**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**3rd Sunday of Advent or the 92nd Sunday of Covid**

**December 12, 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

Our slideshow today is “People’s Resource Center’s Share the Spirit.”

 Welcome, Announcements, Moment for Mission

 Prelude: *The Holly and the Ivy*  arr. Miller

 Lighting the Advent Wreath

 Lighters: We light this candle as a sign of the light of Christ.
 Advent means coming.

 **All:** **Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

 Response (sung to the tune *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*)

**Candles glowing, promise showing
joy that fills our very soul.**

**Grace abounding, hymns resounding,
Christ restores and makes us whole.**

**Mercies gleaming, wonders beaming,
justice streaming, Christ redeeming –**

**Christ restores and makes us whole!
Christ restores and makes us whole!**

Tune: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*, public domain

Lyrics: Rev. Elana Keppel Levy, used with permission

 Call to Worship (Isaiah 11:6)

 Leader: Let us prepare for the day

 **People: When the wolf shall dwell with the lamb,**

 Leader: The calf and the lion and the fatling together,

 **All:** **And a little child shall lead them.**

 Hymn 97: *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* (verse 1)

**Watchman, tell us of the night,
What its signs of promise are.
Traveler, what a wondrous sight:
See that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray
News of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day,
Promised day of Israel.**

Public domain

 Prayer of Confession:

**Lord God, in this time of Advent, forgive us for all the times we have missed seeing you in our midst and for the times we have failed to hold the holidays as holy days. Pour peace into our lives and let us be bearers of your peace to others. Remind us that this is a season of waiting and preparation for the greatest gift of all. We ask in the name of Jesus Christ, who is both Lord and savior. Amen.**

 (Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

 Declaration of the Grace of God/Assurance of Pardon (Jer. 33:14a, 15; Rom. 13:11)

 Leader: The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
 when I will fulfill the promise.

 **People: Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed;**

 Leader: The night is far gone, the day is near.

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

 Response 314: *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness* (refrain)

**Christ, be our light!**

**Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.**

**Christ be our light!**

**Shine in your church gathered today.**

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 The Passing of the Peace

 Word with Children Misty Gaynair

 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 Lessons: Isaiah 55:1-3

 John 4:13-14

 Sermon: “The Word of the Lord: Isaiah”

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)
 from *The Confession of 1967* (9.26*)*

**Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.**

 Hymn 92: *While We Are Waiting, Come* (all 3 verses)

**While we are waiting, come;
While we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.**

**With power and glory, come;
With power and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.**

**Come, Savior, quickly come;
Come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.**

CCLI Song # 27525

Claire Cloninger | Don Cason

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 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: *Comfort, Comfort You My People*

Public domain

Johannes Olearius 1671 Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863

 Offering Response 123: *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* (verse 5)

**For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,**

**When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,**

**When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,**

**And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

Public domain

 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

 Hymn 93: *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* (all 3 verses)

**Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
Behold the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.**

**Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven’s employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.**

**Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel
Thy grace and love in me reveal.**

Public domain

 Charge and Benediction

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

 Postlude: *Sheep and Shepherd Medley*  arr. Bock

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden

Liturgists: Sarah Allen, Blair Nelson

Musicians: Cindy Trowbridge, Ron Birchall, Lynn Ferino, Southminster Singers

Advent Candles: Kathy and Steve Sanders

Worship Associate: David Kozich

Tech support: Ron Birchall, Steve Henkels, Chris Kozich

Flowers today are given by Sue Knisely in memory of her father, Howie Duell, and Hal Ellinghausen. Both were born on December 13.

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. In inclement weather (as determined by the Moderator of Deacons and the Pastor), fellowship will be in the narthex. No food or drinks will be served in the narthex at this time, and everyone will need to remain masked and distanced.

If you are online, join us for **Zoom fellowship** at 10:30 a.m. following the worship service. Paul Jeziorski will host the virtual fellowship today.
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4927264659>
No ID or Passcode needed.

 **Sunday Morning Adult Ed. Bible Study – 11:15 a.m. via Zoom.** We are looking at 1 John – a message of love and light. Join us from 11:15-12:15 by following this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82920574961?pwd=dEwxU2NhaFM5VWhPSzBtYkZvUld2dz09>
Meeting ID: 829 2057 4961 Passcode: 537355

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 at 4:16 p.m. each week Tuesday through Friday.

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>

**Bearing Fruit – December 12, 2021**

**People’s Resource Center’s “Share the Spirit”**

Our slide show today shows our support of the People’s Resource Center and its “Share the Spirit” program. During the pandemic we have borne the fruit of God’s love by our weekly gifts of groceries to the People’s Resource Center. This is one way for all of us to love our neighbors. For many years Southminster has supported “Share the Spirit,” which seeks to share the spirit of love and generosity of the Christmas season. Pre-pandemic, we not only donated but also helped clients with gift selection and wrapping.

