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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**

**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.

**** 1 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.”

2 Welcome, Announcements, Moment for Mission

**** 3 Improvisational Prelude

**** 4 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).**

**** 5 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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**** 6 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)

**** 7 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.**

**** 8 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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9 The Passing of the Peace

10 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

****11 Offertory: *Angels Watching Over Me* arr. Joel Raney

****12 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.**

**A picture containing wrench, tool

Description automatically generated**Public domain

****13 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

14 Prayer for Illumination

****

15 Meditation: “Jesus Is the Good Shepherd”

***The Christmas Program***

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16 First Lesson: Isaiah 9:1-7 Samantha Falkman

****17 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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18 Second Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-9 Jake Falkman

****19 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.**

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

21 Solo: *No Wind at the Windows* Jessica Parks

****

22 Fourth Lesson: Luke 2:8-14 Noah Salins

****23 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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****24a Fifth Lesson: Luke 2:15-20 Max Lerch

****24b Solo: *Angels from the Realms of Glory* David Kozich

****25 Psalm 23

26 “Jesus is my good shepherd!”

****27 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**

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****28 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.**

****29 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

30 Charge and Benediction

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

****31 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.**

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32 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.

**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.