**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**Christmas Day**

**December 25, 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: *People, Look East;
 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn; From Heaven Above;
 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing; Still, Still, Still*

Our slideshow today is “Light.”

 Welcome and Announcements

 Prelude

 Lighting the Candles and Wreath (John 1:14)

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

 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!**

 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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 Prayer of Confession: (2 Corinthians 3:18)

**Lord 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)

 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!**

 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.**

copyright info

 The Passing of the Peace

 Prayer for Illumination

**The Angels and Shepherds Sing**

 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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 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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 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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 Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:8-15

 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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 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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 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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 Meditation: “What Would You Sing?”

**Singing in the Manger**

 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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 Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:18-20

 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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 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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 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**

 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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 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

 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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 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

 Carol: *Good King Wenceslas* (verse 1)

**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.**

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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

Liturgist: Blair Nelson

Greeters: Wendy and Blair

Musician: Tom Anderson

Worship Associate: David Kozich

Tech support: Chris Kozich

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

The poinsettias were given by the following people:

Craig and Sarah Allen the Kocinski family

Walt and Sue Briney the Kozich family

Linda Ellinghausen Ralph and Caroline Linde

Lynn Ferino Lanny Russell

Gretchen Fleming Angela Smith

Louanne Jourdan Barb Zink

And from Floyd Rogers in memory of Betsy

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.

If you are present for worship, following the service and the meeting, you are invited by the deacons to gather for **in-person fellowship** in the narthex. Coffee and bottled beverages will be served; masks and social distancing are at your discretion.

If you are online, we’re glad to have you! Note that we no longer offer Zoom fellowship.
 **Sunday Morning Adult Ed. Bible Study** is taking a break through the holidays. We will begin meeting again on January 8.

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 4:20 p.m. most weeks Tuesday through Friday. After today, Pastor Wendy will be away on vacation and then on the mission trip to Cuba; Heart to heart will resume after January 12.

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>

**Photo Stories/PowerPoints help us feel connected!**Photo Stories/PowerPoints help us prepare for worship, connect with one another, and make sure that our at-home people get both sound and sight. You’re invited to share your photos for these dates:
 **January 1, 2023: “Winter Nature Scenes”** Send photos by Thursday, Dec. 29.
 **January 8: “Water Scenes”** (It’s Baptism of the Lord that Sunday.) Send photos by
 Thursday, January 5.

**Send photos to our new dedicated email address, just for photos:** **PhotoStory@Southminsterpc.org****.** *Please include the date and Photo Story/PowerPoint title for which your photos are to be used.*

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**

**Adult Education**: Our Sunday morning adult Bible study is taking a hiatus for Christmas. Our next class will be January 8 at 11:15 a.m. You can join us then either in the Library/Parlor or online through the Google Meet link that will be in the bulletin. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and see you then.

**Youth**: All youth and families, please be sure to check the email from Blair about January and February youth events and this summer’s mission trip.

**From the Worship Ministry**
Thanks to everyone who ordered poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary for Christmas. Please take them home after the service today or pick them up in the narthex on Monday, December 26, from 10-11:00 a.m. (Sarah Allen will be at church.) If unable to pick up, please arrange for someone else to do so.

**Flowers for 2023**: Look for the sign-up sheet that will be posted in the Narthex. The florist we have used for years is under new management, and we don’t yet know what that might mean. For now, the price stays the same: $35. When you sign up, please write in your name and to whom/for what occasion the flowers are dedicated and mark an X next to your entry if you want to donate the flowers rather than taking them home yourself.

**From the Mission Ministry**
There is still time to contribute to one or both of our special Christmas offerings.

One is our ***Southminster Local Mission Offering*** that stays at Southminster to be used by our Mission Ministry to help our local missions: 75% goes to the Mission budget and 25% goes to this year’s designee chosen by the Mission Ministry: Bridge Communities.

The other one, the ***Christmas Joy Offering***, goes to the Presbyterian Church (USA) to be used to support current and retired church workers with critical financial needs and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges to help support communities of color.

