**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**5th Sunday in Lent or the 54th Sunday of Covid**

**March 21, 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:  *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say; Come to Me, O Weary Traveler;
 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us; Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory;
 We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding; Shine, Jesus, Shine*

Our slideshow today is about our Congregational Care Ministry-Helping Hands. You are invited to join this ministry, either as a onetime opportunity or as a regular member.

 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 31:14-17b)

 Leader: But we trust in you, O Lord; we say, “You are our God.”

 **People:** **Our times are in your hands; deliver us.**

 Leader: May your face shine upon us.

 **All:** **Save us in your steadfast love.**

 Hymn: *10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)*  Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin

**Bless the Lord, oh my soul,**

**Oh my soul,**

**Worship His holy name.**

**Sing like never before,**

**O my soul,**

**I'll worship Your holy name.**

**The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;**

**It's time to sing Your song again.**

**Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,**

**Let me be singing when the evening comes.**

**Bless the Lord, oh my soul,**

**Oh my soul,**

**Worship His holy name.**

**Sing like never before,**

**O my soul,**

**I'll worship Your holy name.**

**You’re rich in love and you’re slow to anger,**

**Your name is great and your heart is kind;**

**For all your goodness I will keep on singing,**

**Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.**

**Bless the Lord, oh my soul,**

**Oh my soul,**

**Worship His holy name.**

**Sing like never before,**

**O my soul,**

**I'll worship Your holy name.**

 Prayer of Confession:

**We seek to thrive in your grace, but even so, we find that we withhold it from others. We shut others down or mock them. Forgive us and help us to walk the path of love and light that you call us to through Jesus Christ, who is both savior and Lord. 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 Sarah Allen

 For children worshiping in the sanctuary, please stay with your families during the Word
 with Children. When our Covid rules change, we will welcome you back up front.

 Prayer for Illumination

 Scripture Lesson: Luke 18:31–19:10

 Sermon: “The Long and the Short of It”

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison) (Colossians 3:13)

**Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lordhas forgiven you, so you also must forgive.**

 Hymn 726: *Will You Come and Follow Me* (verses 1, 5)

**“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?**

**Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?**

**Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;**

**Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”**

**Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.**

**Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.**

**In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.**

**Thus I’ll move and love and grow in you and you in me.**

 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: *Amazing Grace*

 \**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 806: *I’ll Praise My Maker*  (verses 3, 4)

**The Lord pours eyesight on the blind;**

**The Lord supports the fainting mind**

**And sends the laboring conscience peace.**

**God helps the stranger in distress,**

**The widowed and the parentless,**

**And grants the prisoner sweet release.**

**I’ll praise my Maker while I’ve breath;**

**And when my voice is lost to death,**

**Praise shall employ my nobler powers.**

**My days of praise shall ne’er be past**

**While life and thought and being last,**

**Or immortality endures.**

 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, Jessica Parks

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

The flowers today are given by Heidi & Steve Shierry in honor of their 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 (50 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 deep into our study of 1 Peter, now. But that does not mean that you cannot jump in! At 11:15 on Sunday morning, follow the Zoom link below to be a part of a meaningful and satisfying study. God’s word can change us, for the better! Use 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 most Sundays (though not tonight or on Easter Sunday) at 7:00 via Zoom. You can get the link to Zoom from Tricia Smith.

For the slide shows on Palm Sunday (March 28) and Easter (April 4), 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. **Easter Saturday Celebration
April 3 - guests arriving between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.**
Southminster's Easter Saturday Celebration is fun for our families, and is also open to the community. In normal years, we have welcomed more than 350 guests to this event, not even counting our own volunteers. It is Southminster's largest outreach program. Adjusting to pandemic conditions, this year's event will be outdoors, and socially distanced, with all participants age 2 and up wearing masks. No breakfast will be served this year.

