

**Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church**  
14401 Pilot Knob Road / Apple Valley, MN 55124  
www.spiritoflifeav.org / spirit@spiritoflifeav.org  
952.423.2212

January 15, 2023

*CCLI License #3049316 grants permission for reprinting of words and music*

- ◆ Masks optional for all activities in the church building.

**Welcome to Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church!** If this is your first time here we want to say a special thank you for worshipping with us today. We would enjoy getting to know you if you would be so kind to sign the attendance roster and include your contact information. If you are interested in receiving our weekly email blast, please send a quick email to the office at [spirit@spiritoflifeav.org](mailto:spirit@spiritoflifeav.org).

---

**Prelude** (Martha Davis)

**Welcome** (Rev. Rob Smith)

**Call to Worship** (Kandace Lackore)

**Opening Song** I've Got Peace Like a River #623

**Prayer of Reconciliation** (Merry Close)

**Assurance of Grace** (Rev. Rob Smith)

**Passing of Peace**

**Song** I Love You, Lord #627

**Prayer of Illumination** (Kandace Lackore)

**Scripture** Matthew 3: 1-17 (Merry Close)

<sup>3</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” <sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

**Children’s sermon** (Rev. Rob Smith)

**Sermon** “Prepare The Way” (Rev. Rob Smith)

**Sermon Response** Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters #490

**Call To Offering** (Kandace Lackore)

**Offertory** Thirst No More by Sandra McCracken, Leslie Jordan, and Matt Wertz CCLI #7158818 (Lisa Smith, Singer)

**Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;  
praise Christ, all creatures here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise triune God whom we adore. Amen

**Prayers of the People**

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Announcements** (Rev. Rob Smith)

**Closing Song** Go To The World! #295 vs 1, 2 & 4

**Charge and Benediction** (Rev. Rob Smith)

**Postlude** (Martha Davis)

### **Announcements**

**Welcome to Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church!** If this is your first time here we want to say a special thank you for worshipping with us today. We would enjoy getting to know you if you would be so kind to sign the attendance roster and include your contact information. If you are interested in receiving our weekly email blast, please send a quick email to the office at [spirit@spiritoflifeav.org](mailto:spirit@spiritoflifeav.org).

**Annual Meeting after worship January 29, 2023.** The positions to be elected at the 2023 congregational meeting are: Session class of 2026: 1; Deacon class of 2025: 1 (plus 1 open seat in 2024). The nominating committee is pleased to present the following nominations for consideration by the congregation for the role listed by each name: Kelly Polson (Ruling Elder), Chris Sachs (open class of 2024 Deacon seat), and Jann Henkes (Deacon class of 2025).

#### **Legacy Giving Workshop: Composing a Legacy**

How you will tell the story of God's grace and love—not just today, but for generations to come? From wills and bequests to life income plans, this workshop will introduce tools you can use to craft your faith legacy. Presented by: The Rev. Kyle Nolan, Ministry Relations Officer, Presbyterian Foundation. January 29 at approx. 11:30am (immediately following the annual meeting) we will have a light lunch provided for those attending in person and presentation in a hybrid format via Zoom and in-person in the sanctuary.

**Children's Sunday School** meets from 9:30-10:15, upstairs in the SS room. Kids can Zoom in for SS if they can't attend in person. We could use a helper for each week. If you're available, please reach out to Karen Johnson.

Date	Teacher
01/08	Karen
01/15	Sara
01/22	Karen
01/29	Sara

**Meet in the Middle** meeting Wednesdays at 4:30 and including snacks, group guitar lessons for older kids /playing for younger kids, singing, Holy Moly video and lesson, and conclude with dinner for kids, youth and adults 6:00- 6:30 dinner. Monetary donations

for dinner appreciated. If you're unable to join in person, jump on zoom with this new link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85002502767>.

\*We need people to sign up to provide snacks, desserts, and meals. If you can help, please sign the chart in back of sanctuary or contact Loretta. Thank you.

**Confirmation Class** will be for 7th and 8th graders, on the 2nd Sunday of the month after church. Next class February 12<sup>th</sup>. Note: we will also plan for a retreat in March or April.

**(Monday) COFFEE and CONVERSATION** Plan to join Pastor Rob and others for Coffee and Conversation on Mondays, from 9:20 am to 11:00 am. Come as you are. This is a gathering online and in person. It is open for you to pop in and out any time so feel free to drop in and say hello. \*Note, same time and same login, recurring meeting each week. Join Zoom Meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/286584190>. One tap mobile +13126266799, 286584190# +19292056099, 286584190#.

The next **GriefShare Program** will be February 2, 2023 through May 4, 2023 (no meeting Maundy Thursday), 6:30 pm at Spirit of Life Church, Apple Valley. This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. Past participants have related how helpful the information and follow-up discussions were to them. Many grieving people find they are only beginning the work of healing when friends or family have returned to their daily life routines. Too often people, including Christians, tend to bury their grief instead of allowing it to do the God-given work for which it is intended. Don't allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you. Confidentiality is very much a part of this program. Please contact Bob Shepard or Jacqui Hicks for more information or to sign up.

Winter Chrysalis Women's Retreat at Clearwater Forest church camp is Feb 24-26, 2023. The cost is \$225 per person which covers housing (double room), speakers, meals, most workshops. A \$75 deposit is required. A \$50 discount is available for First timers. The quest speaker is Chris Bellefeuille, lead pastor at Trinity Lutheran, Stillwater. Karen Johnson is going and looking to carpool. Please contact Karen. Please see flyer at [Winter 2023 Chrysalis brochure.pdf](#). Thanks, Karen

**Per Capita for 2023 went up to \$37.50**