You may contribute to either one by writing a check to Southminster and designating on the memo line which offering you are supporting (or you can always support both).

**From the Finance Ministry**
The **2022 Church Financial Records** must be closed promptly at the endof this month. Any deposits, donations or pledges that need to be recorded in calendar year 2022 or bills to be paid from the 2022 budget must be into the church office no later than noon on Tuesday, January 3. If you have any questions, please contact Treasurer Tom Frey.

Watch for **2023 offering envelopes** to be available for pick-up inside the front entrance. You may pick up your own, and if there are some you could deliver (for family members, friends, or neighbors), get theirs, too. If you would like envelopes but there is no box prepared for you, please contact Jay Lerch or Tom Frey.

**All women invited: First Wednesday Women’s Breakfast!
Mark your calendars…** our next informal women’s breakfast will be held on Wednesday, January 4, at Danby’s Station at 8:30 a.m. Call, text, or email Gretchen Fleming—(630) 517-0926; gretchen\_fleming@yahoo.com—if you have any questions. (But you’ll have to reach her before the 4th, because she’ll be on her way to Cuba rather than at the breakfast.) As always, all women are invited to join us!

**Meet the Artists on January 8**Have you ever noticed the ever-changing art that decorates our main hallway? From the beginning Linda and Hal Ellinghausen were responsible for this exhibition of beauty. Linda finds the artists and coordinates the timing of their showings, she makes sure information about the artists and their works is published in the Dialog, and she acts as a go-between when people want to buy the artwork. Hal is no longer with us; he always faithfully helped hang the works where Linda (or the artist) told him to.

Linda and the deacons are hosting a reception in our narthex for our current artists whose work is on display in the main hallway. Please come on Sunday afternoon, January 8, from 3:00 to 4:30 to meet our artists. Refreshments will be served.

**Jubilee Bucks and Share the Spirit** (from Bobbi Frey):
Thanks to all who have ordered gift cards this year! Your orders resulted in **$1,940.45 in “free” money for Southminster**! (Remember, Southminster receives as a rebate a small percentage of the value of every gift card purchased. We call that “free” money.) Your next opportunity to order will be Sunday, January 8.
 **Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)** (also from Bobbi Frey):
Our weekly donations are greatly appreciated by PRC! They have seen an increase of clients since the pandemic began. It is still on the rise! They are presently serving over 500 clients each week. Our donations of food, personal care items, and cleaning products are very greatly appreciated! Donations can be left in the front entry at church or on the Freys’ front porch – no contribution is too small.
 **Care Notes:**“In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” -Philippians 4:6
Even though we aren’t all together for worship, we are still collecting prayer requests! Please email or leave a message on our answering machine at 630-469-9149 if you won’t be present to fill out a prayer request slip.
 **Joys and Concerns**
**The flowers today** are from Dan Bohi celebrating Deb’s birthday and from all who donated poinsettias.  **We celebrate joys**:
  - Deb Bohi’s brother, Tom, is home from the hospital and settled into a new routine.
 - Dan Bohi is home from the hospital.
  - Kurt Parent and Meagan Nielson had a successful scans.
**We pray to the Lord of the Harvest for a harvest and workers for the harvest.
We pray for the Jeremiah 29 discernment task force as they seek God’s will for Southminster in the 21st century.
We pray for the whole world and our nation:**
  - The people of Ukraine, the Holy Land, Pakistan, and Iran as they face war, civil unrest, and the fight for civil rights
 - The people of Cuba and our Cuba church as they face severe shortages.
 - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation: we lift up all communities where lives have been lost to gun violence.
  - We pray for Hope Presbyterian in Wheaton in their search process for an interim pastor.
**We pray for those who mourn. Please lift up grieving families and friends.** - the Petersen family on the death of Bryan, nephew of Pete and Matt, who died last week
**We pray for those who are near death and their families and caregivers.
We lift up those who are affected by cancer, as well as their support systems:**
  - Linda Wolf Jeziorski, Dan Bohi, Peggy, Najla Brannin, Tracy J., Tracy Nelson, Rod Boehmer, Tammy Grey, Jan Mazur, Margaret Rolando, Charlene Simpson, Jim Sundquist, Connie Vernon, Beverly Webb, and others we name in our hearts.
**We pray for all who are infected with and/or affected by Covid.**
**We pray for all who are recovering or dealing with mental or physical health or other challenges:**
  - Gail Johnston, in hospice care
 - Barb’s cousin, Linda, begins radiation treatments right after Christmas
  - Barb’s Aunt Ruth, Bob Welsh, Cathy Hoffman, Vicki, the Kevorkian family, Bill L.
 - victims of identity theft
  - Those who have chronic or progressive illnesses  - People receiving new treatments
  - People waiting for surgery
  - People giving up addictions
  - People struggling with difficult family concerns/marital circumstances
  - Prayers for personal peace
  - The many people who struggle with depression
**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, and our members who serve them
**Local government bodies/boards**: Prayers for the DuPage County Board, the Village of Glen Ellyn Board, the Village of Glen Ellyn Task Force on Affordable Housing, 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 December or January, call Angela Smith (630-235-1376).

