**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**2nd Sunday of Advent or 39th Sunday of Covid19**

**December 6, 2020**

**9:30 a.m.**

Find the link for the service on one of these sites:

1) our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/
2) our web site: https://www.southminsterpc.org/worship-videos
3) our YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG\_wiA/videos

If the video feed is interrupted during the service, we will continue to record and then post the full video on Facebook and our web site as soon as possible.

***Please* *put your phones and computers in airplane mode anywhere in the building.***

 1 Gathering Music: *On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry* (#96), *Watchman, Tell Us of the
 Night* (#97), *To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary* (#98), *My Soul Gives Glory to My God* (#99)

Today’s slide show consists of church Advent wreaths from around the PC(USA)..

 2 Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Mission

 3 Improvisational Prelude

 4 Lighting the Candles

**Come, Holy Spirit. May the fruit of the Spirit live in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

 5 Call to Worship

 Leader: Bring faith and doubt,

 **People: Bring heart and soul,**

 Leader: Bring mind and body;

 **All: We bring all that we are to worship God.**

 6 Hymn 84: *Creator of the Stars of Night*  (verses 1, 2)

**Creator of the star of night, your people’s everlasting light,**

**O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you, hear us when we call.**

**When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splendor bright,**

**Not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild.**

7 Prayer of Confession:

**Patient God, we wish to love and trust you, but all too often we trip over ourselves. We are slow to pray, quick to judge, easily discouraged. We do not see your people at work amid our grief. Our eyes are closed to the good. Help us to grow in prayer, love, and trust that we may live graciously. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is both savior and Lord. Amen.**

 (Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

8 Declaration of the Grace of God/Assurance of Pardon (Psalm 103:8-12)

 Leader: The Lord is compassionate and gracious;

 **People: The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love.**

 **All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

9 Response 112: *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*  (verse 3)

**When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;**

**When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;**

**Heaven and earth with joy may sing,**

**All for to see the newborn King.**

10 The Passing of the Peace

11 Word with Children: Lighting of the Advent Wreath (prerecorded)

 Julie and Eric Story, Clementine St John, Rebecca DeCata

 Reading: *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness* (verse 2) Hymnal #314

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice.

 All sing:

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled.**

**Longing for hope, many despair.**

**Your word alone has power to save us.**

**Make us your living voice.**

**Christ be our light!**

**Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.**

**Christ be our light!**

**Shine in your church gathered today.**

12 Prayer for Illumination

13 Scripture Lessons: Joel 2:12-13

Joel 2:28-29

14 Sermon: “Leaning into the Light: Joel”

15 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)

 *The Apostles’ Creed* [Ecumenical]

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.**

16 Hymn 104: *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* (verse 2)

**Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;**

**Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.**

**O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace**

**In love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.**

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

17 Offertory: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* (Hymnal 347)

18 Response 144: *In the Bleak Midwinter* (verse 4)

**What can I give him, poor as I am?**

**If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;**

**If I were a wise man, I would do my part;**

**Yet what can I give him: give my heart.**

19 Prayer of Dedication

 Service of the Lord’s Supper

20 Invitation

 [We extend an invitation to the Lord’s Supper to all who have been baptized. You do
 not need to be a member of this congregation or a Presbyterian to share in this meal.
 We remember that access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a
 privilege given to believers who come in faith, repentance, and love.]

21 Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

 Leader: The Lord be with you.

 **People**: **And also with you.**

 Leader: Lift up your hearts.

 **People: We lift them to the Lord.**

 Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

 **People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

22 *The minister gives thanks…*

23 The congregation responds:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heav’n and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

24 *The minister continues the Thanksgiving…*

 **Dying you destroyed our death,**

 **Rising you restored our life.**

 **Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

*The minister continues with Intercessions for the Church and the World
and Prayers of the People…*

 Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

 **People**: **hear our prayers.**

 Our Lord’s Prayer

**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.**

 Words of Institution

 Communion

25 Communion Music: *For Everyone Born* (Hymnal 769)

26 Prayer

27 Hymn 93: *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*  (verse 3)

**Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.**

**Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.**

28 Charge and Benediction

 Leader: Now go and serve the Lord,

 **All**: **For we are blessed to be a blessing! Alleluia! Amen!**

29 Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden

Liturgists: Christine Olfelt, Blair Nelson

Musicians: Tom Anderson, David Kozich

Tech support: Ron Birchall, David Kozich, Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are from Jim and April Messmore celebrating Rachel’s birthday.

Join us for **Zoom fellowship** at 10:30 following the worship service.
Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84712569505
Meeting ID: 847 1256 9505
***This link is good through Dec. 20.***

You are invited to join us on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/), where we have a live sharing of “**Heart to Heart**” Tuesday-Friday at 4:16 p.m. Pastor Wendy will host “Heart to Heart” through December 24 and then take a Christmas break. She’ll be back December 29, 30, and 31, and then resume the Tuesday after New Year’s.

