*"It may be you are struggling hard for the rewards of this world. Perhaps you are straining every nerve to obtain money or place or power or pleasure. If that be your case, take care. Your sowing will lead to a crop of bitter disappointment. Unless you mind what you are about, your latter end will be to lie down in sorrow. Thousands have trodden the path you are pursuing and have awoke too late to find it end in misery and eternal ruin. They have fought hard for wealth and honor and office and promotion and turned their backs on God and Christ and heaven and the world to come. And what has their end been? Often, far too often, they have found out that their whole life has been a grand mistake…"*
*J.C. Ryle, 1816-1900*

*The life of the church mirrors the gospel pattern in the life of a disciple. This is demonstrated in our* ***order of worship*** *(the bulletin you are holding): Opening moments offer recognition of the greatness and goodness of God that naturally folds into confession, assurance of pardon, songs of thanksgiving, instruction, and a charge to serve God in response to His grace in Christ.*

# Order of Worship

December 08, 2024

**Welcome and Announcements** Elder Ed Kelley

## Celebrating His Presence

**Preparation for Worship**

*We believe everyone* ***worships*** *something and that we will inevitably imitate and serve what we worship.*

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship** Asst. Pastor Christian Bland

## *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the Everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King".

**Invocation**

**Congregational Response of Faith:** The Apostles' Creed

**Gospel Renewal**

**The Prayer of Confession and Repentance:**
Almighty God, have mercy on us; forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ; strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

☙

**Gospel Renewal** is a time we use to re-mind people of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. By His obedience we are justified, and by His death are reconciled to God. As we apprehend this we are ready to confess our sin.

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Since we understand that we are redeemed sinners, we agree with God about our sin to the end that we might be confirmed in the forgiveness and absolution we have in Christ. This pattern of **confession** makes way for affirmation and confirmation of God's covenant promise that He assures every believer of pardon for the sake of Christ's obedience and substitution.

☙

☙

*For **assurance of pardon**, the man who has faith is the man who is no longer looking at himself and no longer looking to himself. He looks entirely to the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work, and rests on that alone". – Martyn Lloyd-Jones*

☙

**Assurance of Pardon**

People: Thanks be to God!

## *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Infant holy, Infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing;
Christ the Babe is Lord of all, Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new;
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow;
Christ the Babe was born for you, Christ the Babe was born for you!

**The Blessing**

Minister: The grace of God be with you.
People: And also, with you.

☙

*The purpose of our time of **greeting** is to fulfill the command in Romans 15:7 "Therefore, welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."*

☙

**Advent Candle Lighting: Peace**

Charlie, Becky & Lawrence Stoker

**Greeting One Another in the Name of the Lord**

# Experiencing Renewal

## *Offering*

***Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star
While angels sang to lowly shepherds
Three wise men seeking truth traveled from afar
Hoping to find the child from heaven.
Falling on their knees, they bowed before the humbled
Prince of Peace.

***Chorus***: I bring an offering of worship to my King.
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing.
Jesus, may You receive the honor that You're due;
O Lord, I bring an offering to You.

*(**Repeat* / Chorus 2x** )*

*Now that we have reenacted the story of the gospel as a church community. We now **experience the renewal** merited for us by Jesus Christ. We express this renewal in our singing praises to Jesus for His great mercy towards us.*

## *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

***(Refrain)***

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again, King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

***(Refrain)***

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and sacrifice; Alleluia, Alleluia, earth to the heav'ns replies.

***(Refrain)***

***Refrain:*** O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

☙

*Jesus, our shepherd, prays with us and for us. We pray the* ***pastoral prayer*** *expecting the Holy Spirit to minister Jesus' benefits to us as He prays for us.*

☙

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Song of Preparation to Hear God's Word**

## *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ the newborn King.

Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in His temple shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising to th' Eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ the newborn King.

# Deepening Our Commitment

**Preaching of the Word:** Pastor Tim Posey

Series: **Romans**
Title: **Living in the Already and the Not Yet**
Text: **Romans 13:11-14**
Theme**: Moral Urgency in the Light of the Eschaton**

**Intro:**

**I. Understanding the Times (13:11-12a)**

**II. The Metaphor of Waking Up**

**III. Soldiers of the Light (13:12b-14 )**

**Conclusion**

☙
*Since Jesus Christ has committed Himself to us in the laying down of His precious life, we are reminded of this in the preaching of the Word and likewise called to a daily,* ***deepening commitment*** *to follow after Him.*
❧

**Receiving of Tithes and Offerings**

***Receiving tithes and offerings*** *is not an "add on" to the service. It is part of worship. We demonstrate our trust in God's present provision and hope in our future with Him by supporting the spread of the Gospel. You will find baskets for your tithes at the rear of the sanctuary.*

**Song of Response**

## *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night*

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around, and glory shone around.

"Fear not" said he—for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind, "Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind, to you and all mankind."

