Quartet

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(from Isaiah 9:2-6)*

Leader: The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: **Those who live in a land of deep darkness – on them, light has shined.**

Leader: You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;

People: **They rejoice before you as with joy at a harvest.**

Leader: The yoke of their burden, the bar across their shoulders you have broken.

People: **For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.**

All: **He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace!**

***HYMN** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (v. 1, 4) GTG, No. 133

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Earnest & Ballesteros Family

1.

SCRIPTURE READING Micah 5:2-5a Red Pew Bible OT 865

CAROL "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (v. 1) GTG, No. 123

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

God of Joy, we come to celebrate again the arrival of Love Incarnate here in our very midst. Your glorious arrival is enough to cause the angels and shepherds to sing for joy, yet we still find reasons to complain and sigh. Your light of salvation is bright enough to illuminate every corner of our lives, yet we still find ourselves shrouded in the darkness of worry and doubt. Your gift of love is big enough for the whole world, yet we still find ourselves resentful that your love extends to those we deem to be unworthy. God, you invite us into the light of the stable, where the overlooked and forgotten have gathered to celebrate the miracle of your love. Give us the strength and courage to join you at that humble manger. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Galatians 4:4-5

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

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

CAROL "Away in a Manger" (v. 1, 3) GTG, No. 114

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 Mark

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-7 King James Version

MESSAGE Elder Megan Hogg

"Voices From Bethlehem: The Innkeeper's Wife Speaks"

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

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:8-20 King James Version

MESSAGE Rev. Mark Plunkett

"Voices From Bethlehem: A Shepherd Speaks"

CAROL "The First Nowell" (v. 1, 6) GTG, No. 147

We Return a Portion of the Blessings God Has Given Us

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(Benefiting the PCUSA Christmas Joy Offering)

2.

OFFERTORY "O Holy Night"

Sacrament of Holy Communion

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

INVITATION AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER OF DEDICATION 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.

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** "Joy to the World"

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 ministrymatters.com.

3.

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar

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

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

Serving today in Worship:

Liturgist: Glenn Lanan
Children's Moment: Pastor Mark
Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel
PowerPoint: Patty Blome

String Quartet

1st Violin: Steve McMillan
2nd Violin: Steven Avalos
Viola: Jennifer Alger
Cello: Rex Spencer

e-mail: churchoffice@springbranchpres.org
website: www.springbranchpres.org
www.facebook.com/springbranchpres
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
CCLI Streaming License # 20797349
CCLI License # 11266777
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Houston, TX 77055
713-464-7659



December 31 — Sunday

9:15 am Church Nursery
9:30 am Sunday School
9:45 am Choir Practice (Choir Room)
10:50 am Worship

January 1 — Monday Church & Academy Closed

January 2 — Tuesday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
6:00 pm PW Unwind: Kasra Persian Grill
6:00 pm Basketball (GP)

January 3 — Wednesday

9:30 am PW Moderator (CR)
10:15 am PW Board Meeting (CR)
3:30 pm WOW (S)

January 4 — Thursday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance* (GP)

January 5 — Friday

7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program* (YR)

January 6 — Saturday

6:00 pm CENTI Church Service* (GP)

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 2024 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 2024 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.

The Unwind Dinner Group will meet in the New Year on Tuesday, January 2nd, at 6:00 PM at Kasra Persian Grill (9741 Westheimer, 77042). Please note that this is a Tuesday evening, not a Monday, due to the New Year's Holiday. As usual, please respond only if you are attending to Jacquie Ballesteros at 713-305-1114. This restaurant has been highly recommended by several church members. We hope you can join us!

Un-Decorating the Sanctuary: The Worship Team is seeking volunteers to help remove the Greens from the Sanctuary on January 7, 2024, immediately after the Worship Service. As usual, many hands make for light work. Pizza will be provided for volunteers before work is started. So that lunch can be planned, please contact Donald McDaniel at dmcndan77007@sbcglobal.net or 713-294-4005 to sign up.

Wednesday Night Supper will resume on Wednesday, January 10th, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you can join us then!

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!

The PW Day Circle will meet on Wednesday, January 10th, at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room. Please contact Patti Nanney if you'd like to attend via Zoom. The **Evening Bible Study** will meet on Monday, January 8th, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Please contact Sarah or Ashely Powell if you are interested in attending. The Lesson 5 video is available at the following link: www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/sacred-encounters.



Jacquie Ballesteros

*In Memory of Marian Auld
In Memory of Jay Auld*

Miguel Carlin

In Memory of Freda Carlin

Matt and Sarah Dikeman

*In Memory of Ann and Matt Dikeman, Sr.
In Memory of Sally and Ray Woolrich
In Memory of Wix and Ferrell Thorpe*

Marianne Evangelou

*In Memory of Virginia Miller
In Memory of Dorothy Mitchell*

Jan and Gerald Fitts

*In Memory of Boots and Joyce Allen
In Memory of Grady and Amelia Fitts*

Bob Mitchell

*In Memory of Dorothy Mitchell
In Memory of 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 Ferrel Family
In Memory of the Nix Family
In Honor of Ali & Jackie Nix*

Mark and Jeanne Plunkett

*In Honor of Grandchildren: Logan, Teddy, and Coco
Marguerite Priest*

*In Memory of R. J. Priest
In Memory of Joy Purfurst*

*In Memory of Paul and Mary Priest
In Memory of Eddie and Sallie Downs
In Honor of S. Bryan Evenson*

Midge Scanlin

In Memory of Richard J. Scanlin

Jani Shepard

*In Memory of Patrick and Mary Katherine Staats
Rodger and Patricia Simmons*

In Memory of Virginia Miller

Curtis and Jeannie Stockton

*In Memory of Norma Lynn Mund
In Memory of Mary Helen Stockton*

Lu Taylor

*In Memory of Ann and Matt Dikeman, Sr.
In Memory of Ben and Cotton Warren*