**Bearing Fruit – January 3, 2021**

**Sending with our prayers…**

Through the gift of prerecording, Luke Anderson and Tom Anderson offer for our gathering music John Lennon’s *So This Is Christmas*.

Today, we are sending Luke Anderson with our prayers.

One of the important aspects of our worship is that we are indeed together, despite restrictions on gathering physically together during Covid.

Our worship is more than a sermon and music. Our worship is also prayers. Our Call to Worship is a prayer. We have prayers of confession and illumination. We even conclude our Word with Children with a prayer. When we have our family prayers—the Prayers of the People—we gather around the Lord’s Table to lift up those things that are on our hearts and minds. In prayer we are prompted by the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes events and circumstances prompt our prayers, as they do today. Luke Anderson, one of our members who grew up here at Southminster Presbyterian Church, will be leaving today (Sunday, January 3) on Army assignment. He flies to Texas for two weeks and then will be deployed to Guantanamo Bay Naval Base (GTMO). Luke does not know the details of his assignment.

Luke graduated from Glenbard South High School in 2014 and continued his love of music at College of DuPage. He is a gifted musician. At South, he was in the jazz band and was first bass violin in the orchestra. He has also played in the pit orchestra for South’s musicals. In his senior year he had a speaking part in “The Sound of Music.” Luke was confirmed here in May 2012. Over the years he has volunteered as a photographer for Vacation Bible School and has shared his musical talents with us in worship. We send him with our prayers and good wishes. Luke’s email is ssj3rocks@gmail.com. We will let you know when we have a mailing address.

**…and saying, “Welcome!”**

Today we also welcome to worship Cindy Trowbridge as supply accompanist.

**Cynthia Trowbridge** performs as a collaborative pianist in recitals and competitions throughout the Chicago area. A member of the piano faculty at the College of DuPage, she teaches private and class piano and serves as staff accompanist. Cindy also does extensive work as an accompanist for vocal and instrumental studios and recitals at Wheaton College. She is the principal pianist for Credo Flute summer festival, and has been the pianist for DuPage Opera Theater and music director for Wheaton College’s Opera Music Theater program. Cindy has been featured as a collaborative pianist in several WFMT live broadcasts, and recently performed with British composer and flutist Ian Clarke in concerts of his works.

Ms. Trowbridge holds a Master of Music from Indiana University, where she was a student of Menahem Pressler, and a Bachelor of Music from DePauw University. She studied at the Austro-American Institute in Vienna, Austria, and has performed in Austria and England.

As we begin a new year together let us resolve to bear the fruit of God’s love as a church community and as people in community.