



*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 3, 2023

Celebration of God in Corporate Worship

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Brooke Lewis*

PRELUDE *Janice Bradshaw*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *Pastor Ben*

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH *Pastor Ben*
David Stoddard, International Director for Europe, Mission to the World

LIGHTING OF THE HOPE CANDLE *Nicholas & Kathryn Ritchie*

PREPARATION TO WORSHIP *Janice Bradshaw*

*Please take a moment to silently prepare to worship,
and reflect on Genesis 3:15*

*"I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."*

✦CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER OF ADORATION *Pastor Ben*

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always.

People: I will say it again: Rejoice!

Leader: Let your gentleness be evident to all.

All: **The Lord is near; do not be anxious about anything.**

Leader: We rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming...

All: **Therefore, let us worship the Lord in hopeful anticipation!**

✦SONGS OF ADORATION *Congregation*

Joy to the World!

(Based on Psalm 98; arr. by Mason, Huggins)

Once in Royal David's City

(Arrangement from Grace Immanuel Bible Church)

DECLARATION OF GOD'S LAW *Pastor Ben*

Matthew 24:42

"Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming."

*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*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Ben

Leader: Almighty God, your Word repeatedly calls us to remain watchful, vigilant, and attentive, that we might understand the times, discern the godly course of action, and not miss what you are doing among us.

People: **Your Son lamented over Jerusalem that, due to the spiritual disinterest of the people, they missed the time of their visitation. Lord, forgive us for being so preoccupied that we fail to see your work in our midst.**

Leader: Father, grant that we would maintain a watchful alertness based upon our hope in your continued work and eventual coming. Hear now our silent prayers of personal confession and forgive us for the sake of Christ..

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

Pastor Ben

Matthew 1:21

“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

PRAYER FOR CHRIST'S CHURCH AND THE WORLD

Pastor Ben

concluding with the Lord's Prayer

✦SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Congregation

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

DIACONAL PRAYER

Deacon Jakob Basham

OFFERTORY

Adult Choir

O Come, Redeemer of the Earth
(Neale, Getty; arr. by Nichols)

O come, Redeemer of the earth and bring to us Your holy birth.
Break through the shadows of the night with heaven's pure and radiant light.
O come, our long awaited King, as songs of adoration ring.
May voices join with ev'ry age to tell the wonders of Your grace.

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

O Come, Redeemer of the Earth (cont.)

O come, Redeemer of the earth, where sorrows weep and longing's thirst.
Release us from the chains of sin that we may live in joy again.
Fulfill the ancient promises, Your words of life and righteousness.
Long loved by those who fear Your name and look towards Your endless reign.

O come, Redeemer of the earth, O treasure of eternal worth.
Come dwell within our kneeling hearts, restore and flourish ev'ry part.
Your very life You come to give, that though we die, we yet shall live,
And glorify Your holy name, as all the earth reclaim.

Oh come, Redeemer

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

✦ SONG OF PRAISE

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

Congregation

BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

*After the blessing on the first Sunday of the month,
children remain in the service with their parents.*

Pastor Ben

SCRIPTURE TEXT

Galatians 4:4-5

Pastor Ben

SERMON

God is Guiding Our Steps

Pastor Ben

✦ SONG OF PREPARATION

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Hymn #194, verses 1 and 2)
(Latin Hymn; tr. by Neale, Plainsong 13th cent.; arr. by Helmore)

Congregation

*We confess our
common faith as
an expression of
our unity in
coming to the
Lord's Table.*

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

✦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

the Ligonier Statement on Christology

Pastor Ben

We confess the mystery and wonder of God made flesh, and rejoice in our great salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.

With the Father and the Holy Spirit, the Son created all things, sustains all things, and makes all things new. Truly God, He became truly man, two natures in one person.

He was born of the Virgin Mary and lived among us. Crucified, dead, and buried, He rose on the third day, ascended to heaven, and will come again in glory and judgment.

For us, He kept the Law, atoned for sin, and satisfied God's wrath. He took our filthy rags and gave us His righteous robe.

He is our Prophet, Priest, and King, building His church, interceding for us, and reigning over all things.

Jesus Christ is Lord; we praise His holy Name forever. Amen.

INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Pastor Ben

ABOUT THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

We welcome to the Lord's Table all who have been baptized, belong to a church which embraces the Gospel, and who look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. Since Communion is a sacrament of sustaining grace, we request that children not participate until they have professed their faith to the elders of this church or their church of regular worship.

