



*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, September 6, 2020

Celebration of God in Corporate Worship

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Janice Bradshaw*

PRELUDE *Saule Garcia*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *Pastor Ben*

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH Jeff & Katie Saunders *Stephen Kovach*
Reformed University Fellowship, Tokyo, Japan

PREPARATION TO WORSHIP *Saule Garcia*

*Please take a moment to silently prepare to worship,
and reflect on Habakkuk 2:19,*

*“Woe to him who says to a wooden thing Awake;
to a silent stone, Arise!
Can this teach?*

*Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver,
and there is no breath at all in it.”*

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

✦CALL TO WORSHIP *Pastor Ben*
2 Corinthians 1:3-5

Leader: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

People: **The Father of mercies and God of all comfort,**

Leader: Who comforts us in all our affliction, so that
we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction,
with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

All: **For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings,
so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.**

✦PRAYER OF ADORATION *Pastor Ben*

✦SONG OF ADORATION *How Great Thou Art* (Hymn #44) *Congregation*
(Hine)

✦*Please stand if able*

DECLARATION OF GOD'S LAW

Ruling Elder Chuck Dorau

Leviticus 18:4-5

You shall follow my rules and keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the LORD.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Chuck Dorau

Leader: Holy and merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you, so we humbly confess our sins and ask for your mercy.

People: **We have not loved you with a pure heart,
nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not done justice, loved mercy,
or walked humbly with you.
Have pity on us poor sinners.**

In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin.

Leader: Father, please restore to us the joy of our salvation, and through Jesus Christ our Lord hear now our silent prayers of personal confession...

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

Chuck Dorau

Ephesians 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

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

Chuck Dorau

concluding with the Lord's Prayer

✦SONG OF THANKSGIVING *Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken*
(Lyte, Moore)

Congregation

*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 in the Fellowship Hall, or they may remain with you. Children will return to the sanctuary after the sermon.

SCRIPTURE READING

Esther 7:1-10

Pastor Ben

SERMON

Pastor Ben

Gospel Images in Abstract: Observations from Esther's Second Feast

✦ SONG OF PREPARATION

Congregation

Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners! (Hymn, #498, vs. 1-3)
(Chapman, Pritchard)

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 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."

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

MUSIC OF MEDITATION

Glenn Ayles

✦ SONG OF RESPONSE

Congregation

Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners! (Hymn, #498, vs. 4-5)

(Chapman, Pritchard)

✦ BENEDICTION

Pastor Ben

✦ SONG OF BLESSING

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

Congregation

POSTLUDE

Janice Bradshaw

DEACONS' FUND OFFERING

Sermon Notes

Gospel Images in Abstract:

September 6, 2020

Observations from Esther's Second Feast

Esther 7:1-10

Prayer

Pray for Our Church

Sunday School - Pray for the teachers as they prepare and present the gospel with their new curriculum.
Pray for the attendees, for open hearts and minds to receive the gospel and then to live out what they have learned.

Pray for Our Congregation

Niki Ayles - successful tonsillectomy on September 9th and complete healing
Virginia Faries - complete healing following lung surgery
Rose Gregory - strength and healing following surgery
Lizzy Musima - successful treatment of high iron deficiency anemia
Shelley Steagall - full recovery following surgery and improved use of her left hand and arm
Rick Toothman - healing from infection in his leg

Pray for Our Military and First Responders

Peter Achterkirch, Army, Georgia
Christian Cory, Army, New York
Chris Dietz, Navy, Kingsville, 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

Jeff & Kelly René Cory's friend, *Chippy Orlando* - successful double bypass surgery and resolution of clogged carotid artery
Rita Rivera's sister and nephew, *Juanita & Stephen* - Stephen is returning home after being hospitalized. Pray for peace and strength for Juanita as she cares for him.
Jim & Mary Spiritosanto's daughter, *Rebecca Cooper* - healing of kidney disease (stage 5), strength while awaiting a kidney transplant, wisdom and direction regarding her son donating one of his kidneys

Pray for Our Expectant Mothers

Jess McGlothlin due in October
Ashley Lin due in November

Pray for Our Missionary of the Month

Jeff & Katie Saunders, Reformed University Fellowship, Tokyo, Japan
See insert for a description of their ministry and prayer requests.



MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH September 2020

JEFF & KATIE SAUNDERS, EMERIE & EZRA REFORMED UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP TOKYO, JAPAN



While relatively small, Japan is a country with a tremendous influence on the world. From the cuisine and culture to the cars and electronics, much of the world has benefited from Japan. There is so much beauty but what people often don't see is the brokenness and need. Visibly there is strong community among the Japanese, yet there is a thick but invisible thread of isolation woven into the relational tapestry. And so many Japanese struggle with depression, feelings of worthlessness, and suicidal ideations as an almost daily reality.

It was during their time at Covenant Seminary (where Jeff finished his M.Div. in '15) that God began revealing these facts about Japan to ultimately call the Saunders to advance his kingdom in Tokyo, Japan. The Japanese desperately need to hear they are loved, have dignity, and are given ultimate affirmation through the incarnation. The message of Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection has immense power to move people to experience true humanity the way God intended. Pray for Jeff and Katie as they serve in the largest city in the world, through church-planting and university ministry.

Pray for:

- a great movement of the Holy Spirit, so that many Japanese would experience its power as they taste and see the risen Christ.
- wisdom, relationships with students and professors, and an increasingly robust life of prayer centered around the university ministry.
- language fluency for Jeff and Katie - increased understanding, clarity in speech, and comfort in doing ministry in another language.
- their role in helping support the regular ministry activities at Suginami and Grace City churches.

Announcements

Monday, September 7	
Memorial Day Holiday - Office Closed	
SAA Meeting, Youth Building	7:30pm
Tuesday, September 8	
Women in the Word, The Gallery	9:30am
CODA Meeting, Youth Building	7:30pm
Wednesday, September 9	
Youth Group, Youth Building	6:30pm
Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary	7:00pm
Thursday, September 10	
MOPS Playdate, Pavilion	10:00am
Women in the Word, The Gallery	7:00pm
Diaconate Meeting, Pastor's Office	7:00pm
Friday, September 11	
Saturday, September 12	
Sunday, September 13	
Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream (LS)	9:00am
Adult Sunday School, Sanctuary & LS	10:15am
Senior High Sunday School, B215-217	10:15pm
Junior High Sunday School, Youth Bldg	10:15am
Children's Sunday School, Fellowship Hall	10:15pm
Praise & Worship, Sanctuary & LS	6:00pm

Praise & Worship Hymn Sing
Sunday, September 13, 6:00 pm
Sanctuary & Live Stream
Contact: Wesley Lawrence
 Mark your calendar and join us for an evening of singing, prayer, and worship!

Women-to-Women
Contact: Linda Farmer
Registration closes today for the next session.
 Women, this is your opportunity to gather with two other women and grow in your relationships as you meet once a month for a time of fun, fellowship, and encouragement. **Sign up in the Narthex or at springcypresschurch.com/women** (scroll down and click the W2W graphic).

Sunday School Classes for all ages begin TODAY!
 Adults - *Galatians* Sanctuary & Live Stream
 Senior High - *Philippians* B215-217
 Junior High - *Philippians* Youth Building
 Children - *The Attributes of God* Fellowship Hall

Youth Paint War
Saturday, September 19, 5:30-7:30 pm
Youth Building
Contact: Susy Tousha
 Junior & Senior High students, join us for an evening of messy fun!

Men's Round Table
Thursday, September 24, 7:00 pm
Location to be determined
Contact: Jim Spiritosanto
 Men, join us for a time of fellowship and theological discussion! To receive an email with the article to be discussed, contact Robin (robin@springcypresschurch.com).

SCPC Women's Conference: Hinged@Home
Friday, September 25 7-9 pm and
Saturday, September 26, 9 am-2 pm
Sanctuary
Contact: Sarah Kooiman
 Ladies of high school age and above, bring a friend and join us in the Sanctuary for worship, teaching, and fellowship as we learn about being vitally connected to Christ and His church through a study of Ephesians!
Register in the Narthex or at springcypresschurch.com/womens-conference by **September 15th**.

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:
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Deacons

David Farmer
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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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