**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**4th Sunday in Lent or the 53rd Sunday of Covid**

**March 14, 2021**

**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.

 Gathering Music:  *The Desert Shall Rejoice*; *Peoples, Clap Your Hands!;
 Unless the Lord the House Shall Build*;  *Fight the Good Fight; Guide My Feet*

Our slideshow today is in honor of March Mission Madness.

 Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Mission

 Lighting the Candles (Colossians 3:12)

**As God’s chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.**

 Improvisational Prelude

 Call to Worship (Psalm 25, edited)

 Leader: O Lord, we lift up our hearts. God, we trust you.

 **People: Make us to know your ways, O Lord;**

 **All: Teach us your paths.**

 Hymn: *Hold Me Fast* (verse 4)

**God still calls us on, calls us up to heaven;**

**Sometimes I can see it shining, but I can’t yet hold it fast.**

**Christ Jesus, hold me fast; Christ Jesus hold my soul;**

**Christ Jesus hold my life; Christ Jesus bring me home.**

 Prayer of Confession:

**We are mindful of your mercy and of your steadfast love. Help us to live in that truth each and every day as we seek to do your will and make your love known to everyone with whom we interact. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

 (Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

 Declaration of the Grace of God/Assurance of Pardon (Exodus 34:6-7; Romans 8:1)

 Leader: God is slow to anger and full of compassion.

 **People: He forgives all who humbly repent and trust in his Son
 as Savior and Lord.**

 Leader: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

 **All: In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.**

 Response: *Kyrie*

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Christe, Christe eleison.**

**Christe, Christe eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, eleison.**

 (The words are Greek for *Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.*)

 The Passing of the Peace

 Word with Children Christine Olfelt and Ellie

 Prayer for Illumination

 Scripture Lesson: Luke 16:19-31

 Sermon: “The Great Divide: Whose Word Do You Trust?”

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison) (Deuteronomy 15:7-11, edited)

**If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, “Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.”**

 Hymn Medley

 Hymnal 458: *Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet*

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

**When I feel afraid, and I think I’ve lost my way,**

**Still, you’re there right beside me.**

**Nothing will I fear as long as you are near.**

**Please be near me to the end.**

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

 Hymnal 459: *O Word of God Incarnate* (verse 1)

**O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,**

**O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:**

**We praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,**

**A lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.**

 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

 Offertory: *An Irish Blessing* Jack Noble White

 \**Doxology* Hymnal #606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Him all creatures here below;**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

 Hymn 450: *Be Thou My Vision*  (verses 2, 3)

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;**

**I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;**

**Thou my soul’s shelter and thou my high tower;**

**Raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;**

**Thou mine inheritance, now and always;**

**Thou and thou only, first in my heart,**

**High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.**

 Charge and Benediction

 Leader: Now go and serve the Lord,
 **People: For we are blessed to be a blessing!**

Leader:  The cross, **All:  We shall take it.**
  Leader:  The bread, **All:  We shall break it.**
  Leader:  The pain, **All:  We shall bear it.**
  Leader:  The joy, **All:  We shall share it.**
  Leader:  The Gospel, **All:  We shall live it.**  Leader:  The love, **All:  We shall give it.**
  Leader:  The light, **All:  We shall cherish it.**  Leader:  The darkness, **All:  God shall perish it.**  Leader:  For Jesus’ sake. **All:  Amen.**

 Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden

Liturgists: Blair Nelson, Christine Olfelt

Musicians: Tom Anderson, Blair Baldwin

Tech support: Ron Birchall, Steve Henkels, David Kozich, Chris Kozich

The flowers today are given by Craig and Sarah Allen, celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary.

Join us for **Zoom fellowship** at 10:30 a.m. following the worship service.
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73261558795?pwd=RnRtbUZzaWJZeEVnekR6SW50L1cxUT09>
Meeting ID: 732 6155 8795 Passcode: mq3iAK

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.

