**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**4th Sunday of Easter or the 59th Sunday of Covid**

**April 25, 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:  *Lord, You Give the Great Commission; Help Us Accept Each Other;
 I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me; Lord, I Want to Be a Christian;
 Make Me a Captive, Lord; O for a World*

Our slideshow today is the Talent Show, which supports the Youth Summer Mission Trip.

 Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Mission

 Lighting the Candles (Luke 7:22)

**Jesus, through your coming the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. Blessed are we when we take no offense at you.**

 Improvisational Prelude

 Call to Worship (John 11:25)

 Leader: Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me,
 even though they die, will live.”

 **People: And so we come, Lord, to worship the source of our lives.**

 **All: For the Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!**

 Hymn: *Lift High the Cross*

(Refrain)**:
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow where the Master trod,
 our King victorious, Christ the Son of God.**

**(Refrain)**

 **2. Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
 the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine.**

**(Refrain)**

 Prayer of Confession:

**Lord God, you came and lived as one of us to show us how to love each other. You came and died to show us the price you were willing to pay for that love. And yet, we forget too easily to pass that love on to our fellow human beings. Nudge us, God, when we stray, and guide us to better imitate you. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is our savior and Lord. Amen.**

 (Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

 Declaration of the Grace of God/Assurance of Pardon (Romans 8:33-34)

 Leader: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn?

 **People: Only Christ, and Christ died for us,**

 Leader: Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us,

 **People: Christ intercedes for us.**

 **All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Alleluia!**

 Response: *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

**Jesus is the Lord of all the earth.**

**He is the King of creation.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

 The Passing of the Peace

 Word with Children Christine Olfelt and Ellie

 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: Acts 8:26-39

 Sermon: “The Gospel Spreads” Dr. Christine Olfelt

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)
 (taken from 1 Corinthians 15:1-7, 20)

**This is the good news which was proclaimed to us, which we in turn received, in which also we stand, through which also we are being saved, if we hold firmly to the message that was proclaimed to us…: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time…then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. For Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.**

 Hymn 462: *I Love to Tell the Story* (verse 1)

**I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know ’tis true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.**

**I love to tell the story, ‘twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

 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: *And Can It Be That I Should Gain* Charles Wesley/Thomas Campbell

 \**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: *Jesus Saves!*

**We have heard the joyful sound: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!**

**Spread glad tidings all around: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!**

**Bear the news to every land, Climb the steps and cross the waves;**

**Onward ‘tis our Lord’s command; Jesus saves! Jesus saves!**

 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

Rev. Dr. Blair Nelson

Dr. Christine Olfelt

Musician: Tom Anderson

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

The flowers today are given in appreciation of Christine Olfelt’s ministry at Southminster.

Join us for **Zoom fellowship** at 10:30 a.m. following the worship service.
Our fellowship Zoom in April is hosted by Paul Jeziorski: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4927264659>
No ID or password needed.

You are invited to join us on Facebook ([https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/](https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)), 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, special services, and Sunday worship 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 finished 1 Peter last Sunday, and this Sunday we begin Obadiah. That is one of the tiny books in the minor prophets, one that you may have never read or even heard of. In many ways it is a typical book of prophecy announcing destruction on the enemies of the people of God. Boring? Not really, especially considering the target of Obadiah’s prophecy is Edom, the descendent of Esau, Israel’s brother! Want to talk family conflict? Join us at 11:15 via this Zoom 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 at 7:00 via Zoom. You can get the link to Zoom from Tricia Smith.

Please join us today between 1 and 2:00 p.m., as we host a **Drive-Through Send Off for Christine Olfelt**, to thank her for her service to Southminster over the last three years. Cars will come into the circle drive, so the driver's side faces the portico, where Christine will be greeting people. Deacons will be there to help direct you. You will have an opportunity to thank Christine for her contributions, wish her good luck on her new opportunity, and pick up packaged treats to celebrate. Please plan to join us!
 **Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Youth**: **Pizzaless Games** this evening from 5:00-6:30. Hopefully we can be outside, playing games and chatting, enjoying the post-Talent Show afterglow! Bring your mask, bring your friends, and we will enjoy ourselves while keeping our distance. Prepare for our “Deep Thoughts” by asking yourself, “What keeps me entertained?”

