**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**17th Sunday after Pentecost or the 90th Sunday of Covid**

**September 19, 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: *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright; My Faith Looks Up to Thee;
 O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go; Precious Lord, Take My Hand;
 Standing on the Promises*

Our slideshow today is “Presbyterian Readers”

 Welcome, Announcements, Moment for Mission

 Lighting the Candles (Ephesians‬ 5:8-9‬ NRSV)

**For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children
of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.**

 Improvisational Prelude

 Call to Worship (1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 27)

 Leader: There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

 **People: There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.**

 Leader: God works through each person in a unique way,
 but it is God’s purpose that is accomplished.

 **People: To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.**

 **All:** **Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.**

 Hymn:  *God of Wonders*  (verses 1-2?)

Verse 1

**Lord of all creation
Of water earth and sky
The heavens are Your tabernacle
Glory to the Lord on high**

Chorus

**God of wonders beyond our galaxy
You are holy holy
The universe declares Your majesty
You are holy holy
Lord of heaven and earth
Lord of heaven and earth**

Verse 2

**Early in the morning
I will celebrate the light
When I stumble in the darkness
I will call Your name by night**

Chorus

**God of wonders beyond our galaxy
You are holy holy
The universe declares Your majesty
You are holy holy
Lord of heaven and earth
Lord of heaven and earth**

CCLI Song # 3118757

Marc Byrd | Steve Hindalong

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 Prayer of Confession:

**Mighty and merciful God, you have called us to be your people and claimed us for the service of Jesus Christ. We confess that we have not lived up to our calling. We have been timid and frightened disciples, forgetful of your powerful presence and the strength of your Spirit among us. We pray in the name of 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 (Psalm 103:8-12, edited)

 Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious;
     slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

 **People: He does not deal with us according to our sins,
     nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

 Leader: As far as the east is from the west,
     so far he removes our transgressions from us.

 **All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Alleluia!**

 Response 582: *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,**

**And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,**

**And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

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 The Passing of the Peace

 Word with Children Melissa Hammer

 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

 Genesis 15:1-6

 Sermon: “Laughing in the Dark”

 Hymn 69: *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)* (verse 2 + refrain)

Verse 2

**I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people’s pain.**

**I have wept for love of them. They turn away.**

**I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.**

**I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?**

Refrain

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?**

**I have heard you calling in the night.**

**I will go, Lord, if you lead me.**

**I will hold your people in my heart.**

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(Elders to be ordained/installed, please meet in the back of the sanctuary during the hymn.)

 Ordination and Installation of Elders

Presentation

**To be Ordained and Installed as Elders**

 Kathy Sanders, Class of 2023

 Jay Lerch, Class of 2024

 Will Perkinson, Class of 2023, will be ordained/installed October 31.

**To be Installed as Elders**

 Steve Henkels, Class of 2023

 Victor King, Class of 2024

 Sean Salins, Class of 2024

 Andrea Schmidt, Class of 2024

 Our Common Ministry

 Questions to Elders

 Questions to the Congregation

 Leader: Do we, the members of the church, accept these people as elders,
 chosen by God through the voice of this congregation
 to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

 **All: We do.**

 Leader: Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions,
 and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ
 who alone is head of the Church?

 **All: We do.**

 Prayer of Ordination

 Congregational Prayer (unison)

**Gracious God, pour out your Spirit of power and truth upon the whole church
that we may be for you a holy people, baptized to serve you in the world.
Sustain this congregation in ministry. Ground us in the gospel, secure our hope in Christ, strengthen our service to the outcast, and increase our love for one another.
Show us the transforming power of your grace in our life together, that we may be servants of the gospel, offering a compelling witness in the world to the good news
of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

 Welcome to Ministry

 Response: *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)*

Refrain

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?**

**I have heard you calling in the night.**

**I will go, Lord, if you lead me.**

**I will hold your people in my heart.**

 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: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

 \**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 836: *Abide with Me*  (verses 1, 3)

**Abide with me: fast falls the eventide.**

**The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!**

**When other helpers fail and comforts flee,**

**Help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**I need thy presence every passing hour;**

**What by thy grace can foil the tempter’s power?**

**Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?**

**Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.**

 Charge and Benediction

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

 Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden

Liturgists: Ann Anderson, Blair Nelson

Musicians: Tom Anderson; the Southminster Singers

Worship Associate: David Kozich

Tech support: Ron Birchall, Steve Henkels, Chris Kozich

The flowers today are given by Beth Bonde in memory of James Bonde.

If you are present for worship, following the service you are invited by the deacons to gather for **in-person fellowship** of beverages and conversation out in front of the building. Please wait until you are outside to visit.

