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| We listen | We pass the peace | We read along | We give our offering of time, talent and treasure | We stand | We sing if we are at home | We pray | We respond | We participate  in the Word  with Children |

(Kids – use your worship packet and the tools listed at the end of the bulletin to do all these things.)

**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**4th Sunday of Advent or 41st Sunday of Covid19**

**December 20, 2020**

**9:30 a.m.**

This service has been prerecorded. It will be posted online at 9:15 a.m. December 20.  
Use one of these links to view the service:

1) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/?view_public_for=102369361444250)  
2) [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/videos)

**** 1 Gathering Music: *Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old* (#77),   
 *Light Dawns on a Weary World* (#79), *Creator of the Stars of Night* (#84)

****Slide show: Glimpses of Christmas Programs Past

2 Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Mission

**** 3 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-discipline.   
Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

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4 Prelude: *Christmas Improvisation*

Tom Anderson

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Lauren Hammer

*The Little Drummer Boy*

Avery Hammer

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

Grace Hammer

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Gracie Sarther

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5 Choral Introit: *The Inn at the End of the World*  Heather Sorenson

**** 6 Call to Worship

Leader: Angelic voices spreading the news;

**People: Joyous songs on a Sunday morning;**

Leader: Memories of carols sung and music enjoyed.

**People: Angel songs sung long ago,**

**All: Still echoing in our lives**

**and prompting us to worship and live new lives.**

**** 7 Hymn 107: *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*  (verse 1)

**Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,**

**For angels herald its dawning.**

**Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,**

**Behold! The Child of our longing.**

**Come as a baby, weak and poor,**

**To bring all hearts together,**

**He opens wide the heavenly door**

**And lives now inside us forever.**

**** 8 Prayer of Confession: (Kirk, edited)

**Gracious God, Your story is the greatest ever told, the story of your love for us.   
You came to us in Jesus Christ, and yet we treat that story as one thing among many during the season. We know the story, yet forget the meaning of the event. Forgive us. Help us to live your grace and truth each day of our lives. We ask this through our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

(Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

**** 9 Declaration of the Grace of God/Assurance of Pardon

Leader: What you are longing and hoping for is nearer than you know.

**People: Jesus Christ is Emmanuel, God with us.**

Leader: People of God, believe the promise. Believe the good news. Rejoice!

**People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made new.**

10 Response 150: *As with Gladness Men of Old* (verse 4)

**Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;**

**And when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last**

**Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.**



11 The Passing of the Peace

****12 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.**

****Children, draw or write something you would like to say to God in prayer this morning.   
If you want to share it with the church, you may also leave a message   
on the church phone line.

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

****13 Offertory Anthem: *A Christmas Lullaby* Marianne Forman

****14 Response 314: *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness* (verse 5)

**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.**

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15 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

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16 Prayer for Illumination

17 Meditation: “Angels We Have Heard on High”



1. **Somewhere in the highest heavens**:

Gabriel visits Zechariah from Luke 1:13-17

1. **Temple portico**: *Angels We Have Heard on High* (vs 1) Linda Wolf Jeziorski

A priest reports on Zechariah’s actions

1. **Back in the highest heavens**:

Gabriel visits Mary from Luke 1:30-34

1. **Scribes study the prophets**:

Congregational Carol *Long Ago Prophets Knew*by Fred Pratt Green

**Long ago, prophets knew**

**Christ would come, born a Jew,**

**come to make all things new,**

**bear his people's burden,**

**freely love and pardon.**

**Refrain:**

**Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!**

**Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!**

**When he comes, when he comes,**

**who will make him welcome?**

Scribes pore over the prophecies from Isaiah 40:1-2, 9-11 and Micah 5:2-5a

1. **In the heavens**:

Gabriel visits Joseph from Luke 1:38

1. **At home with Zechariah and Elizabeth**:

A servant mulls over two pregnancies from Luke 1:42-45

1. **Courtyard of a Bethlehem Inn**: “Shepherds Why This Jubilee”   
    Linda Wolf Jeziorski

An innkeeper’s family discusses the impending birth

1. **In a stable**: *Rocking* Jessica, Alec, Elspeth and Josie Parks

Christ is born from Luke 2:1-7

1. **A bit lower in the heavens**:

Gabriel comes to the shepherds from Luke 2:10-12

1. **A field outside Bethlehem**: *Shepherds Come a Running* Max Lerch

Shepherds discuss the birth

1. **In the court of women, the temple**:

Congregational Carol 545: *Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace*

