


**LORD'S DAY WORSHIP
DECEMBER 20, 2020**

Prelude
Welcome
Announcements
Meditation
Call to Worship/Invocation
†**Hymn of Praise** “Angels We Have Heard on High”
Trinity Hymnal #214
†**Scripture Reading** Micah 5:1-5a
Pastoral Prayer
†**Singing Psalms** Psalm 42 (*Trinity Psalter*, p.34)
Tune: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” (*TH #200*)
Confession of Faith Nicene Creed
†**Scripture Teaching** Luke 2:1-7
Expounding the Word of God Rev. Michael Mang
“The Decree That Birthed Christmas”
***The Lord’s Supper**
†**Hymn of Response** “*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*”
Trinity Hymnal #216
†**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.



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

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.

Please note that if you are attending the 9 a.m service, masks must be worn at all times except when the participants are taking the elements of the Lord's Supper.

At this time Sunday School is not in session.

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

We must always remember that union with Christ is possible because of the Son’s descent to earth, not because of our ascent into heaven. The basis of our union with Christ is Christ’s union with us in the incarnation. He became one with us so that we might become one with Him.

— Kevin DeYoung, *The Hole in Our Holiness*

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Income vs. Budget	12/13/2020	YTD
General Income	\$12,721.00	\$479,167.41
Budget Requirement	\$9,500.00	\$475,000.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$3,221.00	\$4,167.41
Attendance	120	

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.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

We will be having our Christmas Eve service this year at 7 p.m.

YEAR-END GIVING

As a reminder to all in the congregation, any gifts that you desire to be counted toward 2020 charitable giving for tax purposes must be received by the church by December 31. We may receive gifts of money, stocks, bonds, real property, or any other assets that have real value. One benefit of giving appreciated securities such as stocks and bonds is that the giver may write off the full value of these items without having to pay capital gains on any appreciated value. If you have any questions, please contact our treasurer, Lloyd Moore.

Also, please remember that any gifts designated for our pastors in the offering will be considered taxable income for them rather than personal gifts.

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.

The weekly Tuesday evening Word, Prayer, and Praise meeting continues to meet at 7 p.m. remotely via Zoom. All are welcome to attend. An email with a link for the meeting is sent out early each week. If you would like to attend and did not get the link, contact Pastor Matt.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

*We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

SERMON NOTES

12/20/2020

Pastor Michael Mang

Title: "The Decree That Birthed Christmas"

Text: Luke 2:1-7

Theme: Nothing in the world is more important and more monumental than what began when Jesus came. The world was renewed because He came to save His people from their sins. And His people, thus saved and renewed, have become the center of this new world, Christ Jesus at the head.

I. A Human Decree (1-3)

II. A Young Couple's Journey (4-5)

CONFESSION OF SIN

Our Father in heaven, You call us to be thankful in all things, yet we confess we are often ungrateful and unsatisfied with Your providence. We acknowledge our ingratitude, and we implore You to forgive us for not being thankful.

We are to be cheerful givers, O LORD, yet we often grudgingly give to Your Kingdom. Forgive us for our insincerity and selfishness.

You, O God, have blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms in Christ, yet we complain about our circumstances and think that we deserve more.

Hear and forgive us for the sake of Your dear Son, Christ Jesus our Lord.

Set our hearts to love and serve You in sincerity and truth, for we pray in His Name. Amen.

Personal Confession

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.
For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

— Psalm 30:4-5 (ESV)

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.

III. The Birth of Jesus (6-7)

IV. Applications

**QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS AT
HOME OR IN SMALL GROUPS**

1. Who issued a declaration (v. 1a)?
2. What did this declaration tell people to do (v. 1b)?
3. Who oversaw that this declaration was carried out (v. 2)?
4. What were people required to do in order to be registered (v. 3)?
5. Who in particular had to go back to his hometown (v. 4a)?
6. From where did he travel, and to where did he go (v. 4b)?
7. What was the town to which he traveled known for (v. 4c)? To what great person was he related (v. 4d)?
8. Who accompanied him (v. 5a)?
9. What was her physical condition (v. 5b)?
10. What happened while this couple was in Bethlehem (vv. 6-7a)?
11. What was special about this baby (v. 7a)?
12. What were the special circumstances surrounding the birth of this child? Why (v. 7b)?
13. What references in Luke's account point to this being an event of great significance and not just a local occurrence?
14. What particular prophecy of Scripture regarding a specific town did this event fulfill?
15. How do we see both divine foreordination and the integrity of human choice at work in this account?

THE LORD'S SUPPER

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