**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**4th Sunday of Advent or the 93rd Sunday of Covid**

**December 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 Come, O Come Emmanuel;
 Watchman, Tell Us of the Night; Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

Our slideshow today is “Christmas Past.”

 Welcome, Announcements, Moment for Mission

 Improvisational Prelude

 Call to Worship (Isaiah 7:14b)

 Leader: The Lord will give you a sign.

 **People: Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son.**

 **All:** **And shall name him Immanuel (God is with us).**

 Hymn 104: *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* (verses 1, 2)

**O Lord how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.**

**Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling, that led You to embrace
In love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.**

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 Prayer of Confession:

**Wondrous God, you chose to visit us as a child in a manger and love us as a friend. We admit that there is much in us that is not ready to receive you. Help us to pause in your presence long enough that we might hear a song that lights our hearts, that we might find you in our common tasks. Come; give us a heart of praise and a song of gladness, in Jesus Christ we pray. 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

 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: *Angels Watching Over Me* arr. Joel Raney

 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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 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

 Prayer for Illumination

 Meditation: “Jesus Is the Good Shepherd”

 ***The Christmas Program***

 First Lesson: Isaiah 9:1-7 Samantha Falkman

 Carol 86: *The People Who Walked in Darkness* (verse 1)

**The people who walked in darkness**

**awaken to see a great light.**

**The people who dwelt in the land of the shadow**

**rise to a star shining bright.**

**His name is Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God,**

**Father forever, Prince of Peace.**

**Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God,**

**Father forever, Prince of Peace.**

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 Second Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-9 Jake Falkman

 Carol 88: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (verse 1)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,**

**And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here**

**Until the Son of God appear.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Public domain

 Third Lesson: Luke 1:26-35, 38 the Parks family

 Solo: *No Wind at the Windows* Jessica Parks

 Fourth Lesson: Luke 2:8-14 Noah Salins

 Carol 111: *From Heaven Above* (verse 1)

**From heaven above to earth I come**

**to bring good news to everyone!**

**Glad tidings of great joy I bring**

**to all the world, and gladly sing.**

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 Fifth Lesson: Luke 2:15-20 Max Lerch

 Solo: *Angels from the Realms of Glory* David Kozich

 Psalm 23

 “Jesus is my good shepherd!”

 Carol 136: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*  (verses 1, 2)

**Chorus**

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**Verse 1**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.**

**Chorus**

**Verse 2**

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.**

**Chorus**

Public domain

 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
love that makes the world anew.**

**Shines in glory, tells the story –
Christ’s own love will see us through.**

**With the outcast and unwelcome,**

**Christ is steadfast, brings us all home.**

**Christ’s own love will see us through!**

**Christ’s own love will see us through!**

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

Lyrics: Rev. Elana Keppel Levy, used with permission

 Charge and Benediction

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

 Carol 134: *Joy to the World* (verse 1)

**Joy to the world the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

Public domain

 Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden

Liturgists: Lois Stevenson, Blair Nelson

Advent candles: Lynn Ferino, Sue Knisely

Musicians: Tom Anderson, David Kozich, Lynn Ferino, Elise Henkels, Jessica Parks,
 Southminster Singers

Worship Associate: David Kozich

Tech support: Ron Birchall, Steve Henkels, Chris Kozich

Flowers today are given by the Shierrys in thanks for the grace of God.

If you are present for worship, following the service you are invited by the deacons to gather for **in-person fellowship** in the narthex. No food or beverages will be served at this time; everyone must remain masked and try to keep social distancing in mind.

If you are online, join us for **Zoom fellowship** at 10:30 a.m. following the worship service. Rita Boserup Zapel will host the virtual fellowship today.
Click here: [Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83454811014?pwd=TEZTWHZrdHBCOTNjR3JuVDVPM3B0dz09)If the link doesn’t work, start Zoom and enter these:
Meeting ID: 834 5481 1014 Passcode: 884393
 **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 19, 2021**

**Welcome, Christmas! Welcome, Choir! Welcome, Blair Baldwin!**

We will worship together this week as we share in the “Christmas Program.” Parts of our worship are prerecorded while others are live! We have tried to meet the challenge of social distancing while bringing home the meaning of the Nativity.