If you are online, join us for **Zoom fellowship** at 10:30 a.m. following the worship service. Heidi Shierry will host this week. Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87217989949?pwd=cVByMWtVaXhKZG9TR1dZZXFIOS9wQT09>
Meeting ID: 872 1798 9949 Passcode: 728773

You are invited to join us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>), where we have a live sharing of “**Heart to Heart**” with Pastor Wendy Boden Tuesday through Friday at 4:16 p.m.

Even though we have returned to in-person worship, we will also continue to be live on **Sunday morning for worship** at 9:30 a.m. (slideshow beginning at 9:15)
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** – 11:15 a.m. via Zoom. Our study of Micah continues today. Join us for edifying study, good conversation, and fine fellowship: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82920574961?pwd=dEwxU2NhaFM5VWhPSzBtYkZvUld2dz09>
Meeting ID: 829 2057 4961 Passcode: 537355

**Slideshows help us feel connected! Please help us by sharing your photos.**Our pre worship slideshows are one way for our church family and friends to enrich our connections. Some slideshows don’t need any additional photos, but we can use your help with these upcoming slideshows:
**September 26: “Back to School**” Send photos to Wendy@southminsterpc.org by this Tuesday, September 21.
**October 3 (World Communion Sunday)**: people showing their **favorite breads** from home. Please send your photos to Lynn Ferino by September 30: lynnferino1188@comcast.net.
**October 10, 17, 24, and 31 have a single theme: “Now Thank We All Our God.**” Please send pictures of things you are thankful for to Chris Kozich: text 630/673-4286 or email kintonck@gmail.com.

If you have skill with PowerPoint, please connect with Wendy at Wendy@southminsterpc.org.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**

**Youth**: Food and fun! Join us for **Pizza & Games** today, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Bring $5 for the food, a smile, a mask to hide the smile, and expectations for a good time. We will be outside as much as the weather allows, so some bug juice would also be a good idea.

**Session** meets this Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the parlor. Elders, moderators, and staff: if you have reports, motions, or information items for the docket, please turn them in ***by noon tomorrow – Monday, September 20***.

**From the Mission Ministry**
**This is the last week to bring in your gently-worn shoes**! From now through September 26, Mission is collecting used shoes of all kinds – children’s, men’s, women’s, sandals, and boots. There is a collection box in the entryway of our church plus rubber bands; please band together each pair of shoes before putting them in the box.
**The Peace and Global Witness Offering**: Our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA), works for peace and reconciliation, supported by gifts to the Peace and Global Witness Offering, which we will collect during the month of September. The theme this year is “Peace at all times in all ways.” 25% of our offering goes to a local mission; this year it will be World Relief. Please write “Peace & Global Witness” on the memo line of your check when you mail it in or bring it to church. There will be a few envelopes available at the area where you get a name tag if you are attending worship, although an envelope is not necessary. This offering will be dedicated on October 3, World Communion Sunday.

**From the Worship Ministry
Flowers for worship:** Do you have a person or an occasion you would like to honor with a flower arrangement for a worship service? We have openings coming up on October 24 and 31. Sign up on the flower chart in the narthex or contact Sarah Allen: 630-988-8231 or ridesrowdy@aol.com.

Worship is seeking **liturgists**. If you have never done so, take a leap of faith and try it! Wendy and seasoned liturgists will train/assist you. The sanctuary congregation is very small, very friendly, and after seeing how easy it is—hopefully, you will feel comfortable to keep on, even with a fuller congregation. It is a truly wonderful way to serve Him! Contact Sarah Allen (630-988-8231 or ridesrowdy@aol.com) or Pastor Wendy.

Worship is also seeking **ushers** comfortable being back in the sanctuary. If interested, please contact Lanny Russell. (630-738-3600 or lansonrussell@aol.com)

If you have **musical talent**, we need you! If you can serve Him in this capacity, please contact Tom Anderson, Music Director. (651-246-5029 or tomanderson101@gmail.com).

 **Jubilee Bucks** (from Bobbi Frey):
So far this year we have earned $1,359.84 in “free” money for the church by the sale of Jubilee Bucks! Our next sale date will be Sept. 26, followed by Oct. 10 and 24.

**Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)** (also from Bobbi Frey):
This week marks the 78th weekly delivery of food, paper goods, and toiletries to PRC. Any size donation is welcome. No donation is too small. The support of our church to people in need is amazing! Items can be dropped off at the box in the entry way of the church or else at the Freys’ front porch. Our deliveries to PRC usually take place on Mondays.

