



*We are a body of believers
located in northern Harris County
called by the Holy Spirit and
transformed by the Gospel to glorify and enjoy God
as we proclaim the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ.*

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Celebration of God in Corporate Worship

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Janice Bradshaw

PRELUDE

Brooke Lewis

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Ben

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

Chandler Family

PREPARATION TO WORSHIP

Brooke Lewis

*Please take a moment to silently prepare to worship,
and reflect on Isaiah 9:2*

*“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.”*

✦CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER OF ADORATION
from Zechariah 9

Pastor Ben

Leader: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

People: Behold, your king is coming to you in righteousness,
and bringing salvation is he.

Leader: His rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the
River to the ends of the earth.

All: How great is his goodness, and how great his beauty!

✦SONGS OF ADORATION

Congregation

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel
(Boswell, Papa, Townend, Getty)

Go, Tell It On The Mountain
(African-American Spiritual, Work, Jr.; arr. by Hammerly)

DECLARATION OF GOD'S LAW
Ephesians 5:8-9

Ruling Elder Erik Haaland

...for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.
Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good
and right and true)...

*Worship begins
where spiritual
life begins - with
God's call.
Appropriately,
we respond with
prayers and
songs of
adoration.*

*“Give me
understanding
that I may keep
your law and
observe it with
my whole heart.”
Psalm 119:34*

✦Please stand if able

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Erik Haaland

Leader: Almighty God, you have saved us from the darkness and have brought us into the light of your Son, and have called us to walk as children of light.

People: **Jesus is the light of the world, and in him we are light. Yet our fickle hearts continue to gravitate toward darkness.**

Leader: Father, sanctify us by your Spirit that we might increasingly bear the fruit of light, to the glory of your Name. Lord, hear now our silent prayers of personal confession and forgive us for the sake of Jesus...

silent confession of personal sin

...amen.

PRONOUNCEMENT OF GOD’S GOSPEL

Erik Haaland

Isaiah 40:10-11

Behold, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

PRAYER FOR CHRIST’S CHURCH AND THE WORLD

Erik Haaland

concluding with the Lord’s Prayer

✦SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Congregation

It Came upon the Midnight Clear (Hymn #200, verses 1, 3, and 4)
(Sears, Willis)

DIACONAL PRAYER

Deacon David Jones

OFFERTORY

Angels We Have Heard on High
(Traditional French carol; arr. by Barnes)

*Children’s Choir
Sanctuary Choir*

✦SONG OF PRAISE

The Doxology (Hymn #731)
(Ken, Bourgeois)

Congregation

God’s law reveals God’s righteous requirement. We confess our failure to keep God’s law, and joyfully receive the good news of what God has done for us in Christ.

*“Let your steadfast love come to me, O LORD, your salvation according to your promise.”
Psalm 119:41*

BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

Pastor Ben

After the blessing you are welcome to send your children ages 4-8 to Children's Worship or they may remain with you. Children will be returned to the Sanctuary after the sermon.

SCRIPTURE TEXT

Galatians 4:4-7

Pastor Ben

SERMON

From Slave to Beloved Child... and Heir!

Pastor Ben

✦SONG OF RESPONSE

Congregation

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen (Hymn #211, verses 1-3)
(English carol, English melody)

✦BENEDICTION

Pastor Ben

✦SONG OF BLESSING

Gloria Patri (Hymn #735)
(Traditional 2nd century text, Greatorex)

Congregation

POSTLUDE

Janice Bradshaw

*We are called to
be faithful
stewards of
God's Word.
Therefore, we
eagerly and
unashamedly
read and
proclaim the
whole counsel of
Scripture.*

*Having received
God's blessing,
we depart
blessing the
name of the
Lord.*

Sermon Notes *From Slave to Beloved Child... and Heir!*
December 24, 2023 Galatians 4:4-7

Announcements

Monday, December 25	
Tuesday, December 26	
Wednesday, December 27	
Thursday, December 28	
Friday, December 29	
Saturday, December 30	
Sunday, December 31	
Worship Sanctuary & Live Stream	9:30am

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

TONIGHT, 6:00pm, Sanctuary

Contact: Susan, susan@springcypresschurch.com

Bring your family and join us for a relaxed and intimate candlelight service. We have child-safe candles for little ones. Childcare available upon request, please see Susan today!

Year-End Giving

Contact: Robin, robin@springcypresschurch.com

As you plan your year-end giving, prayerfully consider the ministry needs of our church and your covenant tithes. Although giving has been very strong throughout 2023, our year-end giving total will determine our budget for next year so please give generously.

All 2023 contributions must be received or postmarked no later than December 31, 2023. If you would like a year-to-date statement before the end of the year, please contact Robin.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

(Details/descriptions coming soon!)

Baby Bottle Campaign, Jan. 7-28

New Sunday School Classes, begin Jan. 7, 11:00am

Enfuego Youth Group, resumes Jan. 10, 6:15pm

Choir Rehearsals, resume Jan. 10, 6:30pm

Men's Breakfast, Jan. 13, 9:00am

Women in the Word (am), resumes Jan. 16, 9:30am

Men's Book Study, resumes Jan 16, 7:00pm

Women in the Word (pm), resumes Jan. 18, 7:00pm

Chile Cook-Off, Feb. 4, 4:30pm

Annual Congregational Meeting, Feb. 4, 6:00pm

Merry Christmas!

