**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**1st Sunday of Christmas**

**December 27, 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

Today’s slide show is our Southminster Star Search.

 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: *O Holy Night*

 5 Call to Worship

 Leader: O, that our voices sounded like the heavenly choir,

 **People: And our feet were young enough to dance through the night.**

 Leader: O, that our knees were strong enough to kneel forever in wonder,

 **People: And our hearts could forever ponder the joy and share the love.**

 Leader: Holy God, take who we are and what we have to offer,

 **People: And raise us this day to sing, along with the choir of angels,**

 **in exultation and joy!**

 6 Hymn 133: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*  (verses 1, 2)

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant:**

**O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!**

**Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!**

**O come, let us adore him; O come let us adore him;**

**O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**True God from true God, Light from light eternal,**

**Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;**

**Very God, begotten not created!**

**O come, let us adore him; O come let us adore him;**

**O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

 7 Prayer of Confession: (2 Corinthians 3:18)

**Lord God, it is in admitting the truth of our lives that we make the first step toward wholeness and healing. Forgive the wrong that we have done, and bless the good we have accomplished. We ask 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

 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.**

 9 Response 134: *Joy to the World* (verse 3)

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,**

**Nor thorns infest the ground;**

**He comes to make his blessings flow**

**Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,**

**Far as, far as the curse is found.**

10 The Passing of the Peace

11 Prayer for Illumination

12 Sermon: “The Stories Behind the Carols”

 Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:13-14

 Carol: *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day* (verse 1)

**I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play
And mild and sweet their songs repeat
Of peace on earth good will to men.**

 Carol: *I Wonder As I Wander* (verse 1)

**I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
That Jesus my Savior did come for to die.
For poor on'ry people like you and like I
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.**

 Carol: *Do You Hear What I Hear?*

13 Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:15

 Carol 121: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (verse 1)

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!**

**Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.**

**Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;**

**The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

 Carol 122: *Silent Night, Holy Night!* (verse 1)

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright**

**‘Round yon virgin mother and child!**

**Holy Infant, so tender and mild,**

**Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

 Carol: *O Holy Night*

14 Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:19

 Carol 115: *Away in a Manger* (verse 1)

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,**

**The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.**

**The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,**

**The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.**

 Carol 114: *Away in a Manger* (verse 2)

**The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,**

**But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.**

**I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,**

**And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

 Carol 133: *O Come All Ye Faithful*

 Carol 119: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (verse 1)

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.**

**Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”**

**Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;**

**With angelic hos proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

 Carol 143: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (verse 1)

**Angels, from the realms of glory,**

**Wing your flight o’er all the earth;**

**You, who sang creation’s story,**

**Now proclaim Messiah’s birth:**

**Come and worship, come and worship,**

**Worship Christ, the newborn king!**

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

Carol 132 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (verse 2)

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;**

**Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!**

**He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forevermore.**

**Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

16 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

17 Offertory: *Gesu Bambino* Pietro Yon

18 Response 144: *In the Bleak Midwinter* (verses 1, 4)

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;**

**Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;**

**Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,**

**In the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

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

19 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

20 Charge and Benediction

 Leader: Now go and serve the Lord,

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

21 Postlude: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

 *Medley of Christmas Songs*

 A slide show of scenes from past Christmas programs

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden

Liturgists: Christine Olfelt, Blair Nelson

Musicians: Eileen Thorpe, piano; David Kozich, trumpet; Linnea Olfelt, flute and vocal

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

The flowers today are from the Bohi family celebrating Deb’s birthday.

Join us for **Zoom fellowship** at 10:30 following the worship service.
Join Zoom Meeting: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73261558795?pwd=RnRtbUZzaWJZeEVnekR6SW50L1cxUT09
Meeting ID: 732 6155 8795
Passcode: mq3iAK
***This is a new link beginning December 27.***

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 take a Christmas break and be back December 29, 30, and 31. Regular scheduling will resume the Tuesday after New Year’s.

We’re 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 were prerecorded: Longest Season (Longest Night), the Christmas program, and the Christmas Eve sanctuary service. 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/82920574961?pwd=dEwxU2NhaFM5VWhPSzBtYkZvUld2dz09
Meeting ID: 829 2057 4961
Passcode: 537355
***This is also a new link beginning December 27.***
 **Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Youth:** Weather permitting, we will do another fire pit this Sunday, 5-6 p.m. Watch for a message confirming that closer to the date. Time to change things up. Instead of hot chocolate and s’mores, how about Earl Grey tea and cucumber sandwiches? Your call.

**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 31 or January 7. (Christine is teaching an intensive class the week of January 4-8.)

Looking ahead: Would you be willing to give the **Word with Children**? 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 from the Alzheimer’s Foundation on Friday, January 15th (the third Friday in January.) Stay tuned and save the date.

**From the Worship Ministry:**

**Longest Season (Night) Service:**A service offering 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.
Find the Longest Season/Longest Night service at one of these places:
1) our Facebook page: Longest Night
2) our YouTube channel: Longest Night
 **Christmas Eve Sanctuary Service**If you missed it (or want to rewatch), you can find the recording at one of these places:
1) Facebook
2) YouTube  **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.

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.
Sarah Allen, Worship Moderator

**From the Mission Ministry:**
**Christmas Offerings**: You should have received 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 received 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.

The **Sunday Evening Women’s Bible Study** will start up again on January 3 at 7:00 via Zoom. The current study is 1 Samuel. You can get the link to Zoom from Tricia Smith.
The **deadline for the January 6 eNotes/January Dialog is Monday, January 4.

Jubilee Bucks** (from Bobbi Frey):The next chance to order will be Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021!

**Donations for PRC** (also from Bobbi Frey):
We made our 40th weekly delivery to People’s Resource Center this past week – an incredible donation, our biggest to date and so appreciated by the PRC and its clients! We’re still accepting donations 24/7 – the donation box is on the porch at 2S033 Taylor, G.E. – but the PRC will be closed this week, so we won’t deliver anything to them until January 4.

**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 joy that Heidi Shierry’s recent medical issues have significantly improved
  - Hal Ellinghausen had a very happy 90th birthday drive-by celebration
  - blessings on Jessica Parks’ new private practice
We pray for those who mourn.
 - the Hecker family on the death of Paul’s father, John (“Jack”)
 - the family of Art Deem, uncle of Steve Shierry, in the death of his uncle and serious condition of his aunt Ruth Deem
  - the family of Peter Abruzzo, former principal of Glenbard South High School, who died earlier this month
  - 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, recovering from heart surgery. Between the procedure and medication, he is hoping for great improvement. He and the whole family are grateful for our prayers.
 - Carol (mother of Barb’s friend), recovering from heart surgery. She still needs one more procedure and must remain in the hospital extra days
 - Katie, who is struggling to recover from a series of strokes
  - 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
 - Lanny’s friend, Tony Bednarz, diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia
 - 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:***