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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**

**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.

**** 1 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”

2 Welcome, Announcements, Moment for Mission

**** 3 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.**

**** 4 Improvisational Prelude

**** 5 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.**

**** 6 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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 7 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)

**** 8 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!**

**** 9 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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10 The Passing of the Peace

11 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.

****12 Prayer for Illumination

13 Scripture Lessons: Genesis 18:10-15

Genesis 15:1-6



****14 Sermon: “Laughing in the Dark”

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 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.)

16 Ordination and Installation of Elders

16a 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

16b Our Common Ministry

16c Questions to Elders

16d 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.**



16e Prayer of Ordination

16f Congregational Prayer (unison)

**A picture containing wrench, tool

Description automatically generated****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.**

16g 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.**

****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: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

****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 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.**

22 Charge and Benediction

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

****23 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.

**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 Pastor Wendy ([wendy@southminsterpc.org](mailto:wendy@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.