**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**1st Sunday of Epiphany or the 96th Sunday of Covid**

**January 9, 2022**

**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: *God the Sculptor of the Mountains;
 Come Now, You Blessed, Eat at My Table; Fill My Cup;*

 *As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought*

Our slideshow today is “We Miss You!”

 Welcome and Announcements

 Improvisational Prelude based on Hymn 405: *Praise God for This Holy Ground*

 Lighting the Candles (John 1:14)

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

 Call to Worship (Psalm 104)

 Leader: Come into God’s presence with joy,

 **People: Praise the Lord!**

 Leader: Clothed with honor and wrapped in glorious light,

 **People: Praise the Lord!**

 Leader: Calling us to humility and compassion,

 **People: Praise the Lord!**

 **All:** **The Lord’s name is praised!**

 Hymn 405: *Praise God for This Holy Ground* (verses 1-3)

**Praise God for this holy ground,
Place and people, sight and sound.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God’s goodness is eternal.**

**Praise God in whose word we find
Food for body, soul, and mind.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God’s goodness is eternal.**

**Praise God who through Christ makes known
All are loved and called God's own.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God’s goodness is eternal.**

CCLI Song # 4729822

John L. Bell

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Music: 1987 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland (Admin. by Wild Goose Resource Group)

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 Prayer of Confession:

**God of abundant love, we gather here in your presence, to offer our best to you – not our sense of duty, or rote words, but our whole selves. Forgive us, Lord, for those times when we ignore others. Remind us of your overflowing generosity, and help us to follow in Christ’s footsteps, today and every day. We ask this in his name. Now hear our silent and personal prayers. Amen.**

 (Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

 Declaration of the Grace of God/Assurance of Pardon (John 1:9, 14, 17)

 Leader: The true light that gives light to everyone came into the world.

 **People: The Word became flesh and lived among us.
 We have seen his glory!**

 Leader: We have received grace and truth from Jesus Christ.
 Let us declare the good news.

 **All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new.
 Alleluia!**

 Response 582: *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,**

**And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,**

**And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

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 The Passing of the Peace

 Word with Children Deb Bohi

 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: Psalm 104:1-2, 10-15, 33-35

 John 2:1-11

 Sermon: “Keep the Party Going”

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.

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison) from *The Nicene Creed* (1.2)

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven[.]**

 Hymn 377: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (verse 1)

**I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world;
The star of my life is Jesus.**

**In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

CCLI Song # 89848

Kathleen Thomerson

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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: *Après un rêve* Gabriel Fauré

 \**Doxology* Hymnal #606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Him all creatures here below;**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

 Hymn 547: *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* (verses 1, 3)

**“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”**

**“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you;
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”**

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 Charge and Benediction

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

 Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden

Liturgists: Sarah Allen, Blair Nelson

Musicians: Tom Anderson, David Kozich, Southminster Singers

Worship Associate: David Kozich

Tech support: Ron Birchall, Steve Henkels, Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

Flowers today are given with deep appreciation for our dedicated tech team that makes Southminster’s virtual services a reality.

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, we’re glad to have you! Note that **we will not offer Zoom fellowship** today. Watch for more information after the Deacons meet this Tuesday.
 **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 – January 9, 2022**

**Epiphany – Looking for Light**

***First Coming*** by Madeleine L’Engle

He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace
He came when the Heavens were unsteady
and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine. He did not wait

Till hearts were pure. In joy he came
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
He came, and his Light would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

This Sunday, the first Sunday of Epiphany, we are entering a time of readings from the Gospel of John and a season of light and revelation. The last Sunday of Epiphany is Transfiguration Sunday, February 27. As we journey into 2022 with hopeful prayers, let us also look for God’s presence in our daily lives so that we may reveal and bear God’s love in the world.

