



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

Sunday, December 27, 2020

Celebration of God in Corporate Worship

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Saule Garcia*

PRELUDE *Janice Bradshaw*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *Pastor Ben*

PREPARATION TO WORSHIP *Janice Bradshaw*

*Please take a moment to silently prepare to worship,
and reflect on John 1:14,*

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.”*

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

✦CALL TO WORSHIP *Pastor Ben*

Leader: We come, O Christ, to you, true Son of God and man,

People: By whom all things consist, in whom all life began,

Leader: In you alone we live and move and have our being in your love!

People: We worship you, Lord Christ, our Savior and our King!

Leader: To you our youth and strength adoringly we bring,

**All: So fill our hearts that all may view your life in us,
and turn to you!**

✦PRAYER OF ADORATION *Pastor Ben*

✦SONG OF ADORATION *Congregation*

Angels, from the Realms of Glory (Hymn #218, verses 1, 4, 5)
(Montgomery, Smart)

DECLARATION OF GOD'S LAW *Ruling Elder Ian Achterkirch*
Ephesians 5:8-9

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).

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ian Achterkirch

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.

*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.*

PRONOUNCEMENT OF GOD'S GOSPEL

Ian Achterkirch

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.

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

PRAYER FOR CHRIST'S CHURCH AND THE WORLD

Ian Achterkirch

concluding with the Lord's Prayer

✦SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Congregation

Silent Night, Holy Night (Hymn #210, verses 1, 2, 4)
(Mohr, Gruber)

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.*

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

SCRIPTURE READING	Luke 2:1-20	<i>Pastor Ben</i>
SERMON	<i>Songs of Advent: The Angels' Song</i>	<i>Pastor Ben</i>
✦ SONG OF RESPONSE	<i>Angels, We Have Heard on High</i> (Hymn #214) (Traditional French carol, Barnes)	<i>Congregation</i>
✦ BENEDICTION		<i>Pastor Ben</i>
✦ SONG OF BLESSING	<i>Gloria Patri</i> (Hymn #735) (Traditional 2nd century text, Grotto)	<i>Congregation</i>
POSTLUDE		<i>Saule Garcia</i>

Sermon Notes

Songs of Advent: The Angels' Song

December 27, 2020

Luke 2:1-20

Announcements

Monday, December 28 - Office Closed	
Tuesday, December 29	
Session Meeting Pastor's Office	7:00pm
CODA Meeting Youth Building	7:30pm
Wednesday, December 30	
Thursday, December 31	
Friday, January 1 - New Year's Day	
Saturday, January 2	
Sunday, January 3	
Worship Sanctuary & Live Stream (LS)	9:00am

No Sunday School Today and January 3

See the insert for a description of the new classes which begin Sunday, January 10!

2021 CHANGE FOR LIFE

*Baby Bottle Campaign:
Every child deserves a birthday,
every life has value.*

Give Change. Save Lives. Pick up a baby bottle from the Narthex, fill it with change, bills, or a check (made payable to PACN), and **return it by Sunday, January 17th** in support of Pregnancy Assistance Center North (PACN) in The Woodlands. For more information about the work of PACN and CareNet Pregnancy Center Houston (both ministries are supported by our church) go to:

pacn.org
houstonpregnancy.com

Pray for these ministries and their volunteers as they share the good news of the Gospel and empower women to choose LIFE!

Year-End Giving

As you plan your year-end giving, prayerfully consider the ministry needs of our church and your covenant tithe. **Currently our General Fund is at 94% of budget.** Our year-end giving total will determine our budget for next year so please give generously.

All contributions must be **received or postmarked no later than December 31, 2020.** If you would like a year-to-date statement **before** the end of the year, email Robin (robin@springcypresschurch.com).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Baby Bottle Campaign, Dec 27 - Jan 17

Women-to-Women registration, Jan 3-17

Women in the Word am resumes Jan 5, 9:30 am

Youth Group resumes Jan 6, 6:30 pm

Women in the Word pm resumes Jan 7, 7:00 pm

Men's Bible Study resumes Jan 7, 7:00 pm

MOPS resumes Jan 7, 7:15 pm

New Sunday School classes begin Jan 10, 9:30 am

Men's Round Table resumes Jan 28, 7:00 pm

Congregational Meeting, Jan 31, 6:00 pm

Prayer

Pray for Our Church

Ministry Leaders - Pray for the ministry leaders as they make preparations to serve our congregation in the New Year.

