Martin Luther's famous dictum:
"A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none.
A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all."

Order of Worship

December 15, 2024

Welcome and Announcements Elder Paul Hiles

Celebrating His Presence

Preparation for Worship

Prelude

Call to Worship Asst. Pastor Christian Bland

*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.*

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

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Invocation

Congregational Response of Faith: Psalm 124:1

Minister: People of God, from where does your help come?
Congregation: Our help comes from the Lord, maker of heaven and earth.

Gospel Renewal

The Prayer of Confession and Repentance:
Most merciful God, whose son Jesus Christ was tempted in every way, yet without sin, we confess before You our own sinfulness. We have hungered after that which does not satisfy; we have compromised with evil; we have doubted Your power to protect us. Forgive us for our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness. Strengthen us in such trust and love that we may walk in Your ways and delight in doing Your will. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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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.

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*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*

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Assurance of Pardon

People: Thanks be to God!

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

'Fear not, then,' said the angel, 'let nothing you affright,
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan's pow'r and might.'
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

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*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."*

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The Blessing

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

Advent Candle Lighting: Joy

Jon, Dara and Jonni Belle Winn

Greeting One Another in the Name of the Lord

Experiencing Renewal

Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)

What hope we hold this starlit night:
A King is born in Bethlehem.
Our journey long, we seek the light
That leads to the hallowed manger ground.

What fear we felt in the silent age,
Four-hundred years - can He be found?
But broken by a baby's cry;
Rejoice in the hallowed manger ground.

Chorus: Emmanuel, Emmanuel
God incarnate, here to dwell
Emmanuel, Emmanuel
Praise His name Emmanuel.

The son of God, here born to bleed;
A crown of thorns would pierce His brow.
And we beheld this offering,
Exalted now, the King of kings,
Praise God for the hallowed manger ground.

(Chorus 2x)

Oh, praise His name Emmanuel!

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes;
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

*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.*

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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.*

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Pastoral Prayer

Song of Preparation to Hear God's Word

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'ns all-gracious
King", The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now! For glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years comes round the age of gold:
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing!

Deepening Our Commitment

Preaching of the Word: Pastor Tim Posey

Series: **Romans**
Title: **Christian Liberty**
Text: **Romans 14:1-12**
Theme**: Getting Along with Everyone Without Going Along with Everything**

Intro:

I. Mutual Forbearance in the Body of Christ (vv.1-4)

II. Mutual Forbearance Because We Do What We Do for the Lord (vv.5-9)

III. Mutual Forbearance Because God Will Judge and We Will Give an Account (vv.10-12)

Conclusion

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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.*
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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.*

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Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

Song of Response

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Glo.....ria in excelsis De-o, glo.....ria in excelsis De-o.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song?
Glo.....ria in excelsis De-o, glo.....ria in excelsis De-o.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Glo.....ria in excelsis De-o, glo.....ria in excelsis De-o!

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

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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.

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

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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:

	12-15-2024	12-22-2024
Greeters	Ron & Lynn Warren	Barb K. & Pam P.
Coffee Station	Gwennan Turner	Alex Kwasniewski
Church Nursery	Jessica Denny	Jessica Williams
Communion	Scott & Grace J.	Karen Guest

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:

Series: The Advent of Christ:
Title: The Apocalypse and Amillennialism
Teacher: Christian Bland

Pre-K

Series: God Leads His People
Title: God Keeps His People Safe
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: Thank you to all that have donated!** *New* Men's Thermal Tops/Bottoms M-XXL & Men's Gloves. Donation Tote is by Sanctuary entrance. See Deacon Walt with questions.

- **Youth Ministry Christmas Party** this **Wednesday 12/18 at 5PM**. Wear your best or worst Christmas Sweater, bring a White Elephant Gift and be ready to enjoy dinner, games and Christmas music!

- **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 12/15

9:30 AM	Sunday School (All ages)
10:30 AM	Worship Service
12:00 PM	SongBirds + Joyful Noise Choir Rehearsal -Cry Room-
9a-12 PM	Final Collection Day for NextSTEP Ministries Winter Drive

Wednesday 12/18

5:00 PM	Youth Group Christmas Party!!! (M.S. & H.S.)

Friday 12/20

6:30 PM	Coed Book Study: Calvin's Institutes led by Deacon Walt K.

Saturday 12/21

7:00 AM	Men's Embodied Hope Study led by Elder Rick Vetanovetz

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.	