We’re also live on **Sunday morning for worship** at 9:30 a.m.
Find us at https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/

You can also find links to recordings of the weekday sessions and Sunday services posted on our web site: https://www.southminsterpc.org/worship-videos or by going to our YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG\_wiA/videos

Some of the special services this month will be prerecorded: Longest Season (Longest Night), the Christmas program, and the Christmas Eve sanctuary service. You will receive links by email to these services, or you can find them through the links above.

**Sunday Morning Adult Ed. Bible Study – 11:15!** We will be continuing our study of Amos for the next few weeks, then it is on to 1 Peter. Join our study from 11:15-12:15. Follow this Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83804167534?pwd=eHVNYXF3NVJHN3JKRUFPZXozRjkxZz09
(Meeting ID: 838 0416 7534/Password: 062773)

 **Notes from Blair**

**Youth:**We may get lucky and have warm enough weather for another firepit, but don’t count on it. So, Plan A for Sunday youth events is a Zoom P&G, this Sunday 5:00-6-30 p.m. Got any ideas for games? Send them to Blair. Plan B will be a firepit, 5:00-6:00 p.m. if we get more freakishly nice weather. Plan C is playing in the snow, if and when we get some. That will likely be in the afternoon. Bottom line: watch for information from Blair e ach week as Sundays approach.

**Notes from Christine Olfelt:**
Our **Thursday night (7:00) virtual thematic Bible Study** is proving to engender interesting conversation. The study will continue this week. During Advent we are looking at the meaning of the words Hope (this past Thursday, Peace (Dec. 10), and Joy (Dec. 17). The links you need are posted each week in Wednesday’s eNotes. Please join us!

There will be NO Bible study on Dec 24th or 31st.

**For children**: This year the Christian Ed. Ministry is giving our children sets of culturally sensitive nativity stickers. If you have a grandchild or such in your life to whom you would like a set sent, please let Christine Olfelt know.

**Presbyterian Women:**In December we will sing Christmas carols “together” with Christine and Linnea Olfelt and their mom/grandma, Eileen Thorpe. We will gather on google meets **this Friday, December 11** (yes, a week early) at 9:30 a.m. Log in at: meet.google.com/pjt-houd-eqd  or join by phone: +1 520-485-7653 (PIN: 912344563).I will have the words to our chosen carols so you can see them on your screen. If you are following along by listening on your phone and do not have a hymnal at home, please let me know and I’ll send the words to you. christine@southminsterpc.org
 **From the Mission Ministry:**
**Christmas Offerings**: You will be receiving two Christmas offering envelopes in the mail. One is to support church leaders who need assistance because of tragedy, health concerns, or financial assistance. The other is the Local Mission offering. 75% of that offering goes to the 2021 Southminster Mission budget and 25% will be donated to DuPage PADS.

**From the Stewardship Ministry:**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
The new creation has come:
     The old has gone,
     The new is here!
          -2 Corinthians 5:

As we all know, Southminster - just like the rest of the world - has faced many changes and challenges in 2020. Some of our old ways are gone - at least for now. New ways to worship, to gather, and to meet are here. While we yearn for the return of community, we keep planning and reaching for the future.

Thank you for the many who have pledged for 2021. Your Stewardship ministry has shared with our Finance ministry the total amount of pledges made thus far, and our Finance ministry is starting to work on the budgeting process for the coming year. The good news is that there is still time to turn in your pledge if you have not yet done so. Your pledge, like each of our pledges, will make a real difference in what we can accomplish in 2021.

Contact Chris Kozich if you would like to submit your pledge (kintonck@gmail.com or 630/673-4286), or you may still turn in your pledge card to the church.

The **2020 Church Financial Records** must be closed promptly at the endof this month. Any deposits, donations or pledges that need to be recorded in calendar year 2020 or
bills to be paid from the 2020 budget must be turned in to the church office no later than 1:00 p.m. Thursday, December 31. If you have any questions, please contact Treasurer Tom Frey.

 **Jubilee Bucks** (from Bobbi Frey):Thanks to all who have ordered Jubilee Bucks! To date the church has benefitted giving Southminster $1,901.39 of "free" money! There is one more opportunity to order before the holidays. That is December 13, with cards to be delivered to you on the 16th. Great way to finish your shopping! Just email bobbifrey@aol.com with your order, including merchant, number of cards, amount of each card desired. You will get an email confirmation before your order is placed. There is an order form on the church's web site for information on cards available.
Our first order date in 2021 will be January 3.

**Donations for PRC** (also from Bobbi Frey):
This week marked the 37th delivery of food and paper goods to PRC! It is overwhelming how you have supported this mission! People who come to PRC for assistance, on the average, receive 100 pounds of groceries each time they visit. The PRC also estimates that 30% of the families accessing food assistance had never visited a food pantry before COVID. You have made a difference! Thanks to all who contribute! Box is out 24/7 at 2S033 Taylor, G.E.

