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| We listen | We pass the peace | We read along | We give our offering of time, talent and treasure | We stand | We sing if we are at home | We pray | We respond | We participate  in the Word  with Children |

(Kids – use your worship packet and the tools listed at the end of the bulletin to do all these things.)

**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.

**** 1 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.

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**** 2 Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Mission

3 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.**

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4 Improvisational Prelude

**** 5 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!**

**** 6 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)**

**** 7 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)

**** 8 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!**

**** 9 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.**

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10 The Passing of the Peace

11 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.

****12 Prayer for Illumination

13 Scripture Lesson: Acts 8:26-39

14 Sermon: “The Gospel Spreads” Dr. Christine Olfelt

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Children, as you listen to the sermon, you may want to choose an activity   
from the children’s packet that will help you think about what you hear in the sermon.

15 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.**

****16 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.**

****17 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.**

****Children, draw or write something you would like to say to God in prayer this morning.   
If you want to share it with the church, you may also leave a message   
on the church phone line.

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

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

****19 \**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.**

****20 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

****21 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!**

22 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.**

****23 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.

**Good Morning to our Children:**

To complete all the activities in this worship folder you will need:

* ears to hear
* a mouth to sing
* hands to fold
* eyes to read
* a brain to think
* a worship kit including:
  + something to color with – crayons, markers or colored pencils
  + something to write with, like a pen or pencil
  + something to write on, like a table or a clipboard
  + scissors and tape

If you would like a worship kit for your child, please contact [Christine@southminsterpc.org](mailto:Christine@southminsterpc.org) and one will come to you!

**A Guide to Our Worship Symbols**

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| Ear | **We listen**: “Basically, the sermon is God’s dynamic, eternal Word spoken to us in such a way that we might hear what God has to say to us and be encouraged to follow the Lord  in faith. |
| Dove | **We pass the peace**: “…We greet one another with the peace of Christ as common forgiven sinners. As we are forgiven, so we forgive. This is also a good time to reconcile with those family members who drove us crazy trying to get to church on time, church members with whom we have tensions, or people we're not so happy to see.” |
| Open book | **We read along**: “God’s Word comes to us in many ways—through scripture, special music, sermons. Listen for God's eternal Word addressing you with good news about the Lord’s love for you and all people.” |
|  | **We give our offering of time, talent, and treasure**: “This is the time when we give ourselves, all that we are, and all that we have, to God’s service. As a symbol of what is of value to us, we make an offering… to promote the gospel.” |
| Man with kid | **We stand**: “We stand as a way of saying, “This is where I stand,” and as a way of standing in continuity with the people of God of ages past…” |
| Music notes | **We sing**: “…We sing praise with hearts and minds (even if that's a little out of tune), just enjoying God for who God is. As we open up the pathways of breath to sing praise, we make space for the Spirit breath to fill us.” Even if we simply listen and read the words, we are praising God. |
|  | **We pray**: The first thing we do is pray—for our world, the church, other people, and ourselves. The prayer is our prayer as a church. One person may pray for us, but we are all praying together as one in our hearts, continuing Christ’s ministry of prayer for the world.” |
| Pencil | **We respond**: Responding by writing or drawing helps us remember what we are hearing and is a chance to express our beliefs. |
| Children | **We participate in the Word with Children**: It is called the Word WITH Children because the whole church is invited to listen with the fresh, faith-filled ears of children to the proclaimed message. |

Quotations for our Worship Symbols Guide are taken from *Our Order of Worship* by Teresa Lockhart Stricklen, Associate for Worship, Presbyterian Church (USA), found at <https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/theologyandworship/pdfs/order_of_worship_brochure_dec_2008.pdf>. Edited.