"To you, in David's town this day, is born of David's line,
The Savior, who is Christ, the Lord,
And this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign."

"All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace:
Goodwill henceforth, from heav'n to men
Begin and never cease! Begin and never cease!"

*Guidelines for the* ***Lord's Supper*** *can be found on the next page of this bulletin.*

**Celebrating the Lord's Supper**
*(White grape juice or red wine is available; and gluten-free bread in the smaller plate.)*

## *Doxology*

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

*The* ***Benediction*** *is a pronouncement of God's favor upon His assembled people.*

**Benediction**

# Guidelines for the Lord's Supper

**Who may partake?** We invite all committed followers of Jesus Christ to partake of the Lord's Supper. Namely, baptized members of a congregation that proclaims the Gospel, who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ.

**How to partake?** Please hold the elements and we will partake of them together. Red wine and white grape juice are both available, as well as gluten free bread.

**What if I don't partake?** Please stay seated, meditate on the Gospel, and pray silently.

Prayer for those searching for truth: Lord Jesus, You claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what You claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who You are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following You as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of You that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that You promise. Amen.

Prayer for those struggling with sin: Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in You the fulfillment of all my need and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on You, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to You, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayer of commitment: Lord Jesus, You have called us to follow You in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in Your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with Your people and live in the fullness of Your Spirit. Amen.

Prayer of belief: Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through You, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I repent of my sins of self-ruling and self-saving. I thank You for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Thank You that my sin and rebellion are Yours and Your righteous, perfect, and obedient life is mine through faith in You. Knowing that You died on the cross and have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive You as Savior and Lord and I await Your return when I will see You face to face. I now resolve in humble reliance on the Holy Spirit and through the power of the gospel graciously working in my life to seek to walk in a manner pleasing to You. Amen.

Prayer for Covenant Children: Lord Jesus, thank You for placing me inside Your family, the church. Help me to know You, to love You, and to follow You as Your faithful disciple. Amen.

# Guidelines for Baptism

We baptize all who profess faith in Jesus Christ as He comes to us in the Gospel, along with their children. Children of believers are baptized because we trust that God's covenantal promise is for us and our children. Baptism is the sign of initiation into Christ's church, which means it goes hand in hand with membership. If you are ready to publicly profess faith in Jesus for the salvation of your soul and be united to His church, or if you are ready to have your child baptized, then please talk to one of our elders about the next steps.

## Servants:

| | 12-08-2024 | 12-15-2024 |
|---|---|---|
| **Greeters** | Rick & Shawnee V. | Ron & Lynn Warren |
| **Coffee Station** | Ron & Lynn Warren | Gwennan Turner |
| **Church Nursery** | Kathy Wassell | Jessica Denny |
| **Communion** | Bonnie Taylor | Scott & Grace J. |

For more ways to serve, https://springmeadowspres.org/volunteer/

If you are interested in serving the body at Spring Meadows and would like more information on where and how you can serve, please contact the church office for information.

## Sunday School

Every Sunday at 9:30–10:15 AM

**Adult Sunday School**:
Title — Advent of Christ: Introduction
Teacher — Christian Bland

**Pre-K**
Series — God Leads His People
Title — God Provides Water
Teacher — Eun-me Phillips

**Grades (K-2)**
Series — Investigating God's Word
Title — Genesis 1-24
Teacher — Jessica Salinas / Mary Posey

**Grades (2-5)**
Series — Investigating God's Word
Title — Joshua
Teacher — Gwennan Turner

**Grades (6-12)**
Series — Digging Deeper
Title — Exploring the Shorter Catechism
Teacher — Jeff Williams / Richard Salinas

For more info, visit https://springmeadowspres.org/sunday-school/

If you are interested in serving alongside our current volunteers in the Children's Ministry at Spring Meadows, please contact Elder Dan Phillips.

## Making Contact

| | |
|---|---|
| Church Office | office@springmeadowspres.org |
| Pastor | pastortimposey@springmeadowspres.org |
| Assistant Pastor | christianbland@springmeadowspres.org |
| Elders | elders@springmeadowspres.org |
| Deacons | deacons@springmeadowspres.org |
| Session Clerk | edkelley@springmeadowspres.org |
| Children's Ministry | danphillips@springmeadowspres.org |
| Youth Ministry | christianbland@springmeadowspres.org |
| Women's Ministry | kristischmid1@gmail.com |

At Spring Meadows, the work of knowing, feeding, leading, and protecting the flock of God is divided among the Shepherding Elders. We encourage all members of the church to reach out to their **Shepherding Elders** often. They want to pray with and for you! If you do not have a Shepherding Elder, or if you aren't sure who your Shepherding Elder is, please email the church office.

To get connected with the SMPC family, please download our '**Connect App'** and complete the **Connection Survey** located under 'Resources' on our website.

