



*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 6, 2020

Celebration of God in Corporate Worship

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Saule Garcia*

PRELUDE *Janice Bradshaw*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *Pastor Ben*

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH Joshua & Gina Rieger *Stephen Kovach*
Mission to the World, England

PREPARATION TO WORSHIP *Janice Bradshaw*

*Please take a moment to silently prepare to worship,
and reflect on Isaiah 7:14,*

*“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and shall call his name Immanuel.”*

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

LIGHTING OF THE LOVE CANDLE *Spiritosanto & Kovach family*

✦CALL TO WORSHIP *Pastor Ben*

Leader: Rejoice, the Lord is King;

People: Your Lord and King adore!

Leader: Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,

People: and triumph evermore:

Leader: Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice!

All: Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

✦PRAYER OF ADORATION *Pastor Ben*

✦SONG OF ADORATION *Congregation*

Joy to the World (Hymn #195)
(Based on Psalm 98, Watts, Handel, Mason)

✦Please stand if able

DECLARATION OF GOD'S LAW

Ruling Elder Ian Achterkirch

1 Peter 4:10

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ian Achterkirch

Leader: Almighty God, you have blessed us greatly in Christ
by the gifts of your Spirit.

Yet we confess that we are guilty of taking these gifts for granted
and for both neglecting and abusing them.

**People: We confess that we have used your good gifts
for our own benefit
instead of the good of others.**

**Have mercy upon us and cleanse us from our sin
through the blood of Jesus.**

Leader: Father, for the glory of your great name,
increase our faith in Christ and our faithfulness
to use our gifts for the edification of others
and the furtherance of your Kingdom.

We ask that you would now hear our silent prayers
of personal confession and forgive...

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

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

PRAYER FOR CHRIST'S CHURCH AND THE WORLD

Ian Achterkirch

concluding with the Lord's Prayer

✦SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Congregation

Once in Royal David's City (Hymn #225)
(Alexander, Gauntlett, arr. Willcox, Helvey, Lawrence)
Verses 1 & 2 sung by the Children's Choir.
Verses 3 & 4 by the Congregation.

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

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

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 READING

Luke 1:57-80

Pastor Ben

SERMON

Songs of Advent: Zechariah's Song

Pastor Ben

✦ SONG OF PREPARATION

Congregation

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (Hymn #196, verses 1, 2)
(Wesley, Hunt, Pritchard)

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

✦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor Ben

the Ligonier Statement on Christology

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 inner ring** wine in the clear cups in the outer 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 MEDITATION

Saule Garcia

✦ SONG OF RESPONSE

Congregation

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (Hymn #196, verses 3, 4)
(Wesley, Hunt, Pritchard)

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

✦ BENEDICTION

Pastor Ben

✦ SONG OF BLESSING

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

Congregation

POSTLUDE

Saule Garcia

DEACONS' FUND OFFERING

Sermon Notes

Songs of Advent: Zechariah's Song

December 6, 2020

Luke 1:57-80



MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH December 2020

JOSHUA & GINA RIEGER JACKSON, RILEY, RUTHERFORD MISSION TO THE WORLD (MTW) HEXHAM, ENGLAND



Joshua was the Officer-in-charge of Recruiting for the US Navy in South Carolina when he met Gina. They married and at the end of his tour moved to Jackson, Mississippi where he finished seminary and served first as an intern and then on staff at First Presbyterian Church. It was during his time at First Presbyterian that Joshua developed relationships with missionaries in the United Kingdom. God used those relationships to call him into church planting in Hexham, about 20 miles south of the Scottish border.

Less than 2% of the population in England attend an evangelical church, and in Northern England where Hexham is located the number is closer to 0.25%. Joshua's vision and ministry is to see confessional Presbyterian churches raised up in Northern England and indigenous men trained to minister the gospel. To this end he serves in two roles: church planting minister of Hexham Presbyterian Church and Dean of Students for Westminster Presbyterian Theological Seminary, a seminary being developed in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. His church planting efforts began in 2013 and led to the establishment of The Hexham Presbyterian Church in 2015. The Bible study group of 18-20 grew into a congregation now averaging 35-40 on any given Sunday. The church is a member of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in England and Wales, and Joshua is a PCA minister and a member of the Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley.

Joshua and Gina have three children, Jackson, age 10, Riley, age 8, and Rutherford, age 6. Currently, Joshua and Gina are living in the Houston area as Gina receives cancer treatment.

Prayer Needs: Pray for **Joshua** as he works remotely with the church plant. Pray for **Gina** as she receives cancer treatments. Pray for their **children** as they are away from their home for a time.

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Advent at SCPC Sundays



First Sunday of Advent
Denim Sunday



Second Sunday of Advent
Classy Christmas Colors
December 6th

Wear your classiest Christmas-colored clothes to worship on the 2nd Sunday of Advent.



Third Sunday of Advent
Ugly Sweater Sunday
December 13th

Continue our advent fun by showing off your ugliest Christmas sweater on the 3rd Sunday of Advent!



Fourth Sunday of Advent
Flannel Sunday
December 20th

Soft flannel, plaid flannel, solid-colored flannel - be warm and comfy in your flannel on the 4th Sunday of Advent!



