

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

There is a need for additional help producing the bulletin. Ideally we would like to have 3 or 4 volunteers who could take turns. This is a good opportunity for anyone who knows a bit about desktop publishing (or who would like to learn) to serve the church in a valuable way. In addition, there will be a need for people to print and fold the bulletin once we return to providing paper copies.

If you are interested or have questions, please email bulletin@spriggsroad.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

Senior Pastor	Michael Mang	michael.mang@spriggsroad.org
Assistant Pastor	Matteson Bowles	matteson.bowles@spriggsroad.org
Assistant Pastor for Church Planting (First Asian Indian PC)	Jegar Chinnavan	jegar.chinnavan@spriggsroad.org
Group Email to All Elders		session@spriggsroad.org
Prayer Requests		prayerrequests@spriggsroad.org
Announcements, Calendar, and Bulletin*		bulletin@spriggsroad.org

* Submissions for the bulletin are due by Wednesday each week.



Spriggs Road Presbyterian Church is a particular church of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

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And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42



LORD'S DAY WORSHIP OCTOBER 11, 2020

Prelude

Welcome

Announcements

Meditation

Call to Worship/Invocation

†**Hymn of Praise**

“For All the Saints”
Trinity Hymnal #358

†**Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 45:5-12 (ESV)

Pastoral Prayer

†**Singing Psalms**

Psalm 12 (*Trinity Psalter*, p.8)
Tune: “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed” (*TH* #254)

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

†**Scripture Teaching**

Hebrews 11:1-3; Romans 4:13-18 (ESV)

Expounding the Word of God

Pastor Michael Mang

“Creation Ex Nihilo: Where Did You Get the Dirt”

***The Lord's Supper**

†**Hymn of Response**

“By Faith”

†**Benediction**

Postlude

†Standing, if able

*Live Stream ends before The Lord's Supper

There will not be a passing of the offering plate as part of our worship service during this time of social distancing. However, there is a tithe box on the small table near the main sanctuary doors where you may deposit offerings. In addition, there are remote payment options detailed on the “Donate” tab of the church website.

WELCOME

We really mean it when we say we are thrilled that you have come to worship with us today!

If you should have any questions or comments about the ministry of Spriggs Road Presbyterian Church, please feel free to reach out. Contact information is on the back page of this bulletin.

At this time Sunday School is not in session, and the nursery will not be available. Children are always welcome in our worship services.

We also have a “cry room” available with a large window for viewing the service and a speaker that will be playing all the audio from the main sanctuary. Please feel free to use that if you are concerned that your children’s noises are disrupting the service. Since it is a small room, we ask you to be judicious and careful to maintain recommended distancing should others also seek to use it.

We hope that this Lord’s Day you will be encouraged by the Word, refreshed by the worship, and touched by Christ’s love through our fellowship with one another.

MEDITATION

[Speaking on the effect of sanctification in our lives] What a privilege this is - not to be left in the dark; to know that we are not the victims of chance; and especially to know that God's will for us is good. After all, He makes all things work together for the good of those who love Him. And this 'good' ultimately is the way in which God's will is always engaging our lives in order to conform us to the image of His Son that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. His will is good because it has the best of all possible purposes in view - His glory in our Christlikeness.

— Sinclair Ferguson, *Devoted to God*

CONSTRUCTION OF PORTICO

PLEASE NOTE... Construction of the church entry portico began on Monday, August 31. For the next few weeks, we will have to use the entry at the rear of the church while construction is taking place. Please use caution when walking near the construction site and, for their safety, please keep children away from the construction area.

As a reminder, we are still collecting funds to help pay for the project. If you would like to contribute, please designate any gifts as “Church Portico Project” or something like that.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the Session members.

A concept drawing of the planned portico is on the bulletin board in the foyer.