Even though we have returned to in-person worship with limited attendance (30 max.), we will also continue to be live on **Sunday morning for worship** at 9:30 a.m.
at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>
*If for any reason the feed falters, rest assured that a recording will be posted to Facebook and You Tube as soon as possible.*

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>

**Sunday Morning Adult Ed. Bible Study:** We are well into 1 Peter and have been challenged about how we ought to live in this world as Christians. But there is more to come! So, now is a good time to join us, even if it is for the first time. We meet Sundays from 11:15-12:15 by Zoom. using this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82920574961?pwd=dEwxU2NhaFM5VWhPSzBtYkZvUld2dz09>
Meeting ID: 829 2057 4961 Passcode: 537355

The **Sunday Evening Women’s Bible Study** meets Sundays at 7:00 via Zoom. You can get the link to Zoom from Tricia Smith.
 **Easter Saturday Celebration
April 3 - guests arriving between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.**The fun is just around the corner. Here's how you can help:
 \* Donate Amazon.com gift cards (March 21st is the next Jubilee bucks date). What is not used for this year's celebration will help us get a start on next year (those plans and purchases are already under way).
 \* Spread the word about this great family event!
       -  Invite family and friends
       -  Share our Facebook notice, both to your own page, and also to neighborhood, village, school or family-oriented Facebook groups
       -  When you do share our Facebook notice, also say a few words about the event. For example, the date and times (Saturday, April 3 – arrive any time between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.), that it is outdoors and socially distant, and that there is an Easter egg hunt.
 \* Return any Easter eggs you have taken home as soon as possible, but no later than March 20. (We want them to be untouched for a couple of weeks before the event.)
 \* Volunteer to help on April 3 - we need lots of helpers at church, starting at 8:00 a.m. This year, please let Wendy know if you can help. (Please leave a message at church - 630 469-9149 - or email wendy@southmisnterpc.org.) We will be outdoors, wearing masks, and staying socially distant.
 **March Mission Madness:** The NCAA will announce the selections tonight for the 2021 men’s college basketball championship tournament. March Madness—and March Mission Madness at Southminster—will begin! To participate, you will need to register your bracket predictions no later than Thursday at 10:00 a.m., when the first games begin. Complete instructions went out in an eblast Friday morning; if you didn’t receive it or need another copy, email the church office: admin@southminsterpc.org. You can also get help directly from Troy Hammer at hammer.troy@gmail.com or 415-310-3456. **Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Youth**:  More Pizza-less games tonight, 5:00-6:30. Did you remember to adjust your clock for Daylight Savings Time?  **Notes from Christine Olfelt:**
**Thursday evening 7:00 Bible study:**
We have started looking at some themes in the Bible that are important for Lent and Easter. Please join at 7:00 p.m. at [meet.google.com/pjt-houd-eqd](https://meet.google.com/pjt-houd-eqd)  or join by phone: +1 520-485-7653 (PIN: 912344563)
March 18: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/sacrifice-and-atonement>

 **Presbyterian Women’s Circle** meets next on Friday, March 19, at 9:30 a.m. PW will have a virtual visit with our own Kathy Davidson. We will hear about Kathy’s work with a seed-saving exchange and have a chance to ask some early spring garden preparation questions.
Meet at [meet.google.com/pjt-houd-eqd](https://meet.google.com/pjt-houd-eqd)  or join by phone: +1 520-485-7653 (PIN: 912344563)
Amie Cantarella, who at last month’s meeting gave us a virtual tour of her shop, Alla Moda in downtown Glen Ellyn, has generously offered to **contribute 20% of proceeds for any purchases made between March 23rd and 31st to our PW funds**! Maybe someone needs a spring sweater, a pair of leather gloves, or a piece of jewelry in their Easter basket? You may shop in person or online. Amie is willing to set up an appointment to open her boutique to you exclusively if that is important to you in these times of COVID. You can visit at 524 Duane Street in Glen Ellyn or call her at (630) 547-4020. You must mention Southminster Presbyterian Women when you make your purchase so she knows to designate the 20% to us.

The **Presbyterian Readers** meet this Wednesday, March 17, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to discuss *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson
[Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86861724721?pwd=TE0yYXZGZUtUNkdvYWh4UEhaTFc0dz09)
Meeting ID: 868 6172 4721 Passcode: 600865
Or join by phone. Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kd5Cv8caaj>

(The Zoom link remains the same each month.)
Next book - April 21: *The Hideaway* by Lauren K Denton.
For the slide shows on Palm Sunday and Easter, Wendy would like to take **a picture of you holding a Hosanna or Alleluia sign**. She is willing to come by and take your photo; please contact her (call 630-917-6033 or email wendy@southminsterpc.org). Or you can take a photo of yourself and send it to her.
**One Great Hour of Sharing**is a shared Presbyterian ministry that makes a difference in the world through three programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; Presbyterian Hunger Program; and Self-Development of People. Please give generously to this ministry that responds to the needs God has called us to fill. You can give through the rest of Lent, and we will dedicate the OGHS Offering on Easter Sunday. Information about OGHS and an offering envelope were in the Lenten bags that the deacons distributed; if you don’t have an envelope, you may contribute by writing a check to Southminster with OGHS on the memo line.
 **Jubilee Bucks** (from Bobbi Frey):So far this year the sale of Jubilee Bucks has earned $404.30 in “free money” for Southminster! The next time to order gift cards will be next Sunday, March 21. Treat yourself (if only to the grocery store) or others, and remember that you can help the Easter Saturday Celebration with gifts of Amazon.com cards. You can always email bobbifrey@aol.com any time before 9:00 p.m. on March 21.