Despite the limitations the pandemic has placed on us, we continue to support the PRC and “Share the Spirit.” In 2014 we donated 105 toys, 119 hats, 14 pairs of gloves, and $1,835 worth of Jubilee Bucks gift cards. In 2021 we donated $2,390 in gift cards plus 185 hats (175 from the hands of Bell Rajsl!), 4 scarves, 6 pairs of gloves, 1 pair of socks, and 13 family games.

We love because we are loved by God. May we all share the Spirit of Christmas.

**Welcome, Cindy Trowbridge!**

Our Music Director is away, so we welcome Cindy Trowbridge as our accompanist today. Cindy performs as a collaborative pianist in recitals and competitions throughout the Chicago area. A member of the piano faculty at the College of DuPage, she teaches private and class piano and serves as staff accompanist. Cindy also does extensive work as an accompanist for vocal and instrumental studios and recitals at Wheaton College. She is the principal pianist for Credo Flute summer festival, and has been the pianist for DuPage Opera Theater and music director for Wheaton College’s Opera Music Theater program.

**Slideshows help us feel connected!**Our pre worship slideshows are one way for our church family and friends to enrich our connections. Here are some slideshows for which we would like your contributions:
 Christmas Eve (Dec. 24): Christmas Candles
 December 26: Christmas Trees
Send photos to either Blair Nelson (blair@southminsterpc.org) or David Kozich (kozichd1@gmail.com) by December 19 for Christmas candles and by December 20 for Christmas trees.

If you have skill with PowerPoint or have an idea for a slideshow, please connect with Wendy at Wendy@southminsterpc.org. Please note that we try to confirm slideshow content a month in advance.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**

**Adult Education**: Our Sunday morning Bible study group has been blessed by our reading of 1 John. We meet at 11:15 a.m. through the Zoom link that is always in the Sunday bulletin Join us for study, conversation, laughter, and edification. What could be better?

**Youth and families,** keep an eye out for a message from Blair about Pizza & Games. Information about January and February events is coming soon.
**Presbyterian Readers** will meet this Wednesday, December 15, at 7:00 via Zoom to discuss *All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot. To join the book discussion, use the following link: [Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86861724721?pwd=TE0yYXZGZUtUNkdvYWh4UEhaTFc0dz09)
Meeting ID: 868 6172 4721 Passcode: 600865
The same Zoom link is good for the entire year.

The **Women’s Christmas Luncheon** will be held Friday, December 17, at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Orders for the box lunches have already been taken; if you haven’t yet paid Linda Ellinghausen, you may pay her at the luncheon. Karen and Tim Archbold will entertain us again with their beautiful Christmas music.  We will all be socially distanced, but it will be wonderful to get together again and to spread a little holiday cheer!

**From the Mission Ministry**We are once again collecting two Christmas offerings this year.
One is **the Christmas Joy Offering**, one of the special offerings that supports the work of our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA). 50% of that collection assists current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs and 50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related school and colleges equipping communities of color.

The other is our **Southminster Local Mission Offering**, an envelope illustrated with musical notes. 75% of what is collected from this offering goes into the 2022 Southminster Mission budget and the other 25% will be donated to our 2021 recipient, Bridge Communities.

The offering envelopes will be mailed to you instead of being put in the pews due to COVID. We will collect these offering throughout the month of December. You may bring them to church or mail them to the church office. (If you want to contribute but don’t have a designated envelope, be sure to write on the memo line of your check which offering you are supporting.)

 **From the Worship Ministry***Advent* means “coming,” so the Worship Ministry hopes you have been coming to our special December worship services, in person or virtually, celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are especially pleased to be able to worship in the sanctuary **on Christmas Eve. We will have a traditional service at 6:30 p.m.**, including reading the beloved, familiar Scriptures, singing carols, and closing with candlelight while singing *Silent Night* and *Joy to the World*.

Thanks to **everyone who ordered poinsettias** to beautify the sanctuary for Christmas. Please take them home after the service on Sunday, December 26, or pick them up in the narthex on Monday, December 27, from 10-11:00 a.m. (Sarah Allen will be at church.)

The **flower chart for 2022** is now posted in the narthex. Sign up to provide flowers in memory or in honor of someone, a special occasion, or simply in thanks for God’s grace.
If you’re not at church to sign up, contact Sarah Allen (630-988-8231 or ridesrowdy@aol.com) and let her know the date(s) you want and who/what you wish to honor.

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):
We finished the year with a large order of gift cards! Our total of “free” money earned for Southminster this year is $2,217.30!
You next chances to order are January 2 and 16.

**Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)** (also from Bobbi Frey):
It is amazing how many donations of food, paper products, toiletries, cleaning supplies and diapers we get on a weekly basis! All are greatly appreciated and definitely needed and used, so please keep those donations coming. Items can be left in the box in the entryway of church or on the Freys’ front porch. Thanks to everyone for all your support!