VISITATION

Realizing that some may be hesitant to participate in corporate worship at this time due to health concerns, the session would like to remind everyone that anyone may request a visitation. If anyone would like a pastor and elders to visit you, please contact one of the pastors or elders. In addition to general visits, we can deliver a brief message from the Bible and administer the Lord’s Supper for you and your family. We will follow any health and protective measures or procedures that you may require of us during our visit.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Income vs. Budget	10/04/2020	YTD
General Income	\$9,705.00	\$383,852.10
Budget Requirement	\$9,500.00	\$380,000.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$205.00	\$3,852.10
Attendance	138	

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM
THE SESSION**

Your session has recently requested input from the flock regarding our current practices regarding the current COVID-19 pandemic. We gratefully received a variety of responses and recommendations. As we considered the various responses at the session meeting on Monday, we decided to make changes to the policies concerning the first service (9:00 a.m.) out of love to some in our body.

Beginning September 20, the first service (9:00 a.m.) will be a mask mandatory service. It means the following will be observed:

1. Masks must be worn at all times except for when the participants are taking the elements of the Lord's Supper
2. The elders leading the service will not wear masks when on the platform but will don them when they step down from the platform

As always we are to remember to practice social distancing as much as is practically possible.

We took these actions, not in reaction or response to any organization outside of the church, but out of a love and concern for those within the church who did not feel comfortable with our current practice.

As always, please remember to use prudence regarding your health. Don't feel obligated to come to church if you still feel uncomfortable, or, if you are sick, please remain home and take advantage of our live stream.

As always your session longs to hear from you and we are always looking for ways that we can better minister to you all.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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 Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

SERMON NOTES

Title: "Creation Ex Nihilo: Where Did You Get the Dirt?"

Text: Hebrews 11:1-3; Romans 4:13-18 (ESV)

Theme: The truth that God created what exists out of nothing means that God alone is uniquely sovereign, the first cause of everything. Because God is the first cause of all things, He is your first cause. Everything you are or hope to be belongs to the Triune God.

I. What Is the Doctrine of "Creation Ex Nihilo"?

II. Where Does Scripture Teach Creation Ex Nihilo?

III. Creation Ex Nihilo Refutes Two Erroneous Major Worldviews

IV. How Important Is Creation Ex Nihilo to You?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regularly scheduled events can be found on the church's online Calendar. It can be also be viewed on the home page of www.spriggsroad.org or accessed in iCal Format.

****Annual Church Picnic Postponed Due to Weather****

NEW DATE - Saturday, Oct 17th, 3-7 pm

Our annual church picnic will be held on Saturday, Oct 17th from 3-7 pm at the Deanes' property. We will be making a few changes to be cautious, so please read carefully. We hope this will be an opportunity for our entire church family to be "together" during this unusual year. It will be outside and there will be plenty of room to spread out. Please be especially mindful of those with health risks.

- Bring your own chairs/picnic blanket
- Bring your own drinks (no cups or drinks will be provided)
- A mask is recommended for going through the food line and when talking with others.
- Food will be served at 5 pm.
- There will be a set menu provided (no need to bring any food to share) We will be having Fried Chicken, Meatballs, Mac-n-cheese, Baked Beans, Corn, Salad, Applesauce, and Cookies.
- Plates will be filled by servers with masks and gloves.
- Feel free to bring your own picnic meal if you prefer.
- Rain date will be the following Saturday. We will make an announcement by Friday, if needed.
- Please submit or edit your RSVP on the Sign-Up Genius provided on the website

Annual Men and Boys Campout—Thursday to Saturday, Oct. 15-17

The Annual Men and Boys Campout will be held at the Deanes' property from Thursday to Saturday, Oct 15-17. You can join for any part you are able. Please RSVP and get more information, if needed, from Joe Deane (joseph.deane@spriggsroad.org).

CONFESSION OF SIN

*O God of Grace,
we confess that our hearts are often far from You,
that our affections are repeatedly given over to this fallen world,
and that our wills are frequently set to do what is contrary to Your law.
Forgive our waywardness.
Redirect our affections.
Renew our wills.
Cleanse us from our pride
and pardon our lips for spewing out contempt for our brethren.
Our sins are great,
but You are greater than our sin.
Restore us to whole-hearted devotion to You in Christ,
in Whom we pray.
Amen.*

Personal Confession

This time of silence is provided for private, personal confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

¹Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

²Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

⁶Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

⁷You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

— Psalm 32:1-2, 6-8 (ESV)

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS AT HOME OR IN SMALL GROUPS

