**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**3rd Sunday of Advent or 40th Sunday of Covid19**

**December 13, 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.

 1 Gathering Music: *Christmas Time Is Near*

Today’s slide show is Decorations from Our Homes.

 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 (Isaiah 11)

 Leader: The Spirit of the Lord has anointed us.

 **People: The Lord has sent us to bring good news,**

 Leader: To provide for those who mourn,

 **People: To give a garland instead of ashes.**

 **All: Let us worship God.**

 6 Hymn 82: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*  (verse 1)

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;**

**From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;**

**Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

7 Prayer of Confession:

**Lord God, we are weary of all that is wrong with this world. Make both this world
and our hearts beautiful for you and fitted for your Kingdom. Purify us so that we
may envision that coming day. 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 83: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*  (verses 1, 4)

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;**

**From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest I thee.**

**By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;**

**By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

10 The Passing of the Peace

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

 The Hammer family: Melissa, Troy, Lauren, Avery, and Grace

 Reading: *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness* (verse 5) Hymnal #314

Many the gifts, many the people.

Many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,

Making your kingdom come.

 All sing:

**Many the gifts, many the people.**

**Many the hearts that yearn to belong.**

**Let us be servants to one another,**

**Making your kingdom come.**

**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: Isaiah 61:1-4

Isaiah 61: 5-7

Isaiah 61:8-11

14 Sermon: “Leaning into the Light: Isaiah”

15 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison) Luke 1:46-56

**And Mary said,**

**“My soul magnifies the Lord,
    and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
    Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
    and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
    from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
    he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
    and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
    and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
    in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
    to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”**

**And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.**

16 Hymn 101: *No Wind at the Window* (verses 1-2)

**No wind at the window, no knock on the door;**

**No light from the lampstand, no foot on the floor;**

**No dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear:**

**Just an angel and a woman and a voice in her ear.**

**“O Mary, O Mary, don’t hide from my face.**

**Be glad that you’re favored and filled with God’s grace.**

**The time for redeeming the world has begun,**

**And you are requested to mother God’s Son.”**

17 Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

 Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

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

**The 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.**

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

18 Offertory: *How Great Our Joy*

19 Response 88: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (verse 7)

**O come, Desire of nations, bind**

**All peoples in one heart and mind;**

**Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;**

**Fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**

**Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

20 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

21 Hymn 87: *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*  (verse 1)

**“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God.**

**“Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.**

**To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!**

**Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.”**

22 Charge and Benediction

 Leader: Now go and serve the Lord,

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

23 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 Dan and Deb Bohi celebrating the birthday of their granddaughter, Elspeth.

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** is not meeting today but will resume the study of Amos next Sunday.

 **Notes from Blair**

**Youth:** It all depends on the weather! Do we meet at our fire pit or have a Zoom event? How cold are you willing to go? Bottom line: watch for information from Blair each 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 have looked at the meaning of the words Hope and Peace with Joy to come this week (Dec. 17). The link you need are posted 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.

Looking ahead: Would you be willing to **give the Word with Children**? For December we are lighting Advent candles during that time, but going forward we need volunteers. You can record it at home, or come in and we’ll pre-record it safely here.
Our January texts are:
January 3: Boy Jesus in the Temple Luke 2:41-52
January 10: Jesus’ Baptism Luke 3:1-22
January 17: Sermon at Nazareth Luke 4:14-30
January 24: Fish for People Luke 5:1-11
January 31: Healing on the Sabbath Luke 6:1-16

**From the Worship Ministry:**

**Longest Season (Night) Service:**Southminster has traditionally held a Longest Night service intended for those who struggle with loneliness, loss, or emotional angst during the Christmas season. It is not a joyous, happy time for many. The service offers compassion, understanding, and support through the hope and love of Jesus Christ. Due to this year’s pandemic and restrictions on gathering in the traditional ways over Christmas, this service’s message applies to so many of us.
**Here are direct links to our prerecorded Longest Season/Longest Night service:**1) our Facebook page: Longest Night
2) our YouTube channel: Longest Night

Most of us know someone who may take solace or comfort in this special service. Maybe you can reach out to someone you know outside of our church family who might like to view it. The Christmas message of Love, Hope, and Peace for humankind is needed more than ever this year.