**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 given by Sue Knisely in memory of her father, Howie Duell, and Hal Ellinghausen. Both were born on December 13.
 **We pray for the whole world and our nation:**  - all who are affected by natural disasters: wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes, and tropical storms
  - Pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. We pray for the community of Oxford, Michigan, where a shooting at Oxford High School last week killed 4 students – Madisyn Baldwin, Tate Myre, Hana St. Juliana, and Justin Shilling – and injured several others.
  - Prayers for the people of Haiti, Ethiopia, Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Colombia, Myanmar, India, Palestine, and Brazil.
  - We continue to pray for peace in the Holy Land.
**We pray for those who mourn:**
 - the family and friends of longtime member Art Fournier, who died suddenly on December 2. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Art will be held at Southminster Thursday, December 16, at 11:00 a.m. You can send cards to Margaret at: 514 Robert Daniel Dr., Apt. 248, Daniel Island, SC 29492.
  - In this special season we remember the family and friends of other members who have died this year: Sue Hume, Haley Jablonski, Hal Ellinghausen, Dave Zink, Marie Shepherd, and Betsy Rogers.
 - Sui Mawi, who learned her father was killed “by fire” in Myanmar by the military there. She is very worried for her mother, as well. Her father’s name was Ngun Nei Thang.
 - Prayers for the family of Laura Taylor, a friend and colleague of Susie Salins, who died Tuesday from Covid. She is survived by her husband, Jason, 2 married sons and their wives, and grandbabies who adored her.
  - prayers for Chris Kozich’s sister-in-law, Yasmin Kinton, on the death of her sister, Parveen Werner, who died from pancreatic cancer.
  - the Jablonski family on the loss of their daughter, Haley
**We pray for all who are affected by cancer:**
  - Dan Bohi
 - Beverly Webb, Bill Curry's sister, who had previously undergone treatment for ovarian cancer but now expects additional treatment after a scan showed cancer in some lymph nodes.
  - Shelayne Larson, a friend of Angela Smith, recovering from a very painful surgery last week, but they believe they got 100% of the cancer.
  - Katie Boehmer’s father, Rod Boehmer
 - Harlene Sperling, a friend of the Boden-Nelson family
**We pray for all who are infected with and/or affected by COVID:**
  - Prayers for all who are trying to navigate 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.**
 - Ed Koska
 - prayers for healing and answers for Dan, a friend of Barb’s who is hospitalized far from home (and in another state) with an unknown infection. He may need to be on IV antibiotics for months, and right now there are no clear answers about when, how – or even if – he can be transported back home to Illinois.
 - prayers for healing for Sharon Eckert, a retired Briar Glen teacher, who underwent an emergency operation yesterday. The procedure went well and she is recovering.
  - Jeremy, who is struggling right now
  - Linda Wolf Jeziorski’s mother, Janet
  - Linda Meester is now situated in memory care
  - Judith, a friend of the Ellsworths, who has continuing health and financial issues
  - Bill Curry and Gretchen Fleming
  - the many people who struggle with depression
  - people struggling with difficult family concerns
**We pray for those who are far from home:**  - Luke Anderson is now home, and he found a car. Alleluia!

**We continue to pray for our friends and family who work 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, the boards of the local school districts: 41, 44, 87, 89, 200, COD, and our library boards.

**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 in December 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 when she is in the office.) You may also **call your deacon** if you need help from the church.

Barb will be in the office most Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings (8:45-11:00 most days) while her son attends his day program part-time. (Note the change from Thursday to Wednesday; additional changes may be made based on the scheduling at the day program.)

Grace and peace to you! 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.

**Dates to remember this week:**
***Elders and staff, remember that this month’s Session meeting is a week earlier than usual – it’s this Tuesday, December 14. If you have anything for the Session docket, please turn it in no later than noon on Monday.*Sunday, December 12 – *3rd Sunday of Advent***
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **Fellowship** at 10:30 a.m. (outdoors, if weather permits) following the service for those who worship in person. If weather is bad, fellowship will be in the narthex, masked and distanced.
  **Online** **Fellowship** at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom
 **Adult Ed**. **Bible Study** meets at 11:15 a.m. via Zoom
 **Youth Pizza & Games?** Check with Blair
**Monday, December 13 – Pastor’s Sabbath**
**Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** live on Facebook at 4:16 p.m. **Tuesday, December 14**
 **Session** meets at 7:30 p.m. in the parlor; **Deacons** are not meeting this month.
 A.A. at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, December 15
eNotes/Dialog go out
 Presbyterian Readers** meet at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
**Thursday, December 16**
 Service for Art Fournier in the Sanctuary at 11:00 a.m.
**Friday, December 17
 Women’s Christmas Luncheon** at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall A.A. at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next Sunday, December 19 – *4th Sunday of Advent***
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **Fellowship** at 10:30 a.m. (outdoors, if weather permits) following the service for those who worship in person. If weather is bad, fellowship will be in the narthex, masked and distanced.
  **Online** **Fellowship** at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom
 **Adult Ed**. **Bible Study** meets at 11:15 a.m. via Zoom
 **Youth Pizza & Games?** Check with Blair

**Looking ahead to Christmas Eve, December 24
 Candlelight service** in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.