



*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, October 1, 2023

Celebration of God in Corporate Worship

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Janice Bradshaw

PRELUDE

Brooke Lewis

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Ben

PREPARATION TO WORSHIP

Brooke Lewis

*Please take a moment to silently prepare to worship,
and reflect on I Kings 8:56*

*“Blessed be the Lord who has given rest to his people Israel,
according to all that he promised. Not one word has failed of
all his good promise, which he spoke by Moses his servant.”*

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

✦CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER OF ADORATION

Pastor Ben

from Psalm 118

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, and his steadfast love endures forever!

People: **The LORD is on our side as our helper, we shall look in triumph on those who hate us!**

Leader: The LORD is our strength and our song; he has become our salvation!

All: **Let us enter the gates of righteousness that we may give thanks to the LORD, for this the day that the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it!**

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

✦SONGS OF ADORATION

Congregation

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

(Stralsund Gesangbuch; arr. by Foster)

Jesus Your Mercy

(Kauflin, Kauflin, Stiff)

DECLARATION OF GOD'S LAW

Ruling Elder Erik Haaland

Exodus 20:15

You shall not steal.

✦Please stand if able

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Erik Haaland

Leader: Heavenly Father, your 8th commandment, “you shall not steal” calls us to honesty, fairness, and truthfulness in our dealings with others. We confess that there are many ways in which we have unjustly sought to act in an advantageous manner for ourselves at the expense of others. Whether it be in the outright theft of what does not belong to us, or the dishonest reporting of time at our places of employment, or in looking for excuses to not pay what we owe, we confess that we have neglected to act with the transparency and integrity to which you call us.

People: **Almighty God, we confess that we have yielded to the temptation to seek advantage for ourselves at the expense of what properly belongs to others. Forgive us for the love of the things of this world, and of a lack of faith in your promise to give us every good thing.**

Leader: Father, help us to reorient our hearts to delight in your provision of daily bread. Grant that we will deal honestly with others at all times, and that we will honor the time, efforts, and resources of others just as we want ours honored. We also ask that by your Holy Spirit you would bring to mind where else we have sinned and hear our prayers of silent personal confession and forgive us for the sake of Christ..

silent confession of personal sin

...amen.

PRONOUNCEMENT OF GOD’S GOSPEL

Erik Haaland

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

Erik Haaland

concluding with the Lord’s Prayer

✦SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Congregation

Tell Me the Story of Jesus (Hymn #234)
(Crosby, Sweney)

DIACONAL PRAYER

Deacon Kyle Bodden

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

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

OFFERTORY

O Great God
(Kauflin)

Sanctuary Choir

O great God of highest heaven, occupy my lowly heart
Own it all and reign supreme, conquer every rebel power
Let no vice or sin remain that resists Your holy war
You have loved and purchased me, make me Yours forevermore

I was blinded by my sin, had no ears to hear Your voice
did not know Your love within, had no taste for heaven's joys
Then Your Spirit gave me life, opened up Your Word to me
through the gospel of Your Son, gave me endless hope and peace

Help me now to live a life, that's dependent on Your grace
Keep my heart and guard my soul from the evils that I face
You are worthy to be praised with my every thought and deed
O great God of highest heaven, glorify Your Name through me

✦ SONG OF PRAISE

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

Congregation

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

Matthew 16:21-27

Pastor Ben

SERMON

Theology of the Cross

Pastor Ben

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

✦ SONG OF PREPARATION

And Can it Be (Hymn #455, verses 1 and 3)
(Wesley, Campbell)

Congregation

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

✦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor Ben

the Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand

of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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 is in the colored cups in the outer ring wine is 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

Janice Bradshaw

✦ SONG OF RESPONSE

Congregation

And Can it Be (Hymn #455, verses 4 and 5)
(Wesley, Campbell)

✦ BENEDICTION

Pastor Ben

✦ SONG OF BLESSING

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

Congregation

POSTLUDE

Janice Bradshaw

DEACONS' FUND OFFERING

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

Announcements

Monday, October 2	
Tuesday, October 3	
Women in the Word Room 119	9:30am
Men's Book Study Room 117	7:00pm
Wednesday, October 4	
<i>Enfuego</i> Youth Group Youth Building	6:15pm
Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary	6:30pm
Thursday, October 5	
Women in the Word Room 119	7:00pm
Friday, October 6	
Saturday, October 7	
Bridal Shower Annex	10:00am
<i>Enfuego</i> Youth Group CiderCade	1:00am
Sunday, October 8	
Worship Sanctuary & Live Stream	9:30am
Sunday School for all ages	11:00am

Bridal Shower honoring Hana Corona Ahumada
Saturday, October 7, 10am, Annex

Contact: Susy Tousha

Ladies, join us as we shower Hana with gifts for her new home with her soon-to-be husband Felix Espino! Please consider bringing a brunch item to share as we partake in Hana's joy. Hana and Felix are registered at Amazon and Target.