**Talent Show Online**!  Our annual Talent Show returned last Sunday! So good to see that Southminster still has talent after a year of the pandemic. Thanks to all who brought their talent and, thanks, as always, to our MC, Sean Salins, and our tech guy, David Kozich. We hope that you all enjoyed the show. You can view the recording here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzdXlZ3KkA8&t=23s> (ignore the fact that it is labeled “Presbyterian Women.” It’s not!) or here: [Talent Show on FaceBook](https://www.facebook.com/102369361444250/videos/290047109435677).

**Rummage Sale**:  Our Talent Show was revived this year, and so will be our annual Rummage Sale. Like the Talent Show, it is a fundraiser for the Youth Mission Team, who will be going to Mission, S.D., for a week of workcamp, fixing and painting homes of folks who need the help. The sale will be June 5-6, with the following weekend as a rain date. As you do your spring cleaning, please consider keeping items to donate for the sale. **Items can be dropped off in Fellowship Hall beginning after worship on May 30.** It is a huge help if you could price your donated items. Stickers will be available in on the name-tag counter just inside the main entry for the church. You can use masking tape, instead, if that is more convenient.

 **Notes from Christine Olfelt:**
From Ellie the Elephant: I regret to say that although I love it at Southminster, I am leaving with Christine in May. ☹ So, all you peanut-loving folks, we need you to step up and present the Word with Children beginning May 9th. The texts are:
May 9 : Living by Faith Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21
~~May 16 : Clothed in Christ Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29~~ Meredith Darbyshire claimed this one
May 23: Pentecost; Fruit of the Spirit Acts 2:1-4; Galatians 4:1-7 [5:16-26]

Please contact Christine@southminsterpc.org and volunteer! You can do this in person or pre-recorded.

 **Notes from the Mission Ministry****March Mission Madness:** We’d like to wrap up this effort before the next one – Gifts Grow – begins! If you registered but didn’t send in your $15 per bracket, please (ASAP!) mail or drop off your check payable to Southminster with March Mission Madness on the memo line. Mark it to the attention of Tom Frey, and thank you.

 **Jubilee Bucks** (from Bobbi Frey):Next Sunday, May 2, is your next chance to order - just in time for Mother’s Day! To date we have made $625.19 in “free money” from your orders!

**Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)** (also from Bobbi Frey):
It is incredible how the donations just keep coming! Monday marked the 56th week of donations! Many thanks for your support! Nonperishable food, toiletries, and household products can be left 24/7 in the box on the 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.

***Friends, with our new communication style the eNotes Joys and Concerns (sent most Wednesdays) will include new information and members’ ongoing concerns. For the eNotes/Dialog (sent on the first Wednesday of the month) and Sunday bulletins our list will be full and complete.*

Joys and Concerns**
 - Ed Koska celebrated his 90th birthday on April 21
 - Betsy Rogers, health concerns
 - concerns for the Rogers and the water damage to their home
 - destruction by wildfire of the University of Cape Town’s library
  - 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 those 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.
  - Nancy Wolfe, effects of concussion
  - people struggling with difficult family concerns
  - Pat Wiedner’s brother, Terry, recovering in a nursing facility
**We pray for all who are affected by cancer:**  - Haley Jablonski, whose cancer has returned. She will be going back to college soon.
 - Dan Bohi, who is continuing a new treatment
 - Lynn Smith, the sister of Steve Sanders and mother of Traci Smith, who has a return of cancer growth  - Betsy’s friend, Heidi, and her niece, Jess, both fighting cancer
 - We rejoice for Lanny’s friend, Tony Bednarz, who got a super report on his bone marrow biopsy. We continue to pray for his good health.
  - 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, friend of Wendy’s – his wife’s cancer has returned
  - Tracy, a friend of the Schmidts, recovering from cancer surgery and has had recent good news
  - Kurt Parent and his wife, Marla. Kurt is recovering from extensive surgery for esophageal cancer. He is doing well and is trying to gain weight.
  - the Bohis’ friend, Teri, who is recovering and doing well from her breast cancer surgery
  - Sandy Lopata’s friend, Rebecca Moeckler, who has pancreatic cancer and is struggling with chemo
**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 unaccompanied children 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 daughters 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 and 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:**Health Department workers
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 and 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 April, 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:***