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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**

**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.

**** 1 Gathering Music

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

2 Welcome, Announcements, Moment for Mission

**** 3a Prelude: *The Holly and the Ivy*  arr. Miller

**** 3b 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.**

**** 4 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

**** 5 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.**

**** 6 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

**** 7 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)

**** 8 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.**

**** 9 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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10 The Passing of the Peace

11 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.

****12 Prayer for Illumination

13 Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 55:1-3

John 4:13-14



14 Sermon: “The Word of the Lord: Isaiah”

****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)   
 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.**

****16 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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****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: *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

Public domain

Johannes Olearius 1671 Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863

****19 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.**

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****20 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

****21 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.**

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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: *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.

**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.