*As the communion servers pass in front of you, please remember to take **both** of the stacked cups from the tray. Note that the bread is in the bottom cup and is gluten-free.*

Grape juice in the colored cups in the outer ring, wine in the clear cups in the inner rings.

from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper Christ took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

MUSIC OF REFLECTION

Brooke Lewis

✦SONG OF RESPONSE

Congregation

***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (Hymn #194, verses 4 and 5)
(Latin Hymn; tr. by Neale, Plainsong 13th cent.; arr. by Helmore)*

✦BENEDICTION

Pastor Ben

✦SONG OF BLESSING

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

Congregation

POSTLUDE

Brooke Lewis

DEACONS' FUND OFFERING

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

Announcements

Monday, December 4		
Tuesday, December 5		
Men's Book Study Room 117		7:00pm
Wednesday, December 6		
Enfuego Youth Group Youth Building	6:15pm	
Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary	6:30pm	
Thursday, December 7		
Women's Christmas Party		6:30pm
Friday, December 8		
Saturday, December 9		
Family Movie Matinee Cinemax		1:30pm
Sunday, December 10 - Denim Day		
Worship Sanctuary & Live Stream	9:30am	
Missions Presentation Sanctuary	11:00am	
Children's Sunday School	11:00am	

Missionaries of the Month - December 2023

Contact: Justin Chandler

David and Eowyn Stoddard joined MTW's church-planting movement in eastern Berlin in 2001. Over the past 22 years they have been involved in planting five churches and a campus of the Martin Bucer Seminary. David serves as the international director for Europe, overseeing MTW's vision, strategy, and personnel. Eowyn assists David in his role and supports church-planting through evangelism, teaching, and women's initiatives.

Denim Day

Sunday, December 10th

Join in the fun as we continue our weekly Advent themes **NEXT SUNDAY** with Denim Day.

Missions Presentation

Sunday, December 10th, 11:00am

Contact: Justin Chandler

Adults and Youth are invited to remain in the sanctuary **NEXT SUNDAY** after the worship service for a Missions Presentation from our Missionaries of the month, David and Eowyn Stoddard.

SCPC ADVENT Events 2023

Women's Christmas Party

Thursday, December 7th, 6:30pm,
19807 Tidy Tips Ln., Spring, TX

Contact: Linda Farmer

Ladies, We hope you will join us for our annual party. **RSVP TODAY**, and bring a pair of socks to donate! Please consider carpooling!

Family Matinee

Saturday, December 9th, 1:30pm, Cinemark,
21440 Kuykendahl Rd., Spring, TX

REGISTER TODAY by using the **QR code** or **stopping by the sign-up table** after morning worship service. Doors open at 1pm, movie (ELF) starts at 1:30pm sharp, no trailers!

You don't have

to register in

order to attend...

but if you do

sign up, you will

get a special gift

upon arrival!



Enfuego Youth Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 13th, 6:15pm, Youth Bldg.

Contact: Felix Espino

Bring a friend and join us for our Youth Enfuego Christmas party...AND bring a white elephant gift!

Christmas Caroling

Saturday, December 16th, 4:45pm

Contact: Cathy Thibaut

We will meet in the church parking lot and carpool to spread Christmas cheer!

Christmas Fellowship Meal

Sunday, December 17th, 12:00pm

Contact: Kyra Moncrief

Join us for this special time of food and fellowship!

The church will provide ham and rolls, sign up in the Narthex **TODAY** and bring your favorite holiday side dish to share!

Prayer

Pray for Our Church

Pray for our College Students. Pray that our college students will have safe travel during their winter break; that they would have a blessed time reconnecting with family and friends.

Pray for Our Congregation

Musima family - Ebenezer has been placed on dialysis and is in need of a kidney transplant. *Thecla's* father passed away. Please pray for their family during this challenging time.

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

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

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

Neal Benedict - Please pray for *Neal* as he is still in need of a kidney transplant and will be starting dialysis after Thanksgiving.

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

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

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 stable platelet counts, positive response to chemo, continued overall healing and good reports from upcoming MRI and lumbar stick on Dec. 1.

Emily Wykes friend, *Annabelle Valadez* - for the unexpected loss of her father.

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.

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.*
- *A fruitful home ministry assignment, reconnecting with many supporting churches and individuals.*
- *Please pray for us as we grieve leaving Berlin. It had become our home and we will miss it greatly.*
- *Praise God for Emma's smooth transition to the University of Leeds. She is settling in well and enjoying her first classes*

Email prayer requests to susan@springcypresschurch.com.

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

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