For more information about SMPC, our ministries, upcoming events, or to listen to sermon recordings, visit our website:

*Springmeadowspres.org*

## Church Office

4870 W. Oquendo Road
Las Vegas, NV 89118
702-384-3437

Mon – Thurs
9:00AM—3:00PM

**springmeadowspres.org**
**facebook.com/SMPCLV**

## Session

Andy Crawford, RE,
Dan Phillips, RE
David McGuire, RE
Ed Kelley, RE, Clerk
Paul Hiles, RE
Richard Salinas, RE
Rick Vetanovetz, RE
Ron Warren, RE
Ryan Roper, RE
Tim Posey, TE

## Diaconate

David Gonzales
Jeff Williams
Joe Schmid
Josh Barnhart
Mark Baltazar
Stephen Fichter
Walt Kwasniewski

## SMPC Staff

Tim Posey, Pastor
Christian Bland, Asst. Ptr.
Chimaine Shadd, Admin

# Announcements

- **NextSTEP Ministries Winter Clothing Drive: 2** Collection Sundays remaining: **December 8** & **15**. *New* Men's Thermal Tops/Bottoms M-XXL & Men's Gloves. Please see Deacon Walt for questions. Donation Tote is by Sanctuary entrance.
- **Ladies: Cookies & Cocoa Event** is **Tuesday Dec.10th** from **6PM-8PM.** If you have already RSVP'd, don't forget to bring your favorite Christmas Cookie to share with the Recipe. *Festive Attire* is Encouraged!
- **Men's Book Study > 'Embodied Hope"** by Kelly Kapic. Led by Elder Rick Vetanovetz every other Saturday. Next meeting **Dec. 21st** at **7AM**. It is not too late to join, **$16** Books & Schedules are available in the Men's Cubby. Pay Church Office.
- **Women's Workshop Day** is **January 25th**, **9am-12pm** at **SMPC**. The theme is **"Basics of the Faith"**, diving even *"Deeper"* by Dane Ortlund with a concise version addition "How Does God Change Us?". We are looking for young ladies to help with brunch set up, please sign up in the back. There will be more details to come!
- Please plan on joining us for our **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service** on Tuesday, **December 24th at 6:30PM**. Invite a friend or neighbor! There will be a Dessert Reception following the Service.

# SMPC Events This Week

**Sunday 12/8**

| | |
|---|---|
| 9:30 AM | Sunday School (All ages) |
| 10:30 AM | Worship Service |
| 12:00 PM | SongBirds + Joyful Noise Choir Rehearsal |
| 9a-12 PM | Collection Day for NextSTEP Ministries Winter Drive |
| Varied Dates/Times | Community Groups (2nd & 4th Sundays-diff. locations) |

**Tuesday 12/10**

| | |
|---|---|
| 6:00PM | Ladies Event: Cookies and Cocoa (Home of Jael) |

**Wednesday 12/11**

| | |
|---|---|
| 5:00 PM | Youth Group Ministry (M.S. & H.S.) |

**Friday 12/13**

| | |
|---|---|
| 6:30 PM | Coed Book Study: Calvin's Institutes is Cancelled (Holiday) |

For more information about upcoming events, please visit our website, springmeadowspres.org/events-calendar, or contact us.

## Community Groups

Community groups are one of the best opportunities to deepen relationships with other Christians and to build each other up. These small groups meet on the **2nd** & **4th Sundays** of every month in homes all around Las Vegas for fellowship, food, Bible study, and prayer. Contact a Group Leader or visit our website for details.

**North**
Elder Ryan Roper
ryanroper@springmeadowspres.org

**Green Valley**
Elder Rick Vetanovetz
rickvetano@springmeadowspres.org

**Central**
Elder Ed Kelley
edkelley@springmeadowspres.org

**South Henderson / Boulder City**
Assistant Pastor Christian Bland
christianbland@springmeadowspres.org










| BIRTHDAYS | BIRTHDAYS | ANNIVERSARIES |
|---|---|---|
| 2nd James H. | 17th Lillian O. | 2nd Ron & Lynn W. |
| 2nd Joel M. | 20th Mark A. | 12th Marcel & Claudia P. |
| 5th Grace J. | 20th Gwennan T. | 16th Erick & Erika I. |
| 6th Elias C. | 22nd Elizabeth F. | 18th Sam & Bonnie T. |
| 6th Owen S. | 22nd Marcel P. | 18th Stephen & Brittany F. |
| 7th James V. | 22nd Grace F. | 19th Kevin & Mitchi T. |
| 7th Evan C. | 22nd Noel C. | 28th James & Makayla L. |
| 9th Sally S. | 23rd Evelyn T. | 28th Tim & Pam P. |
| 10th Terri H. | 24th Elliot S. | |
| 11th Heidi R. | 25th Jon W. | |
| 11th Janice L. | 26th Kriz C. | |
| 12th Emerie F. | 26th William L. | |
| 13th Emma G. | 27th Ethan H. | |
| 13th Rick V. | 29th Joe S. | |
| 15th James L. | 31st Cyrus D. | |
| 17th Macie O. | 31st Judy B. | |