Gift card denominations and percentage earned are available on the church web site, and an order form is attached every Friday to the email with the bulletin.

**Donations for PRC** (also from Bobbi Frey):
We’ve made our 50th trip to People’s Resource Center delivering our contributions of food and other goods needed by our neighbors in DuPage County! The donation box is out 24/7 on the front porch at 2S033 Taylor. No donation is too small!

**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 are not all meeting together, 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:** - Flowers today: from Craig and Sarah Allen in honor of their 35th anniversary
 - Kylie, a 6th grader who is a member of Wendy’s mother’s church. She underwent open heart surgery Friday.
 - Lisa B undergoing treatment for Stage 4 colon cancer that has metastasized to her lungs
 - Dan Bohi, having a surgical procedure on Friday
 - Chris Vanderford, still recovering from Covid
 - Nancy Wolfe, effects of concussion
 - Katie Boehmer's mother, Barb, recovering from surgery
 - Betsy’s friend, Heidi, and her niece, Jess, both fighting cancer
 - Art Fournier, recovering from having a stent put in
 - Marc, who has heart issues in addition to kidney failure
 - people struggling with difficult family concerns
  - We pray for wisdom for the leaders and the citizens of the United States.
 - for our sisters and brothers experiencing unrest in their countries, especially in Haiti,
 Myanmar, and India
**We pray for all who mourn.**

**We pray for all who are infected with and/or affected by COVID:**  - Donna Marton’s brother, Richard, in a nursing home recovering from Covid
  - prayers for parents, guardians, teachers, students, and all who are trying to navigate school and sports during this pandemic
 - prayers for those who want vaccinations but are unable to find appointments
 - those facing unforeseen consequences from the pandemic
**We pray for all who are dealing with mental or physical health challenges.** - Grace is recovering from surgery on her broken hip. She is recovering at Oak Brook Care: Grace Van Beveren, c/o Oak Brook Care, 2013 Midwest Road, Oak Brook, IL 60523-1312.
 - Pat Wiedner’s brother, Terry, recovering from surgery
  - those who are having medical procedures or undergoing tests
 - all those our country who are still recovering from the effects of extreme weather.
**We pray for all who are affected by cancer:** - DeShaune, who has thyroid cancer. She is the sister of Wendy’s friend, Tiffany.
 - Devin Leftwich, who has cancer
 - the Joel Jupp family – his wife’s cancer has returned
 - Tracy, a friend of the Schmidts, recovering from cancer surgery
 - Kurt Parent and his wife, Marla. Kurt is recovering from extensive surgery for
 esophageal cancer.
  - Haley Jablonski, whose cancer has returned
  - Lanny’s friend, Tony Bednarz, diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia
  - the Bohis’ friend, Teri, with recurring breast cancer
  - Sandy Lopata’s friend, Rebecca Moeckler, who has pancreatic cancer
**We pray for those who are far from home:**  - the many children who were separated from their parents at the U.S.-Mexican border
 and whose parents still haven’t been found. Praise God there have been some reunions!
 - the dramatic increase in the number of unaccompanied children who are arriving at the U.S.-Mexican border

**We continue to pray for our friends and family in the health fields**:
Nurses:
Andee 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: taking a new job as Assistant Director for the Boston Environmental Health Department
Sammie Dearing: phlebotomy technician (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 varied pressures of Covid. Some have been vaccinated, some have not. There are frustrations around vaccinations. There is concern about new variations of the virus. There are more than health concerns; there are economic, emotional, and spiritual concerns as well throughout our nation and the world. There is also understandable unrest in our nation around the world issues of race, justice, and disparities of many kinds. 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. Hold the world in your hands and offer the world to God as we trust in God’s grace and mercy.

**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 during March, call Deacon Angela Smith (630-235-1376). 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:***