Pastor Wendy Boden, Blair Nelson, and Barb Doppelt will all be **away the week between Christmas and New Year**. The church office will be closed, though Tom Frey will be in to handle the year-end contributions and bills so the books can be closed at the end of 2022.

Wendy will be back just in time to leave for Cuba (January 4-11). In a real emergency, you may call Pastor Wendy Boden on her cell phone (if she has shared the number with you. Otherwise, if you need **pastoral care** during her vacation and mission trip time, you may call the Rev. Grayson Van Camp at 630-471-4643. You can always call your deacon or Congregational Care/Helping Hands (contact information above).

Barb should be back in the office on Tuesday, January 3.

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. Online giving through Vanco is also now an option – see the June Dialog for details or contact Ron Birchall. ***(Note that when signing up at Vanco, the correct church phone number to enter is 630-469-9149.)***

**Dates to remember this week:**
**Sunday, December 25 – *Christmas Day***
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook. Wear your Christmas
 sweaters or PJs. We’ll sing favorite carols and sip hot cider, cocoa, or coffee.
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following worship.
**Pastor Wendy Boden, Blair Nelson, and Barb Doppelt will be away from
 December 26 through January 2
Tuesday, December 27**
 A.A. at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, December 28**
 **No eNotes today** (Barb is away) but **it is still the deadline for the January
 Dialog!** The Dialog will go out on Thursday, January 5, if Barb finds everything
 she needs for that issue when she returns to the office on January 3. **Friday, December 30** A.A. at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Sunday, January 1, 2023 – *New Year’s Day***
 **Worship with communion** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook.
 Guest preacher: Rev. Grayson Van Camp
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following worship.
 **No Adult Ed. or Youth activity
Monday, January 2
 New Year’s Day observed – church office closed
Tuesday, January 3
 Any deposits, donations or pledges that need to be recorded in calendar
 year 2022 or bills to be paid from the 2022 budget must be in the church
 office no later than noon on this day.**
**Wednesday, January 4**
 **Women’s Breakfast** at 8:30 a.m. at Danby’s Station
 **Pastor Wendy Boden and the** **Mission Team** leave for Cuba to visit our Sister
 Church (returning Jan. 11)

**Bearing Fruit – December 25, 2022
Merry Christmas!**

Christians gather each Sunday to celebrate and give witness to the resurrection. Today is special because the whole story of Emmanuel, Christ with us, is combined today. Christmas the incarnation and Easter the Resurrection meet today, because today is both Christmas Day and, as is in every Sunday service, a witness to the resurrection. We remember the work of Christmas as an act of love, bearing the fruit of God’s love not only on Christmas day but all year long.

Take a moment to read Howard Thurman’s words below:
*The Work of Christmas
When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.*Whether you join us in person or online, let us make music in our hearts as a way to bear the fruit of God’s love this Christmas Day.