**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**
 - The flowers today are from Beth Bonde in memory of Jim.

**We pray for the whole world and our nation:**- those who are in danger in Afghanistan and those who are fleeing after the takeover by the Taliban
  - all who are affected by natural disasters: wildfires raging in the western U.S., Canada, and Greece; those in the path of hurricanes and tropical storms
  - Pray for an end to gun violence in our nation.
  - We pray for our sister church in Cuba and for the Cuban people in this time of political protest and very difficult economic conditions in that country. In addition, they are experiencing a surge in COVID cases and cannot obtain enough syringes to vaccinate people rapidly.
  - Prayers for Haiti, Afghanistan, Colombia, Myanmar, India, Palestine, Brazil, and Greece
  - We continue to pray for peace in the Holy Land.

**We pray for those who mourn:**  - the Jablonski family – Heather, Dave, and Max – and their extended family and friends, especially the young adults who were Haley’s friends, following Haley’s death. Her funeral was held at Southminster on August 9. Send cards to: The Jablonski Family, 1930 Keim Drive, Wheaton, IL 60189
  - the family, friends, and co-workers of Trish Longo, a member of Hope Presbyterian. Pastor Wendy officiated her service on Saturday.
  - the family and friends of Jane Fleming Lincoln, Gretchen’s sister-in-law
  - the family and friends of Scott Bromann
  - the family and friends of Steve Nichols
  - the family and friends of Ryan Holdway, a friend of Angela Smith’s family
  - those who have lost family and friends in Afghanistan
  - those who have lost family and friends to Hurricane Ida

**We pray for all who are affected by cancer:**
  - Dan Bohi
  - Prayers for Parveen Werner, mother of four, suffering from pancreatic cancer, for relief of pain and for comfort , as she faces difficult test results. She is a relative of Chris Kozich.
  - Shelayne Larson, a friend of Angela Smith, diagnosed with lung cancer

**We pray for all who are infected with and/or affected by COVID:**
  - Prayers for all who are trying to navigate reopening of school and other activities, and all those who are still feeling vulnerable.
  - those facing unforeseen consequences from the pandemic

**We pray for all who are dealing with mental or physical health challenges.** - Dave Zink, who is hospitalized
 - Hal Ellinghausen, also hospitalized
  - Caroline D. in California, hospitalized with a blood clot in her lung. She is a friend of Barb and her daughter, Becky.
  - Linda Meester, awaiting test results
  - Kathy and Steve Sanders request prayers for Liz Kuziak Dawson, who is on the mend. She is the wife of Kathy’s brother, Dan.
- those who struggle with depression
  - Judith, a friend of the Ellsworths, who has continuing health and financial issues
  - people struggling with difficult family concerns
  - Marie Shepherd, who is continuing in care
  - Bill Curry and Gretchen Fleming, and Gretchen’s niece, Kate
  - Betsy Rogers’s health
  - Lynn Smith, sister of Steve Sanders and mother of Traci Smith, who has health concerns

**We pray for those who are far from home:**
  - Luke
  - for the reunion of children and parents at the U.S.-Mexican border

**We continue to pray for our friends and family in the health fields**: **nurses, doctors, and all other health care workers.**
**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

**Local government bodies/boards**: Prayers for the DuPage County Board, the Village of Glen Ellyn Board, and the boards of the local school districts: 41, 44, 87, 89, 200, COD

**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 September call Deacon Heidi Shierry (630-853-6836). 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 when she is in the office.) You may also **call your deacon** if you need help from the church.

Barb is in the office most Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings (8:45-11:00 most days) now that her son has resumed part-time attendance at his day program.

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!

**Dates to remember this week:**   **Collection of gently-used shoes** (ends on Sept. 26)
**Sunday, September 19**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook; **Ordination/Installation of Elders** during worship
 **Outdoor Fellowship** following the service for those who worship in person
  **Online** **Fellowship** at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom
 **Adult Ed**. **Bible Study** at 11:15 a.m. via Zoom
 **Youth: Pizza & Games** from 5:00-7:00 p.m.
**Monday, September 20:
 Note that Session meets Tuesday, September 21. Staff and moderators, turn in your reports, motions, and other docket items** **by noon.**
**Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** live on Facebook at 4:16 p.m.
**Tuesday, September 21** **Deadline for Wednesday’s eNotes** Presbytery Assembly at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom
 **Session** at 7:30 p.m. in the parlor
 A.A.at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, September 22**
 **eNotes** will go out
**Friday, September 24**
 A.A**.** at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall **Next Sunday, September 26
Order Jubilee Bucks** by 9:00 pm. Email bobbifrey@aol.com
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **Outdoor Fellowship** following the service for those who worship in person
  **Online** **Fellowship** at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom
 **Adult Ed**. **Bible Study** at 11:15 a.m. via Zoom
 **Youth?** Watch for info from Blair

***Prayer requests:***