Advent at SCPC Special Events



Church-wide Movie

Featuring *Elf*

Saturday, December 12th, 3:30 pm

Cinemark Spring-Klein, 21440 Kuykendahl Rd

Join your church family for an afternoon filled with holiday merriment and laughter as we watch the modern Christmas classic Elf! Due to limited seating registration is required. Register at springcypresschurch.com. A fee of \$1/person confirms your registration and will be refunded when you arrive at the theater. Concessions will be available for purchase.



Music Ministry Christmas Program

Sunday, December 13th at 6:00 pm, Sanctuary

A program of Christmas music performed by members of our music ministry. A time of wonderful music, carol singing, and fellowship.

Christmas Eve Service

December 24th, 6:00pm
in our Sanctuary
Childcare by reservation
(elisa@springcypresschurch.com)

To assist you in keeping Jesus at the center of this Advent season please pick up a copy of John Piper's devotional *The Dawning of Indestructible Joy* in the Narthex (1 per household).



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Announcements

Monday, December 7		
SAA Meeting Youth Building		7:30pm
Tuesday, December 8		
Women in the Word Pickard home		9:30am
CODA Meeting Youth Building		7:30pm
Wednesday, December 9		
Youth Group Youth Building		6:30pm
Thursday, December 10		
MOPS Playdate Playground & Pavilion		10:00am
Women's Christmas Party Fellowship Hall		7:00pm
Diaconate Meeting Pastor's Office		7:00pm
Friday, December 11		
Saturday, December 12		
Church-wide Movie: Elf Cinemark Spring-Klein 3:30pm		
Sunday, December 13		
Worship Sanctuary & Live Stream (LS)		9:00am
Adult & Youth Sunday School		10:15am
Sanctuary & LS		10:15am
Senior High Sunday School B215-217		10:15am
Junior High Sunday School Youth Bldg		10:15am
Children's Sunday School Fellowship Hall		10:15am
Music Ministry Christmas Program		6:00pm
Sanctuary		

NEXT SUNDAY, December 13

3rd Sunday of Advent - Ugly Sweater Sunday

Join us as we continue our celebration of Advent by wearing your ugliest Christmas sweater!

Missions Presentation during Sunday School 10:15 am, Sanctuary

Adults and Youth, make plans to join us as we hear from Joshua Rieger about his work with Mission to the World in the United Kingdom.

Music Ministry Christmas Program

6:00 pm, Sanctuary

Enjoy an evening filled with wonderful music, carol singing, and fellowship as the members of our music ministry perform a program of Christmas music!

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 20, 5:30 pm

RSVP: elisa@springcypresschurch.com

Join us as we bring Christmas Cheer to some of the brothers and sisters in our congregation who have been shut in during much of 2020. Meet in the church parking lot at 5:30 (we will caravan to various homes), and we will finish around 7:30 back at the church for some cider and snacks. Please RSVP so we can plan routes. See you there!

Women's Christmas Party

Thursday, December 10, 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

RSVP: women@springcypresschurch.com

SCPC Women! Invite a friend and join us for an evening of food, fellowship, song, and a devotional. Thank you for your outpouring of love for the children of SCPC's missionaries!

Church-wide Movie! Featuring *Elf*

Saturday, December 12, 3:30 pm

Cinemark Spring-Klein, 21440 Kuykendahl Rd

Join your church family for an afternoon filled with holiday merriment and laughter as we watch the modern Christmas classic *Elf*! Due to limited seating registration is required. **Register at springcypresschurch.com**. A fee of \$1/person confirms your registration and will be refunded when you arrive at the theater. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Youth Group Christmas Party

Friday, December 18, 6:30 pm, Youth Building

Junior and Senior High students! Mark your calendar for an evening of food, games, and a movie!

Mission Possible: *Christmas Edition*

Our summer children's program *Mission Possible* continues with weekly Advent challenges and activities for children PreK - 5th grade! Mission folders can be picked up in the Narthex on Sunday mornings.

Prayer

Pray for Our Church

Music Ministry - Pray that the staff and many volunteers in the music ministries would remain healthy and able to serve as they prepare for our Music Ministry Program.

Pray for Our Congregation

Bill Dietz - successful treatment of afib.

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

Rick Maddy - peace and comfort following the passing of his father, Jack Maddy.

Ray Rhoades - PRAISE - knee replacement surgery went well. PRAY for quick and complete healing.

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

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

Aaron Lewis, Texas Tech University

Lauren Steagall, University of Houston

AJ Tousha, Lone Star College

Pray for Our Families and Friends

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

Beverly Crowder's mother, *Carolyn* - PRAISE after exposure to family members with COVID-19, Carolyn tested negative! *The Crowders are SCPC missionaries with SIM.*

Jeff Cory's sister, *Kim* - wisdom regarding treatment options for recently diagnosed colon cancer.

Glenn Ayles' father, *Rodney Ayles* - healing of stage 5 kidney failure and congestive heart failure.

Danny McDaniel's mother, *Joyce* - wisdom regarding treatment options of recently diagnosed stage 1 pancreatic cancer.

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 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.

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
Brett Kerr
Bob Pickard

The deacons may be reached at:
alldacons@springcypresschurch.com

Staff

Rev. Ben Duncan, Senior Pastor
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Dr. Wesley Lawrence, Music Director
wesley@springcypresschurch.com

Elisa Haaland, Multidisciplinary Ministry
Coordinator
elisa@springcypresschurch.com

Robin Trygstad, Office Administrator
robin@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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