The past 21 months has been a journey unlike any other. We are constantly evolving new ways to worship and be a community of faith as we discern the best way through our present public health challenge. Some of us gather in person on Sunday while others join us virtually at home. Once again, this Sunday will be different from our worship in the past. Our choir is returning to worship! With robes! New robes! Well, almost new. They were first worn in December 2019, donated through memorial funds. They have been in the closest since mid-March 2020. Our choir will be socially distanced). They will be sharing omni directional microphones which were donated by a member so that our singers may maintain their distance while leading us in congregational singing. The congregation will be wearing their masks while the singers will be 12 feet away from the congregation.

The choir will not be able to sing in parts yet, but we are working on figuring that out. We still need people to volunteer to sing solos, duets, trios, and quartets or to play instrumentals for our offertories. Please contact either our Music Director Tom or our Pastor Wendy if you have musical talent to share. Beginning Christmas Eve our chancel will be divided into two parts, pulpit side and piano side. Our singers will lead us in our singing from there.

We welcome Blair Baldwin as interim Christian Education Coordinator. She has been contracted to work 10 hours a week, as opposed to the 25 our Director/Minister of Christian Education generally works. Blair will be working both with the Christian Education Ministry and with Presbyterian Women. There will be more information about her in our January newsletter, *the Dialog*. In the meantime, please make her feel welcome.

Together, we bear the fruit of God’s love as we worship together.

**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 David Kozich (kozichd1@gmail.com) by Sunday, December 19, for Christmas candles and by Monday, 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.

**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
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service:** We will have a traditional service in the sanctuary 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 Heidi and Steve Shierry in thanks for the grace of God **We pray for the whole world and our nation:**  - all who are affected by natural disasters: wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes, and tropical storms, and especially all those in Illinois and Kentucky who were affected by the massive tornado last week that destroyed so many communities and left many people dead.
  - 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 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 of Carolyn Yoos (Heidi Shierry’s mother), who died on December 16
 - the family of Stormy A., a friend of Heidi and Steve Shierry, who died on December 12.
 - the family and friends of longtime member Art Fournier, whose service was held at Southminster on Thursday. 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.
**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, 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
 - Scott Smith, Traci Smith’s brother and Kathy and Steve Sanders’ nephew, hospitalized with an intestinal infection but getting better
  - Linda Wolf Jeziorski’s mother, Janet Wolf, who is situated in a new place and in hospice care.
  - Dan, a friend of Barb’s, in a rehab center in Kentucky while being treated for a massive infection. He may need to be there for the next month but still hopes to be able to be transferred closer to home (Aurora) sooner rather than later.
 - prayers for healing for Sharon Eckert, a retired Briar Glen teacher, who underwent an emergency operation last week. The procedure went well and she is recovering.
  - Jeremy, who is struggling right now  - 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.**

**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.

 **We received this note from Floyd Rogers:**
As promised, here is the link to the recorded memorial for our Betsy. Our thanks to Kurt Ackermann for organizing the service into segments which can be viewed or downloaded.
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zexh2h48zl4gm0x/AACyK108uTnMoXm8FOXUcrWfa?dl=0>

**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:**   **Sunday, December 19 – *4th Sunday of Advent***
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook. Worship will include the Christmas Program.
 **Fellowship** at 10:30 a.m. following the service for those who worship in person. During the winter, 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 20 – Pastor’s Sabbath**
**Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** live on Facebook at 4:16 p.m. **Tuesday, December 21**
 A.A. at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, December 22
eNotes go out**
**Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve
 Candlelight service** in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.
 A.A. at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next Sunday, December 26**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **Fellowship** at 10:30 a.m. following the service for those who worship in person. During the winter, fellowship will be in the narthex, masked and distanced.
  **Online** **Fellowship** at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom
 **No Adult Ed**. **Bible Study**