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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**

**1st Sunday after Christmas or the 94th Sunday of Covid**

**December 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

****Our slideshow today is “Trees and The Original Christmas Lights”

2 Welcome and Announcements

**** 3a Lighting the Candles (John 1:14)

**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.**

3b Prelude: *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*

**** 4 Call to Worship

Leader: O, that our voices sounded like the heavenly choir,

**People: And our feet were young enough   
 to dance through the night.**

Leader: O, that our knees were strong enough   
 to kneel forever in wonder,

**People: And our hearts could forever ponder   
 the joy and share the love.**

Leader: Holy God, take who we are   
 and what we have to offer,

**People:** **And raise us this day to sing, along with   
 the choir of angels, in exultation and joy!**

**** 5 Carol 112: *On Christmas Day All Christians Sing* (verse 1)

**On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring;  
On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring,  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful Kings birth.**

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**** 6 Prayer of Confession: (2 Corinthians 3:18)

**A picture containing wrench, tool

Description automatically generatedLord God, it is in admitting the truth of our lives that we make the first step toward wholeness and healing. Forgive the wrong that we have done, and bless the good we have accomplished. Thank you for loving, helping, and molding us more and more into the image of Jesus Christ, who is both Savior and Lord. Amen.**

(Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

**** 7 Declaration of the Grace of God/Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Not only do we celebrate the birth of Jesus,

**People: We celebrate the new birth that has come to us   
 through his birth!**

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel!

**All: Our sin is cast out, and Jesus is born in us today!**

**** 8 Response 134: *Joy to the World* (verse 3)

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

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9 The Passing of the Peace

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Description automatically generated**12 Prayer for Illumination

**The Angels and Shepherds Sing**

****11 Carol 142: *‘Twas in the Moon of Wintertime* (verse 1)

**‘Twas in the moon of wintertime,   
when all the birds had fled.  
Great Spirit, Lord of all the earth   
sent angel choirs instead.  
Before their light the stars grew dim   
and wandering hunters heard the hymn:  
Jesus, your king, is born;  
Jesus is born. In excelsis gloria.**

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****12 Carol 113: *Angels We Have Heard on High* (verse 1)

**Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.**

**Glo - ria in excelsis Deo!**

**Glo - ria in excelsis Deo!**

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****13 Carol 117: *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*  (verse 1)

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.**

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14 Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:8-15

****15 Carol 118: *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks* (verse 6)

**“All glory be to God on high,  
And to the earth be peace;**

**Good will to all from highest heaven**

**Tonight and never cease!”**

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****16 Carol 123: *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* (verse 1)

**It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
From heaven's all gracious King”:  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.**

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****17 Carol 140: *Once in Royal David’s City* (verse 1)

**Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild;  
Jesus Christ her little child.**

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18 Meditation: “A Moment to Laugh”

**Singing in the Manger**

****19 Carol 126: *Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child* (sing 2 times)

**Jesus, Jesus, O what a wonderful child.  
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild;  
New life, new hope the child will bring.  
Listen to the angels sing:  
“Glory, glory, glory!”  
Let the heavens ring.**

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20 Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:18-20

****21 Carol 114: *Away in a Manger* (verse 1)

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

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****22 Carol 115: *Away in a Manger* (verse 3)

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

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****23 Carol 145: *What Child Is This* (verse 1)

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary.**

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**Saying What We Believe**

****24 Carol 132: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (all 3 verses)

**Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before him bow,  
And he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven’s door,  
And we are blessed forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
To gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!**

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****25 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

****26 Offertory: *Breath of Heaven* words and music by Amy Grant and Chris Eaton

CCLI Song # 1128784

Amy Grant | Chris Eaton

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****27 Offering Response 144: *In the Bleak Midwinter* (verses 1, 4)

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what can I give him: give my heart.**

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****28 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

****29 Carol: *Good King Wenceslas* (all verses)

**Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen,  
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.  
Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,  
When a poor man came in sight, gath’ring winter fuel.**

**“Hither, page, and stand by me, if you know it, telling,  
Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?”  
“Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain,  
Right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes’ fountain.”**

**“Bring me food and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither,  
You and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither.”  
Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together,  
Through the cold wind’s wild lament and the bitter weather.**

**“Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger,  
Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer.”  
“Mark my footsteps, my good page, tread now in them boldly,  
You shall find the winter’s rage freeze your blood less coldly.”**

**In his master’s steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted;  
Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.  
Therefore, Christian men, be sure, while God’s gifts possessing,  
You who now will bless the poor shall yourselves find blessing.**

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30 Charge and Benediction

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

****31 Postlude: *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden

Liturgist: Blair Nelson

Musicians: Karen Archbold, piano; Eleanor Archbold, violin; Lucy Archbold, viola;   
 Abigail Archbold, vocals

Worship Associate: David Kozich

Tech support: Ron Birchall, Steve Henkels, Chris Kozich

The flowers today are given by the Bohi family celebrating Deb’s birthday.

The poinsettias were given by the following people:

Craig and Sarah Allen Sue Knisely

Sue and Mike Ashpole Caroline and Ralph Linde

The Boden-Nelson family Lanny Russell

Sue and Walt Briney Angela Smith

Lynn Ferino Diane Swiss

Gretchen Fleming Barb Zink

Poinsettias may be taken home after this service or picked up tomorrow morning between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sarah Allen will be at church then.

**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.