Pray for Our Congregation

Mike Hume - successful radiation treatment that will continue through January.

Those who have tested positive for COVID-19 - complete healing.

Ongoing health concerns: *Eldon & Virginia Faries, Carl & Rose Gregory, Rick & Jeanne Maddy, Katie Medeiros*

Pray for Our Military and First Responders

Peter Achterkirch, Army, Washington

Christian Cory, Army, New York

Chris Dietz, Navy, Texas

Shawn Maya, Spring Fire Department

Pray for Our College Students

Charlotte Achterkirch, Samford University

Ian Allan, Calvin University

Zach Allan, Tarleton State University

Austin Gatlin, Louisiana State University

Justin Gatlin, Louisiana State University

Jacob Kerr, Texas A&M University

Rebekah Kooiman, Abilene Christian University

Lauren Steagall, University of Houston

AJ Tousha, Lone Star College

Pray for Our Families and Friends

Georgia Hofman's sister, *Gloria* - correct diagnosis and treatment of illness (not COVID-19 related).

Marc Esteves' mother, *Vera Lucia Esteves* - healing of pelvic fractures.

Kelly Renee's step-mother, *Wanda Kiesling* - healing of recently diagnosed lymphoma.

Jeff Cory's sister, *Kim* - strength as she undergoes treatment for colon cancer and complete healing.

Pray for Our Expectant Mother

Kathryn Ritchie is due in March.

Pray for Our Missionary of the Month

Joshua & Gina Rieger, Mission to the World (MTW), Hexham, England

- Pray for Joshua as he works remotely with the church plant.
- Pray for comfort and encouragement for Gina as she receives cancer treatments.
- Pray for their children, Jackson, Riley, & Rutherford as they are away from their home for a time.

Email prayer requests to robin@springcypresschurch.com.

Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 31, 6:00 pm, Sanctuary

Members - please join us for this important congregational meeting! We will be celebrating what God has done in our midst over the course of 2020 and sharing key goals for 2021 - to include presenting the approved 2021 budget as being instrumental in realizing these goals, and holding an election for officers. Please contact Pastor Ben with any questions or concerns!

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Session has approved the following men to be on the ballot at our Congregational Meeting on January 31st at 6:00 pm.



JUSTIN CHANDLER, Elder

Justin and his wife Kristen have been married for 17 years and have four active children (1st grade through 11th grade). Justin has been working in the oil & gas industry for 13 years, largely as a Quality Manager. He currently serves on the SCPC Missions Team and Youth Leadership team. He has taught 5th and 6th grade Sunday School, as well as youth and adult Sunday School.



DANNY MCDANIEL, Returning Elder

Danny and his wife Pam have been married for 35 years (as of this February) and have one adult son and daughter-in-law. Danny is a practicing CPA in the area. He is a past treasurer of SCPC, and has previously taught adult Sunday school.



JAKOB BASHAM, Deacon

Jakob and his wife Elizabeth have been members of SCPC for four years. They have two young children, Joram and Nova. Jakob came to the Lord at a young age and was baptized in high school. His faith has grown through his role as husband, father, and provider for his family, and his knowledge of reformed theology has grown the last four years at Spring Cypress. Jakob enjoys time with his family adventuring out of doors and creating/fixing things.



STEPHEN KOVACH, Deacon

Steve and his wife Deborah have been at SCPC for over two years. They have four crazy kids (Lilly, Travis, Anna, and Daniel) and have both served in many ministries since joining the church including Children's Church, teaching children's Sunday School, Missions Team, MOPS, Nursery, and Meals Ministry, and are blessed to have found the Spring Cypress family. Steve was saved at a young age and came to the reformed faith while serving in the Navy. He has been in the PCA since 2005, recently serving as a deacon at a PCA church for four years and he looks forward to serving Spring Cypress on the diaconate.