***Enfuego* Youth Group, CiderCade Retro Arcade**
Saturday, October 7, 1pm

Contact: Felix, felix@springcypresschurch.com

Jr. & Sr. high students - Invite a friend and join us for an afternoon of fun! \$15 covers a pass that will allow you to play any arcade game or activity AND food will be provided! **RSVP by October 4th!** CiderCade is located at 2320 Canal Street, Suite, 100, Houston. Those needing transportation please contact Felix for information.

Directory Photos

Due to technical difficulties last week, **TODAY is the last day** to have your picture updated or added in the online directory. Please stop by the Gallery after the worship service if you have not already done so.

Reformation Party

Sunday, October 29, 3:00-6:30pm, Pavilion

Contact: Susan, susan@springcypresschurch.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for our 5th annual Reformation Party. **Beginning next Sunday**, candy donations may be dropped off at the Visitor's Kiosk in the Narthex. Watch your email this week for volunteer signup opportunities. More info coming soon!

Administrative Housekeeping

Effective Immediately

Contact: Susan, susan@springcypresschurch.com

Please contact Susan for all SCPC administrative needs. Ministry leads, please submit Expense Reimbursement forms to Susan.

Prayer

Pray for Our Church

Pray for our children, that they grow in their love for Jesus as we partner with their parents to nurture them in the Lord.

Pray for Our Congregation

Rita Rivera and family - for comfort following the passing of Rita's sister, Jamie Valdez. Please especially pray for Jamie's son and granddaughter that she lived with.

Jackie Toothman - Jackie's renal cancer has returned. Please pray as she and her medical team consider surgical and treatment options.

Ongoing health concerns: *Neal Benedict, Hannah Byerly, René & Clairice Chapelle, Joyce Hill, Jeff Kuhn, Rick & Jeanne Maddy, Katie Medeiros, Mark Morrow, Mary Spiritosanto.*

Pray for Our Military and First Responders

Peter Achterkirch, Army, Washington

Joshua Duncan, Army, North Carolina

Christian Cory, Army, New York

Shawn Maya, Spring Fire Department

Chris Dietz, Navy Reserves, Texas

Jessy Wykes, Germany

Felix Espino, Army Reserves, Texas

Pray for Our College Students

Claire Achterkirch, Samford University

Rebekah Allcorn, Abilene Christian University

Ben Chandler, Samford University

Aiden Steagall, Texas A&M

Rebekah Duncan, Blinn College

Izzy Tousha, Texas State

Austin Gatlin, Louisiana State University

AJ Tousha, Lone Star College

Jenna Haaland, Samford University

Pray for Our Friends & Family

Sara Carrera's friend, *Stephanie*, has cancer. Pray for healing, comfort, and endurance for her and family. Bill & Denise Cooper's two-year-old grandson *Daniel* - PRAISE, his body cast was removed, the femur is healed solid!

Vincent & Eleanor Tracey's grandson *Elijah* - PRAISE, he has completed first phase of radiation/chemo, regained the ability to swallow, and continued to improve during physical therapy! Pray for no fevers during 3-week break and clear test result on October 3 lumbar stick.

Liz Zapp's nephew's son, *Ethan* is in serious condition following a car accident. He has had 5 surgeries, spleen and kidney removed, and other complications.

Pray for Our Expectant Mothers

Carrington Jones due in November.

Maretha Kritzinger due in March.

Emily Wykes due in March.

Brooke Lewis due in April.

Pray for the Geneva Relief Fund, Care for Widows and Pastors in Need

· For peace and comfort for the PCA widows, ministers, and ministry families served by this fund.

· For wisdom in the administration of the fund.

· For increased donations so that more people may be served.

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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