May God's peace fill you with joy as
you celebrate the birth of our Savior!

Prayer

Pray for Our Church

Pray for our Music Ministry - Praise God for the many talented music ministry participants who serve week-in and week-out to enhance the worship of our church.

Pray for Our Congregation

Randy Bachman - Pray for God's comfort at the passing of his father.

Neal Benedict - Please pray for *Neal* as he is on dialysis and in need of a kidney transplant.

Camden Family - Praise God for the healthy delivery of Luke.

Jones Family - Praise God for the healthy delivery of Juliana!

Musima family - Ebenezer has been placed on dialysis and is need of a kidney transplant.

Jackie Toothman - Please pray for ongoing treatments and for complete healing.

Tony Tousha - Please pray for GI issues, injured knee, and various metabolic issues.

Steve Williams - Pray for diagnosis and treatment of a large mass found in his abdomen.

Ongoing health concerns: *René & Clairice Chapelle, Jeff Kuhn, Rick & Jeanne Maddy, Katie Medeiros, Mark Morrow, Mary Spiritosanto.*

Pray for Our Military and First Responders

Peter Achterkirch, Army, Washington

Christian Cory, Army, New York

Chris Dietz, Navy Reserves, Texas

Felix Espino, Army Reserves, Texas

Joshua Duncan, Army, North Carolina

Shawn Maya, Spring Fire Department

Jessy Wykes, Army, Germany

Pray for Our College Students

Claire Achterkirch, Samford University

Rebekah Allcorn, Abilene Christian University

Kyle Benedict, Lone Star College

Ben Chandler, Samford University

Rebekah Duncan, Blinn College

Austin Gatlin, Louisiana State University

Jenna Haaland, Samford University

Aiden Steagall, Texas A&M

Izzy Tousha, Texas State

AJ Tousha, Lone Star College

Pray for Our Friends & Family

Vincent & Eleanor Tracey's grandson *Elijah* - Pray for effectiveness of new meds to improve his body's reaction to chemo, and no lingering infection so he can stay home for the holidays. Fourth, and final, round of chemo begins Jan. 8.

Daniel Burch's friend, *Kyle VanArsdall* - peace and comfort as his family mourns the loss of his sister over Thanksgiving week, and for strength as he provides care for his aging father.

Heather Burch's friend's daughter - fighting a brain tumor that has returned. Pray for successful radiation treatments, and for their family as they are separated during treatments in another state.

Cason Moncrief's coworker, *Carlos Aranda* - Pray for comfort, joy, and peace through the holidays following the loss of his maternal grandmother who he was very close to.

Albert Lockwood - Pray for safety and learning/understanding in upcoming Forest Services Fire School.

Liz Zapp - extended family members, *Charlene and Tina*, have recurring breast cancer. Charlene is awaiting test results/treatment options. Tina has been told her cancer is not treatable.

Pray for Our Expectant Mothers

Emily Wykes, due in March

Maretha Kritzinger, due in March

Brooke Lewis, due in April

Katelyn Schaeffer, due in May

Pray for David Stoddard, MTW's International Director for Europe

- *We are in great need of ongoing and one-time financial support. Please pray for new supporting churches and individuals who are willing to be a part of our support team.*

General Information

To our visitors:

Welcome, we're so glad you're here today!

- Stop by the Visitor's Center in the Narthex for a free gift!
- Please complete a connect/prayer card if you want us to be in touch, and so we know how we can pray for you.
- If you do not have a Bible of your own, please take one of the pew Bibles home with you today.

To learn more about us and our ministries, visit our website, springcypresschurch.com

To see how our church participates in the global cause for Christ, check out the touch-screen monitor in the Narthex

Like and follow us on Facebook:

Spring Cypress Church

Restrooms are located in the Narthex.

Parents of Young Children:

- Nursery is available in the Children's Wing for children 4 years and younger.
- A cry room, located on the piano side of the sanctuary, is available for parents with young children.
- Children ages 4-8 are welcome to go to Children's Worship prior to the sermon, and they are returned to the Sanctuary near the end of the service. On Communion Sundays (first of each month), children will remain with their families so that they regularly participate in corporate worship with our entire church family!

Giving at SCPC:

We present our offerings as an act of worship, expressing our thankfulness for God's provision, our trust for God to meet all our needs, and our desire to be used of God for the furtherance of His kingdom on earth.

You may place your gift in the offering plate, mail a check to the church office, or give online at springcypresschurch.com/give.

Our Church Leadership & Staff

Our Session

Justin Chandler
Ben Duncan

Erik Haaland
Danny McDaniel

Our Diaconate

Glenn Ayles
Jakob Basham
Kyle Bodden
Bill Dietz
David Jones

Stephen Kovach
Scott Lewis
Wayne Lin
Bob Pickard
Reed Wykes

Our Principal Staff

Rev. Ben Duncan, Senior Pastor
ben@springcypresschurch.com

Susan Cochran, Office Administrator
susan@springcypresschurch.com

Felix Espino, Director of Youth Ministries
felix@springcypresschurch.com

If you've lost or misplaced an item, please check with the office.

Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am-3pm

6000 Spring Cypress Rd, Spring, TX 77379 · 281-320-3650 · springcypresschurch.com