SCOTT LEWIS, Returning Deacon

Scott grew up in Biloxi where he met his wife Misti on the first day of high school, and they have been married for 35 years. Scott works in purchasing for Coca-Cola. He became a Christian shortly after moving to Houston in 1987. They have three adult children and have been members of SCPC for 12 years.

New Sunday School Classes Beginning January 10, 10:30-11:15 am

ADULTS

Sanctuary

Reformed Soteriology

taught by Pastor Ben

Pastor Ben will lead us through an in-depth course on Reformed Soteriology. This class will emphasize the covenantal nature of redemption as well as the interrelatedness of the various loci of Christian theology that contribute to “the faith” once for all delivered to the saints. Finally, class participants will grow in their understanding of theological methodology, that is: how to “do” theological reflection.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

B215-217

Old Testament Survey

taught by Charlton Wimberly

Many of us know lots of stories from the Old Testament. But we sometimes struggle to understand how all of those stories contribute to one grand overarching narrative that even then, the Creator of the universe was working to redeem a people to himself through Jesus Christ. Senior High youth will survey the Old Testament at the 30,000 foot level—both to understand how God was at work in his people Israel then, and how Jesus could later say that the whole Old Testament pointed forward to his arrival, suffering, and glorification (Luke 24:26-27).

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH

Youth Building

Teach Me Your Way

taught by Felix Espino

This study uses the Sermon on the Mount to demonstrate the character of a true believer: a believer’s surrendering to Jesus in salvation and submitting to His way in obedience. *“Teach me Your way, O LORD, that I may walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name.”* -Psalm 86:11

CHILDREN

Children’s Wing

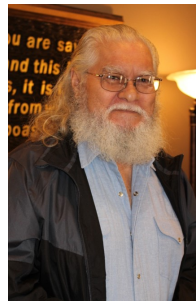
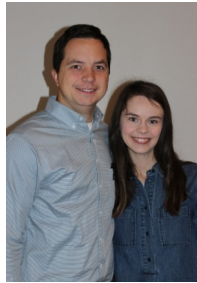
Toddlers in our Nursery Ministry hear Bible stories and participate in activities from the *Show Me Jesus* curriculum as they build a sure foundation.

Our Elementary Students will all be using curriculum by Great Commission Publications. This quarter our **Pre-K and Kindergarten students** will learn that Jesus is the Son of God by following Jesus from the manger to the Mount of Transfiguration. The **Lower Elementary Sunday school class (grades 1-2)** will be focusing on the themes of loving the promise of the Savior; meeting him and responding to him. **Upper Elementary Sunday School (grades 3-5)** will be working through a two-year Bible survey course helping students desire God’s word and grow closer in relationship with Christ. Students will discover the joy of being called to be a part of this grand narrative of redemption as they study the scriptures together!



Advent at SCPC

First Sunday of Advent Denim Sunday



Second Sunday of Advent Classy Christmas Colors



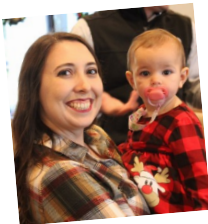


Advent at SCPC

Third Sunday of Advent Ugly Sweater Sunday



Fourth Sunday of Advent Flannel Sunday



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 at the Visitor's Center.
- If you do not have a Bible of your own, please stop by the Visitor's Center.
- To see how our church participates in the global cause for Christ, check out the touch-screen monitor in the Narthex

Restrooms are located in the Narthex.

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

Like and follow us on Facebook: *Spring Cypress Church*

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 mothers with infants.
- Children ages 4-8 are welcome to go to Children's Worship prior to the sermon. They are returned to the Sanctuary near the end of the service.

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.

If you would like to give via **check**, please make your check payable to SCPC. **Online giving** is available at springcypresschurch.com/give. **Text** any amount to **84321** to give (standard message and data rates may apply).

Our Church Leadership & Staff

Elders

Ian Achterkirch
Chuck Dorau
Erik Haaland
Tim Kooiman

The elders may be reached at:
session@springcypresschurch.com

Deacons

David Farmer
Bruce Honts
Bob Pickard

The deacons may be reached at:
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Staff

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*If you've lost or misplaced an item, please check with the office.
Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am-3pm*

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