**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.**

 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

 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.**

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.**

15 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

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!**

28 Charge and Benediction

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

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 today. We will have a new link starting next Sunday.***

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 (except this week) 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:** Our adult Bible Study continues today from 11:15-12:15. We are nearing the end of Amos, but he has more to say to us before we go on to 1 Peter. Use this link to join us online:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83804167534?pwd=eHVNYXF3NVJHN3JKRUFPZXozRjkxZ>

 **Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Youth:** As long as it’s dry on Sunday, we’ll plan on a firepit. Bring your mask, chair, a flashlight, and your warm winter gear. Hot chocolate and s’mores will be attending. Be thinking of ideas for Mission Trip fundraising that will work in this socially-distance, digital world.

**Notes from Christine Olfelt:**
Our **Thursday night (7:00) virtual thematic Bible Study** is now on holiday break,

There will be NO Bible study on December 24 or 31 or January 7.

**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  taken! missed your chance
January 31: Healing on the Sabbath Luke 6:1-16

**Presbyterian Women’s Circle** is in the planning stages for an online guest speaker on Friday, January 15th (the third Friday in January.) Stay tuned and save the date.

**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](https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/videos/999174850579626)
2) our YouTube channel: [Longest Night](https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/videos/999174850579626)

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.

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.

If you have been a **Secret Pal** this year, you should have received a note from Heidi Shierry. It’s a reminder that the Secret Pal year ends with Christmas, and an encouragement to let your Secret Pal know you’re thinking of her. With the difficulty of leaving and picking up gifts at church while we’re still in a partial shutdown, she suggests sending a card, maybe enclosing a gift card, or calling her at 630-853-6836 to arrange for a gift delivery.
She concludes: “Thank you everyone for participating in this very difficult year. We are putting the Secret Pal program on hold until we decide that it is a good idea to begin again. We will then have a Welcome Back celebration, at which the new Secret Pal information will be distributed. We hope to be back soon, but in the meantime, take care of yourself and be safe.”
If you have any questions about the changes to the Secret Pal Program for 2021, please feel free to contact Heidi at 630-853-6836.
 **Jubilee Bucks** (from Bobbi Frey):Thanks to all who ordered Jubilee Bucks last Sunday! It was our biggest order of the year, earning $219.54 in “free” money for Southminster! The total raised for 2020 was $2,120.93! The next chance to order will be Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021!

**Donations for PRC** (also from Bobbi Frey):
The 39th weekly delivery was made to People’s Resource Center this week - one of our biggest to date! The support from our church has been incredible! So many families are in need and using the food pantry for the first time. Our gifts are truly appreciated! Donations are accepted 24/7 – the donation box is on the porch at 2S033 Taylor.

**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 last Sunday
  - blessings on Jessica Parks’ new private practice
We pray for those who mourn.
-For the family of Art Deem, uncle of Steve Shierry, in the death of his uncle and serious condition his aunt Ruth Deem.
  - The family of longtime member Dick Hurst. We recently 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, who died last week
  - Pastor Daniel Diss and his sister, Cindy, as they cope with the deaths of both their parents within 3 months
We pray for all who are infected and/or affected by COVID:
  - Kathy Davidson’s friend, Dorothy Hess, who has come home from the hospital but is struggling to regain her strength after having had Covid; she still needs oxygen at night. Her husband, Jim, has recoverd from Covid and is able to care for her.
  - 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
  - Dustin Crews, son-in-law of McHaleys, having heart surgery Monday
  - Heidi Shierry, who has continuing health concerns
  - Bonnie, a new widow, who has health issues. She is a neighbor and friend of Jim and Tricia Smith and Lynn Ferino.
  - 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:
  - Hayley Jablonski, whose cancer has returned
 - the Bohis’ nephew, Joe, diagnosed with esophageal cancer
 - the Bohis’ friend, Teri, with recurring breast 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, who appears to be cancer-free following surgery for pancreatic cancer
  - Scott B., who has dementia and cancer
  - Paul Yoos, brother of Heidi Shierry, getting divorced
  - our country, in the transition of leadership
  - 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:***