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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**

**18th Sunday after Pentecost or the 81st Sunday of Covid**

**September 26, 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: *Open My Eyes, That I May See; Listen to the Word That God Has Spoken;   
 Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet; My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

****Our slideshow today is “Sunflowers and Students: Farewell summer, welcome autumn.”

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 (Psalm 139)

Leader: O Lord, you have searched us and known us. Where can we go from your spirit?

**People: Or where can we flee from your presence?**

Leader: In your book were written all the days that were formed for us,

**All:** **We come to the end—we are still with you. Let us worship God.**

**** 6 Hymn:  *He Knows My Name*

Verse 1

**I have a Maker  
He formed my heart  
Before even time began  
My life was in His hand**

Chorus

**He knows my name  
He knows my every thought  
He sees each tear that falls  
And hears me when I call**

Verse 2

**I have a Father  
He calls me His own  
He'll never leave me  
No matter where I go**

CCLI Song # 2151368

Tommy Walker

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 7 Prayer of Confession:

**Lord God, you are from everlasting to everlasting, yet there are times when we fail to acknowledge or recognize you. We have allowed fear, shame, guilt, and self-reliance to blind us to your presence. Forgive us. Help us to see you in the moment-by-moment possibilities to live honestly, to act courageously, and to love sincerely. We ask this 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 Janey Sarther

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 28:10-17

John 1:50-51



****14 Sermon: “Dreaming 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 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)

(2 Corinthians 5:17-18 NRSV)

**So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation[.]**

****16 Hymn 686: *God of Our Life* (verses 2, 3)

**God of the past, our times are in your hand. With us abide.**

**Lead us by faith to hope’s true promised land. Be thou our guide.**

**With thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,**

**And faith’s fair vision changes into sight.**

**God of the coming years, through paths unknown we follow thee.**

**When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone. Our refuge be.**

**Be thou for us in life our daily bread.**

**Our heart’s true home when all our years have sped.**

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****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: *Wayfaring Stranger*

****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 65: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*  (verses 1, 2)

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.**

**I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.**

**Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;**

**Feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now thy crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.**

**Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.**

**Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;**

**Be thou still my strength and shield.**

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: Andrea Davidson, Blair Nelson

Musicians: Tom Anderson, Paul Jeziorski

Worship Associate: David Kozich

Tech support: Ron Birchall, Steve Henkels, Chris Kozich

The flowers today are given by Julie Storey, celebrating Clementine St. John’s birthday, and by the Ellinghausens in honor of their great-granddaughter, Amelia, being baptized today in Texas.

**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.