1. What is the formal doctrine of creation ex nihilo [See Westminster Confession of Faith, 4.1]?
2. What does creation ex nihilo mean?
3. Define the term “nothing.” What difficulty is there when defining or describing the concept of nothing?
4. How did many ancient Greeks understand the concept of nothing?
5. Where does Scripture teach the doctrine of creation ex nihilo?
6. How is the creation of the universe to be properly understood (Heb. 1:3)?
7. Why is faith required in order to properly understand the creation of the world?
8. How did creation ex nihilo impact Abraham’s response to God’s promise (Rom. 4:17)?
9. How is creation ex nihilo a necessary consequence (deduction) from Scripture?
10. What two erroneous major worldviews does creation ex nihilo refute? Describe these two views.
11. If creation ex nihilo is denied, what Biblical characteristic of God is surrendered?
12. How critical is it to embrace creation ex nihilo in order to be a faithful follower of Christ Jesus?
13. How does creation ex nihilo enable you to answer non-Christian views and perspectives of the world and reality?
14. Of what is creation ex nihilo an analogy? Explain how creation ex nihilo is an analogy of this.
15. In what ways does creation ex nihilo enrich and deepen your knowledge and understanding of God?

Announcement:

All are invited to the Lord's Table who have been baptized, have publicly professed faith in (either before a congregation of the Lord's Church or to a body of Elders in a church where the Gospel of Christ is embraced) and allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ as the Savior from your sins, and are members of the visible Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you have not publicly professed faith in Christ Jesus – the eternal Son of God who took on human flesh, lived a perfect, sinless life, died on the cross for sins, rose bodily from the dead, and who is returning to this earth in power and glory – please refrain from partaking of the Lord's Table.

We invite you to respond to the Gospel by first understanding that you have sinned personally against the God who made you and have violated His good and right laws for you to follow. God is holy and has every right to separate you from Himself and from all that is good and beautiful because of your freely chosen disobedience to Him. But the really good news is that you can be restored to the God who made you because of what Christ Jesus has done on the cross as a perfect substitute and payment for the penalty that you owe and deserve. Simply believing and trusting in what Jesus did for you means you will belong to the LORD God forever.

Abraham, the Biblical example of one who was restored to God by faith alone, trusted God's promise and the LORD God credited it, that trust, to him as righteousness. God has shown His love to the world, and to you, by giving His only Son that whoever believes in Him should not die and be separated from Him forever but rather have the life man was created to have in the presence of God, a life that never ends.

This means that you cannot DO anything to earn your place with God. However, a true faith in Christ Jesus comes from a God-given desire that will produce behavior that does those things that are pleasing to Him.

Please seek out and contact one of our Pastors or Elders to talk more about your eternal future. You can find their contact information in this bulletin. They will be glad to show you from Scripture, God's Word, how you can have a relationship with God through Christ Jesus and have true peace and security with Him.

If you have professed faith in Christ Jesus, have been baptized, and are a member of the Church, yet there is a distance between you and the LORD because of cherished and unrepentant sin and transgressions of God's laws, we warn you to refrain from partaking the elements of the Lord's Table today. Scripture tells us that partaking of the Lord's Table is a participation, a communion, in the body and blood of Christ (1 Cor. 10:16). God's people cannot partake of His holy Table while at the same time engaging in deliberate and conscious violations of His commands for us as His holy people. If this is true with you, the LORD graciously promises that, if you confess and turn from whatever thinking or behavior that is contrary to His nature and His Word, He is faithful to forgive and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). Until you have confessed and turned from whatever this breach of faith might be, please refrain from partaking of the Lord's Table.

This does not mean that as a professing follower of Christ you are required to be perfect and flawless before communing with Christ at His Table. The Table is for you to be nourished and strengthened even more in your faith and love for Christ. You may have worries and doubts that God loves or hears you because your faith is weak. You may have sinned, confessed, and turned from it to the Lord before partaking, but still your heart condemns you. When you come to the Lord's Table, the Lord by faith assures you that you belong to Him, and He belongs to you. If, despite your sins and imperfections, you can truly say that the LORD is your Shepherd, that the name of Christ and His smile is the desire of your soul, then take the LORD at His word that you are ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven!

Come, and dine with your Lord and Savior.