**Slideshows help us feel connected!**Our pre worship slideshows are one way for our church family and friends to enrich our connections. Here’s an opportunity to share your photos:

**February 6**: “Ground Hogs: Outside Nature Photos”
 If you have nature photos (not just of ground hogs) or want to take some this month, send
 them by February 1 to David Kozich, who assembles the PowerPoints:
 kozichd1@gmail.com.

We are interested in your ideas for slideshows. Please connect with Sarah Allen at ridesrowdy@aol.com or with Pastor Wendy at wendy@southminsterpc.org. Please note that we try to confirm slideshow content a month in advance.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**

**Adult Education**: We are still discussing – but will soon finish – 1 John, and then on to Obadiah. Please join us! We meet for an hour via Zoom starting at 11:15 a.m. Use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82920574961?pwd=dEwxU2NhaFM5VWhPSzBtYkZvUld2dz09>
Meeting ID: 829 2057 4961 Passcode: 537355

**Youth and families:** Winter fun begins with our **Winter Lock-In** next weekend, January 14-15. Of course, all is tentative and depends on who is available and the situation with the virus. Parents, Blair will be contacting you about health and safety for youth events and especially the lock-in. We will also be discussing safe approaches to youth events for the next couple of months, perhaps a return to the fire pits.

Our **annual Cascade** **Trip** is coming February 11-12. We need adults for driving and chaperoning. We will plan to have family groups in separate rooms at our host church—in keeping with safe precautions and our child protection policy.

**Easter Saturday planning…**
The **Task Force planning the Easter Saturday Celebration** will meet today at 11:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The purpose of the Saturday event “is to share the Good News while being a witness to the story of the Resurrection and providing a fun and enriching Easter Celebration for our families and the community at large.” This year Easter Saturday is April 16, and it’s not too early to work on the planning for this, our most important outreach event of the year.

 **From the Worship Ministry**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. There are only a few dates left in 2022!

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).

**From the Mission Ministry**We will have **Luminaria Sunday** on February 27. This will be our 11th annual Luminaria Sunday, a service when we honor and remember those touched by cancer. Luminaria bags will light the sanctuary during the worship service. Names of those remembered and honored will be read and prayed for during the Prayers of the People.

Luminaria bags will be available for $10 for each person honored or remembered. Checks will be accepted from January 30 through February 13. Please send your check, **made out to the American Cancer Society**, by February 13. Please print the name(s) of those you wish to honor (those living who have cancer or have had cancer) and those remembered (those who are deceased who had cancer). For each name, please indicate if the person is to be honored or remembered. Example: “John Jones, remembered, $10. Jane Smith, honored, $10. Total: $20.” Then mail your check and the names to Southminster Presbyterian Church, 680 S. Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137, or drop it off at church at your convenience by February 13.

**Presbyterian Readers** meet at 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month, currently by Zoom. You’re invited to join them on January 19 to discuss ***The Giver*** by Lois Lowry.

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

**Presbyterian Women’s Circle** will meet Friday, January 21, at 9:30 a.m. in the church parlor. Janet Birchall will present a program on “Thinking Outside the Box.” All women of the church are invited!

**Jubilee Bucks** (from Bobbi Frey):
Your next chance to order Jubilee Bucks is next Sunday, January 16. Don’t forget that Jubilee Bucks cards can pay for your groceries, gas, sale items, online shopping, and so much more! Email Bobbi at bobbifrey@aol.com by 9:00 p.m. next Sunday, letting her know merchant, number and denomination of card(s), and total amount of your order. Delivery of the cards will be made to your house mid-week, and payment can be made at that time. The next order date after January 16 will be February 6 – in time for Valentine’s Day!

**Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)** (also from Bobbi Frey):
We continue to make weekly deliveries of donated food, personal items, paper goods, etc. to PRC. No donation is too small! Everything is greatly appreciated and put to good use. The collection box is in the entryway of the church. Donations can also be dropped off on the Freys’ front porch.