**Christmas Eve Outdoor Service – Dec. 24, 6:00**Like everything else in 2020, Christmas Eve will be different this year. For the first time ever, we will be having a short OUTDOOR service at 6:00 p.m. (pray for good weather!) in the parking circle by the mailbox. Luminaries will be around the driveway shining light on our gathering. The Christ Candle in the Advent wreath will be lit. Pastor Wendy will lead us in prayer and scripture reading of John 1. Paul and Linda Wolf Jeziorski will lead us as we sing together - WEARING MASKS, of course - both our traditional candle-lit *Silent Night* and *Joy to the World*. Please gather on the circular driveway in family groups, distanced 6 feet apart. When time to sing *Silent Night*, one member from each group will light their candle from Wendy and take it back to their group. While we must distance ourselves physically this night, we do not have to distance spiritually. Let us gather together to share the light and hope of Jesus Christ with one another.

**Christmas Eve Sanctuary Service – 7:30 p.m.**At 7:30 on December 24 we will “broadcast” our prerecorded Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on our web site, You Tube, and Facebook. We will have traditional readings and carols plus pre-recorded choir anthems. If you are interested in being part of the virtual choir, please connect with Tom Anderson by email or text: tomanderson101@gmail.com or 651-246-5029.

**Sanctuary Flowers in 2021**Thank you to everyone who supported dedicated flower arrangements, beautifying the sanctuary and parlor during virtual services in 2020, despite not being able to personally enjoy them due to the pandemic. Worship Ministry truly appreciated your generosity. 2021 presents a new challenge, with suspended in-person worship for the near future, eliminating the ability to sign up for various Sundays on the narthex flower chart.

If you would like to sign up for a particular Sunday in 2021, please email the date and dedication information to ridesrowdy@aol.com (Sarah Allen, Worship Moderator). She will respond confirming that date is available. Flowers remain at $30 each. Thank you so much for your continued support of the Flower Ministry. Hopefully, we will soon be back to in-person worship, where flowers can more easily be taken home.

**Worship Participants**
We are looking for people who would like **to assist in our worship services**: liturgists, musicians, offering the Word with Children. You may choose to pre-record your part in the sanctuary. Please let Wendy know if you are willing to participate.

**From the Mission Ministry:**
**Christmas Offerings**: You will be receiving two Christmas offering envelopes in the mail. One, the Christmas Joy Offering, 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. If you did not receive these offering envelopes and would like to contribute to either offering, mail a check to Southminster with “Christmas Joy” or “Local Mission” written on the memo line. If you want this contribution to be listed on your 2020 year-end statement, it needs to be in the office by 1:00 p.m. on December 31.

**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):Today (Sunday, December 13) is your last opportunity to order Jubilee Bucks in 2020. Great time to finish up your Christmas shopping or stocking stuffers. Cards will be delivered to you on the 16th. It will be 3 weeks until our next order is placed - January 3, 2021. Email your order with merchant, denomination, number of cards and total to bobbifrey@aol.com by 9:00 p.m. on Sunday. There is an order form on the church's web site for information on cards available.

**Donations for PRC** (also from Bobbi Frey):
The 38th delivery of food and paper goods since the Pandemic was made this week. It is so greatly appreciated. Many new clients along with the long-standing ones have been using the services of the food pantry. The box for donations continues to be out 24/7 at 2S033 Taylor, GE.

**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:** - a very happy birthday to Hal Ellinghausen on his 90th birthday
 - blessings on Jessica Parks’ new private practice
 - a joy for Nick and Jan Kaskovich and family on the birth of a granddaughter, Vivian Rose, daughter of Paul and Katie
 - a joy for Art and Margaret Fournier and family – the birth of a great-grandson, Mason Ryan Miller
We pray for those who mourn.
 - the family of longtime member Dick Hurst. We have just learned that he died on October 27. We will remember him on All Saints Sunday.
 - the family of Peter Abruzzo, former principal of Glenbard South High School
 - Pastor Daniel Diss and his sister, Cindy, as they cope with the death of their father in September and their mother on December 4
 - Bill Curry’s daughter-in-law, Annette, and her family on the sudden loss of her mother
 - 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.
  - 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:
 - Harriet Byers, longtime friend of Steve and Heidi Shierry, currently in hospice care with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Her prognosis is 4-6 weeks.
 - 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
 - Paul Yoos, brother of Heidi Shierry, getting divorced
  - 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. We remember in prayer all those who have been affected by our country’s economic slowdown, especially those who have lost their jobs or have faced greatly reduced income. 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:***