**Lord, bid your servant go in peace;**

**Your word is now fulfilled.**

**These eyes have seen salvation’s dawn,**

**This child so long foretold.**

**This is the Savior of the world;**

**The Gentile’s promised light,**

**God’s glory dwelling in our midst,**

**The joy of Israel.**

Simeon and Anna waiting for Messiah

1. **Herod’s palace**: *Come to Bethlehem and See* Linda Wolf Jeziorski

Guards discuss the news from Luke 2:2

1. **Somewhere up there**:

The Angel Gabriel warns Joseph

18 Lighting of the Advent Wreath John, Marta, Ryan, and Anna Sundquist

Reading: John 1:1-5, 14

**** Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,   
 and the Word was God.

**People: He was in the beginning with God.**

Leader: All things came into being through him,   
 and without him not one thing came into being.

**People: What has come into being with him was life,   
 and the life was the light of all people.**

Leader: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

**People: And the Word became flesh and lived among us.**

Leader: And we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son,   
 full of grace and truth.

**** All sing refrain:

**Christ be our light!**

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

**Christ be our light!**

**Shine in your church gathered today.**

****19 Carol 136: *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*  (verse 1)

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;**

**Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,**

**Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;**

**Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

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28 Charge and Benediction

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29 Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden

Dr. Christine Olfelt

Dr. Blair Nelson

Liturgist: Kayla Schmidt

Angel Gabriel: Noah Salins

Priest: Kevin Schmidt

Scribes: Steve, Nalani and Roxanne Johnson

Elizabeth’s servant: Samantha Falkman

Innkeeper’s Family: Les and Misty Gaynor

Mary, Joseph and Jesus: Nikki (Petersen), Alex, and Cameron Jane Mendoza

Reader: Jake Falkman

Shepherds: Alec, Jessica, Elspeth, Josie and Moss Parks

Herod’s Guards: Jay and Max Lerch

Simeon: Jack Harris

Anna: Louanne Jourdan

Accompaniment: Tom Anderson

The Southminster choir

Entr’actes: David Kozich (trumpet); Linda Wolf Jeziorski, Parks Family; Max Lerch (vocals)

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

The poinsettias were given by the following people:

Craig and Sarah Allen Ralph and Caroline Linde

Wendy Boden and Blair Nelson Lanny Russell

Walt and Sue Briney Steve and Kathy Sanders

Hal and Linda Ellinghausen Diane Swiss

Lynn Ferino Dave and Barb Zink

The Kozich Family

**A Guide to Our Worship Symbols**

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| Ear | **We listen**: “Basically, the sermon is God’s dynamic, eternal Word spoken to us in such a way that we might hear what God has to say to us and be encouraged to follow the Lord  in faith. |
| Dove | **We pass the peace**: “…We greet one another with the peace of Christ as common forgiven sinners. As we are forgiven, so we forgive. This is also a good time to reconcile with those family members who drove us crazy trying to get to church on time, church members with whom we have tensions, or people we're not so happy to see.” |
| Open book | **We read along**: “God’s Word comes to us in many ways—through scripture, special music, sermons. Listen for God's eternal Word addressing you with good news about the Lord’s love for you and all people.” |
|  | **We give our offering of time, talent, and treasure**: “This is the time when we give ourselves, all that we are, and all that we have, to God’s service. As a symbol of what is of value to us, we make an offering… to promote the gospel.” |
| Man with kid | **We stand**: “We stand as a way of saying, “This is where I stand,” and as a way of standing in continuity with the people of God of ages past…” |
| Music notes | **We sing**: “…We sing praise with hearts and minds (even if that's a little out of tune), just enjoying God for who God is. As we open up the pathways of breath to sing praise, we make space for the Spirit breath to fill us.” Even if we simply listen and read the words, we are praising God. |
|  | **We pray**: The first thing we do is pray—for our world, the church, other people, and ourselves. The prayer is our prayer as a church. One person may pray for us, but we are all praying together as one in our hearts, continuing Christ’s ministry of prayer for the world.” |
| Pencil | **We respond**: Responding by writing or drawing helps us remember what we are hearing and is a chance to express our beliefs. |
| Children | **We participate in the Word with Children**: It is called the Word WITH Children because the whole church is invited to listen with the fresh, faith-filled ears of children to the proclaimed message. |

Quotations are taken from OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP by Teresa Lockhart Stricklen, Associate for Worship, Presbyterian Church (USA), found at <https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/theologyandworship/pdfs/order_of_worship_brochure_dec_2008.pdf>. Edited.