**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 were given with deep appreciation for our dedicated tech team that makes Southminster’s virtual services a reality. **We celebrate a joy:** - Lizzy Davidson successfully defended her thesis and will receive her master’s degree in analytical chemistry! **We pray for the whole world and our nation:**  - all who are affected by natural disasters: earthquakes, hurricanes, and tropical storms, and especially all those in Illinois and Kentucky who were affected by the massive tornado that destroyed so many communities and left many people dead and the thousands affected by recent wildfires in Colorado.
  - Pray for an end to gun violence in our nation.
  - 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:**
 - Rita Boserup Zapel and family on the death of her aunt, Eyd Boserup
 - Linda Wolf Jeziorski and family following the death of her mother, Janet Wolf
 - the family of Linda Meester, who died December 21. No date has been chosen for a service, but it will be at First Presbyterian Church of Chicago Heights, where Del, her husband, and she ministered for many years.
  - We continue to remember the Jablonski family on the loss of Haley
**We pray for all who are affected by cancer:**
  - Dan Bohi
 - Barb’s Aunt Ruth, who has breast cancer
 - Connie Vernon, a friend of Angela Smith, diagnosed with breast cancer
  - Katha, a friend of Paul Jeziorski, as she faces cancer and a broken back
  - 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. She is very grateful for her prayer shawl and wears it every day.
  - Katie Boehmer’s father, Rod Boehmer
  - Harlene Sperling, a friend of the Boden-Nelson family. She is also very grateful for her prayer shawl.
**We pray for all who are infected with and/or affected by COVID:**
 - Chris Yoos, Heidi Shierry’s cousin, who is hospitalized with breathing difficulties from Covid (in addition to MS). He was placed on a ventilator Thursday evening.
  - Prayers for all who are trying to navigate school, travel, work, 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 and for his wife, Joan, as she cares for him.
 - Ethan Moon, friend of Angela Smith, hospitalized with pneumonia
  - Jack Harris, Louanne Jourdan’s friend, is home from the hospital
  - Dan, a friend of Barb’s, who was rushed from rehab to the hospital with signs of kidney failure. Waiting to see if he needs dialysis. He’s still in Kentucky, where he was visiting when he first became ill soon after Thanksgiving, but he and his wife desperately hope he can transfer closer to home (Aurora) soon.
  - prayers for healing for Sharon Eckert, a retired Briar Glen teacher, who is recovering from surgery
  - Jeremy, who is struggling right now
  - Judith, a friend of the Ellsworths, who has continuing health and financial issues
  - Bill Curry and Gretchen Fleming who is caring for him.
  - 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.

**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 January call Deacon Heidi Shierry (630-853-6836). 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 is 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, January 9** **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook.
 **In-person Fellowship** following the service. During winter fellowship gatherings will be in the narthex, masked and distanced, no food or drinks served.
 **Online Fellowship** will not meet today. **Adult Ed. Bible Study** meets at 11:15 a.m. via Zoom
 The **Easter Saturday Celebration Task Force** meets at 11:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Monday, January 10 – Pastor’s Sabbath**
**Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** live on Facebook at 4:16 p.m. **Tuesday, January 11**
 **Deacons** meet at 7:30 p.m. in the parlor
 A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
 **YAT** meets at 7:45 p.m.—location TBA
**Wednesday, January 12**
 **Property** meets vis Zoom at 7:00 p.m.
 **Finance meeting to prepare 2022 budget** at 7:30 p.m. in the parlor
**Friday, January 14** A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  **Friday-Saturday, January 14-15**
 **Youth Lock-In** (ask Blair for start and end times)
**Next Sunday, January 16**
 **Order Jubilee Bucks** by emailing bobbifrey@aol.com by 9:00 p.m.
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook.
 **In-person Fellowship** following the service. During winter fellowship gatherings will be in the narthex, masked and distanced, no food or drinks served.
 **Online Fellowship** – watch for an update on the Zoom fellowship following the meeting Tuesday of the Deacons **Adult Ed. Bible Study** meets at 11:15 a.m. via Zoom