The fun is just around the corner. Here's how you can still help:
1. **Donate Amazon.com gift cards!** (Today is the last Jubilee bucks order date prior to the celebration.) 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).
2. **Spread the word!**

* Invite family and friends
* Share our Facebook notice, both to your own page, and also to neighborhood, village, school or family oriented Facebook groups. We have posted information about the event on Southminster's Facebook page, which you may “share”.

3. **Volunteer to help on April 3** - we need lots of helpers at church, starting at 8 a.m. This year, please let Wendy know if you can help. (Please leave a voice mail message at church - 630/469-9149, or email wendy@southminsterpc.org.) We will be outdoors, wearing masks, and staying socially distant.
 **Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Youth**:  Let’s go fly a kite! Got a kite? Bring in tonight to our Pizza-less games, and we will figure out which of the trees on the church campus is the kite-eating tree. It all happens from 5:00-6:30 p.m. The event is BYOK—bring your own kite. Also, bring your mask and keep on social distancing.

Got talent?  Southminster’s annual **Talent Show** returns this year on April 18. So, we need your talent! This year’s show will be in a hybrid format to make things Covid-safe. So, work up an act and record it, then just sit back and watch yourself on show night as it is streamed into your living room. Performers, we need to know who you are and what you act is by April 1. Need help recording your act? We can do that. Contact Blair at blair@southminsterpc.org or 630-917-6035 to register your act and request help with recording. So, dig out your talent from the back of the closet, and dust it off. It is time to dazzle the world!

 **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 25: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/heaven-and-earth>
 **Presbyterian Women’s Circle:** Between **March 23rd and 31st** be sure to shop at *Alla Moda Boutique,* at 524 Duane Street in Glen Ellyn. The proprietor, Amie Cantarella, is offering a 20% donation on any purchase 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 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.
 **From the Worship Ministry:** - Worship Ministry is seeking musicians, liturgists, and Word with Children speakers. These can be pre-recorded. We also are seeking readers for upcoming Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Contact Sarah Allen (ridesrowdy@aol.com) if you are willing to participate.
 **Notes from the Mission Ministry
 - March Mission Madness:** The NCAA men’s basketball tournament is in full swing! Follow your brackets at the ESPN web site or contact Troy Hammer at hammer.troy@gmail.com for updates. Cheer for your favorite teams, and cheer for Southminster’s supported missions! **- 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):Orders for gift cards will be taken today, March 21, until 9:00 p.m. Plan ahead for your Easter dinner or for Easter baskets. Remember that you can help the Easter Saturday Celebration with gifts of Amazon.com cards. (There is a special order form for this.) To order email bobbifrey@aol.com with merchant, number and amount of cards, and total of order. The order forms can be found on our web site and are also included every Friday along with the Sunday bulletin.

Looking ahead: since the first Sunday in April is Easter, we will not place an order then, but rather on April 11, the 2nd Sunday of next month.

**Donations for PRC** (also from Bobbi Frey):
Thanks to all who have donated to PRC during this last year. For 51 weeks your donations of canned goods, produce, meats, paper goods, diapers and personal products have been greatly appreciated by their many clients! No donation is too small. The box is out 24/7 on the front porch at 2S033 Taylor, GE.

**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 Heidi and Steve Shierry in honor of their wedding anniversary
 - Sandy and Ned Lopata celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary yesterday (Saturday. March 20)
  - Dan Bohi, whose surgery last Friday went well. He is now starting a new treatment.
  - Craig and Sarah Allen celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary
 - Art Fournier, having another heart procedure this week
  - Kylie, a 6th grader who is a member of Wendy’s mother’s church. She underwent open heart surgery last Friday and is doing beautifully.
  - 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:**  - Chris Vanderford, still recovering from 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.
 - people struggling with difficult family concerns
 - Marc, who has heart issues in addition to kidney failure
  - Nancy Wolfe, effects of concussion
 - a friend in chronic pain
 - 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:** - Betsy’s friend, Heidi, and her niece, Jess, both fighting cancer
  - Lisa B undergoing treatment for Stage 4 colon cancer that has metastasized to her lungs
 - 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:***