

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.

We have resumed our schedule of 9:30 Sunday School for all ages, and 10:45 worship, with nursery available for ages 3 and under. Masks are optional, but seating in the front left corner is reserved for any who prefer a masked and socially distanced option.

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

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

—Philippians 4:4-9 (ESV)

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR WORSHIP SERVICES

If you would like to volunteer to provide special music in a worship service, please contact Barbara Harris, choir director, if you are a singer, or Grace Reid, pianist if you play an instrument.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Help is needed in the following areas of ministry at SRPC. Please consider offering your time in these important areas: **AV Team** (contact Darcy Heisey); **Bulletin Production** (contact Kate Bredbenner); **Nursery and Outdoor Safety Monitors** (contact Robin Deane).

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Income vs. Budget	12/19/2021	YTD
General Income	\$8,358.50	\$548,209.44
Budget Requirement	\$9,630.00	\$491,130.00
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$1,271.50)	\$57,079.44
Attendance	122	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

SENIORS' LUNCH

Seniors' Lunch -- If you are 50+ and would like to enjoy a good time of fellowship with some of the more senior people in the congregation, please join us on Wednesday, January 12, noon to 1:30 p.m. at the church. Just bring your lunch and beverage, and dessert will be provided. We always have a good time! Contact John or Paula Strain with any questions.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Two Christian refugee families, living in Lake Ridge, are in need of transportation on Sunday afternoons to One Voice Fellowship (4:00-7:15 PM), a PCA church plant that meets in Vienna. The church has a teaching time for the first hour, then a dinner of international food, followed by a worship service with preaching in English and translation. Those going to the service are welcome to participate in the activities and dinner. There are a total of five people in need of transportation: a woman from Ghana and her son (age 10), and a woman from Pakistan with her two sons (8 and 10), who fled after being threatened for teaching children Christian songs. Her husband is currently still in hiding in Pakistan. Please prayerfully consider how you can help these families to worship with their church body. If you are interested in helping and perhaps joining a rotation, please contact one of our deacons.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The 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

12/26/2021

Pastor Matt Bowles

Title: "Preserved Witnesses"

Text: Luke 2:21-40

1. Born Under Law (21-24)

2. Simeon's Song (25-35)

3. Anna's Witness (36-40)

CONFESSION OF SIN

Unto You, O LORD, we lift up our voices and confess that we have sinned and done what is evil and wicked in Your sight. We, who are redeemed and called to everlasting glory, abhor that we do that which displeases You, and that we fail to bring honor and glory to Your Name.

Hear and forgive us as we plead the precious atoning sacrifice of Him Who was crucified for our iniquities and was raised for our justification.

Purify us from the hollowness of doing works that are not born of faith in our Lord Jesus.

Cleanse us from turning the grace of God into a covering for doing wrong.

We pray that You would use us as living stones in the building of Your Kingdom now come.

Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Personal Confession

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

— Matthew 1:21-23 (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.

1. How many times does Luke mention "law" in this passage (Luke 2:21-24)?

2. Simeon's song is full of allusions to Isaiah chapters _____-_____.

3. Anna's response reminds us of the _____ in the earlier part of the chapter.

LUKE 2:21-40 (ESV)

²¹ And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Jesus Presented at the Temple

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation
³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Return to Nazareth

³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

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