**Care Notes:**“In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” -Philippians 4:6
Generally, we share our prayer requests at worship services on blue slips, but since we haven’t been meeting, we’re missing our blue slips! We are still collecting prayer requests! Please leave a message on our answering machine at 630-469-9149.

**Joys and Concerns:** - We celebrate a joy for the Kaskovich family! Nick and Jan have a new granddaughter, Vivian Rose, daughter of Paul and Katie, born in November.
 - a joy for Art and Margaret Fournier and family – the birth of a great-grandson, Mason Ryan Miller
We pray for those who mourn.
 - Bill Curry’s daughter-in-law, Annette, and her family on the sudden loss of her mother this week
 - the family and friends of Toby, who died after a long fight with cancer. We especially remember his wife, Bonnie, who has health issues. She is a neighbor and friend of Jim and Tricia Smith and Lynn Ferino.
 - Betty and the Eichin family grieving Ric
  - Barb’s extended family on the death of her mother’s cousin, Clarence, from Covid
We pray for all who are infected and/or affected by COVID:
  - Kathy Davidson’s friend, Dorothy Hess, hospitalized with COVID, and her husband, Jim, who also has COVID but is home
  - Tricia Smith’s childhood friend, Brenda, hospitalized in Louisiana with COVID; she is recovering. Her son, George, and her brother, Bernard, also have COVID.
  - a young adult requests prayers for a roommate’s mother, who has COVID
  - Paul, the son of Marlene, a friend of the Danby Station choir table, has COVID
  - prayers for parents, guardians, teachers, students, and all who are trying to navigate school and sports during this pandemic
  - Heidi Shierry, who has continuing health concerns
 - all who are dealing with mental health challenges
  - Judith Le Fevere, a friend of the Ellsworths, with ongoing health and financial issues
  - Melissa Heard, a coworker of Rita Zapel’s, who has ongoing health issues
  - those who are having medical procedures
We pray for all who are affected by cancer:
 - Sandy Lopata’s friend Rebecca Moeckler, who has pancreatic cancer
  - Marji S., undergoing treatment for cancer
  - Christine’s brother-in-law, Jim, is home following surgery for pancreatic cancer. He appears to be cancer-free!
  - Hayley Jablonski, whose cancer has returned
  - Scott B., who has dementia and cancer
  - our country, in the wake of the election
  - the 628 children who were separated from their parents at the U.S.-Mexican
border and whose parents now cannot be found

We continue to pray for our friends and family in the health fields:
Nurses:
Andie Benson and Nikki Mendoza, both children of Pete and Pam Petersen
Rachel Kralicek: Heather’s daughter
Lindsey Ellinghausen: granddaughter of Ellinghausens
Sara Russell Humes: Lanny’s daughter
Samantha Linde, granddaughter of Ralph and Caroline, Critical Care/ICU nurse
Kaitlyn Harper: niece of the Smiths, once again caring for COVID patients

Doctors:
Nathan and Erin Allen (Allens’ son & daughter in law)
Francine Long (a longtime friend of our church community)
Otis Miller and Jon Thomas (Janey Sarther’s brother and brother in law)
Jessica McIntyre (a friend of our church community)
Will Perkinson (member and on call)
Claudia Adja (Affiliate member in Ghana)

Other health workers:
Roland Lankah: Health worker at Cook County Jail
Sammy Dearing: new tech (Birchalls’ granddaughter)
David Zoby: Radiologist (Wendy’s step brother)
Laura P. (neighbor of Barb D.), hospital phlebotomist

Food Pantries: Glen Ellyn Food Pantry, People’s Resource Center, Lakeview Food Pantry, and our members Bobbi Frey & Anna Nelson, who work with them

**A Special Request for Prayer**We are all feeling the pressure of additional restrictions due to Covid19. There is also understandable unrest in our nation around issues of race, justice, disparities of many kinds, and election results. Please be on your knees daily lifting up our nation.

**Caring for you!**Our **Congregational Care Committee** is ready to assist in time of need. If you need assistance from the Congregational Care Ministry or Helping Hands, you may call Esther Marcovici (home: 630-462-0634 or cell: 630-776-6389). You may **call Pastor Wendy Boden** on her cell or home phone (if she has shared the numbers with you) or leave a message for her at the church office: 630-469-9149. Email Wendy at wendy@southminsterpc.org. (Please note that she can only read email in the office, and she’s only in her office a short time every day, at least while the church is not open for worship. You may also **call your deacon** if you need help from the church.

Remember that we love God and neighbor. Our address is 680 South Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 if you would like to set up an online account with your bank or mail in your pledge. Grace and peace to you!

***Prayer Requests:***