**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**4th Sunday in Lent**

**March 19, 2023**

**9:30 a.m.**

Find the link for the service on one of these sites:

1) on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>
2) our YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/live>

3) our web site: <https://www.southminsterpc.org/>

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: *I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes;
 Come, All You Servants of the Lord; As a Chalice Cast of Gold;
 Somebody’s Knocking at Your Door; Arise, Your Light Has Come*

Our Photo Story today is “One Great Hour of Sharing.”

 Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Mission

  Prelude

 Remembering Our Baptism (John 7:37-38)

**“If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.’”**

 Hymn: *Hold Me Fast* (verses 1, 2, 3) p. 19, blue worship supplement

 Call to Worship  (Psalm 95, Nehemiah 8:10)

 Leader: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;

 **People: Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.**

 Leader: This day is holy to our Lord.

 **All:** **Let us worship God because the joy of the Lord is our strength.**

 Hymn: *10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)* (all) p. 6, blue worship supplement

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Lord of light and love, we confess that we fear change and that which is different, but the night is far gone and a new day is dawning in the world. We have new challenges, but we long to cling to what was. Help us to trust that you walk with us each and every day. You not only guard our backs, but go before us as well, calling us to a more loving and welcoming way of life. Through your Holy Spirit grant us new energy, intelligence, imagination, and love so that we may be claimed as yours. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is both savior and Lord. Amen.**

 (Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

**** The Good News of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:34)

 Leader: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn?

 **People: Only Christ and Christ died for us!**

 Leader: Christ rose for us!

 **People: Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.**

 Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

 **All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

 Response: *Kyrie* pg. 2, blue worship supplement

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Christe, Christe eleison.**

**Christe, Christe eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, eleison.**

 (The words are Greek for *Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.*)

CCLI Song # 2691048

Antonin Leopold Dvorak | Ruth Elaine Schram

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 The Passing of the Peace

 Word with Children

 Children worshiping in the sanctuary, please come forward.

 *Jesus Loves Me*

**Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong.
They are weak, but he is strong.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

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 Prayer for Illumination

 Scripture Lesson: Matthew 25:1-13 Pew Bible, p. 28, (N.T.)

 Sermon: “Stories for the Journey: Get me to the wedding on time.”

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)
 from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (PCUSA)

**In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

 Hymn 350: *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning* (all 4 verses)

 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

[The offering plate is at the back of the sanctuary. Please leave your gift or pledge
in the plate on your way into or out of worship.]

 Offertory: *The Goodness of God* Ingram/Cash/Fielding/Johnson/Johnson/

 \**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.**

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 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

 Hymn 716: *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* (all 3 verses)

 Charge and Benediction

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

Leader:  The cross, **All:  We shall take it.**
  Leader:  The bread, **All:  We shall break it.**
  Leader:  The pain, **All:  We shall bear it.**
  Leader:  The joy, **All:  We shall share it.**
  Leader:  The Gospel, **All:  We shall live it.**  Leader:  The love, **All:  We shall give it.**
  Leader:  The light, **All:  We shall cherish it.**  Leader:  The darkness, **All:  God shall perish it.**  Leader:  For Jesus’ sake. **All:  Amen.**

 Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden
Liturgist: Francine Long
Deacon Greeter/Fellowship: Nick Kaskovich
Musicians: Tom Anderson, Sandy Royster, Southminster Choir
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

Flowers today are given by Steve and Heidi Shierry to celebrate their 39th
wedding anniversary.

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 canned 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 not meeting this week**. Come downstairs and eat chili instead!

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.

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) on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/live>

or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>

If you are watching from home on Facebook, please check in and say hello so we can see that you have joined us. This is one way to make worship less “remote” and strengthen community at Southminster.

*The live video will appear about 15 minutes before the scheduled start time.*

*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/> 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. Watch here for future opportunities to share your photos.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**

**Adult Education Bible Study**: Our class will not meet today. Instead, head on down to Fellowship Hall for the Chili Cook Off. It won’t be as edifying but it will be more nutritious.

**Youth:** Please go to Fellowship Hall immediately after worship to get ready for the Chili Cook-Off!

**It's time for the Chili/Soup Cook-Off!**We are all hungry after worship, right? And as good as fellowship time is, it really does not fill us up. Fortunately, all you have to do today is wander down to Fellowship Hall after fellowship for a sumptuous Chili (or soup) meal. Sample them all and vote for your favorite. A free-will offering will be received in support of the Youth Mission Team heading for a week of workcamp in Imperial, PA, this June.

 **From the Easter Celebration Task Force**Please return your stuffed Easter eggs as soon as possible. If they are not ready today, would you please let Chris Kozich know when you expect to be able to bring them in?

We need volunteers!

* If you can help with the Easter Celebration on the morning of Saturday, April 8, please let Chris Kozich know: 630-673-4286
* We are assembling materials for take-home crafts! Please join us in Fellowship Hall this Saturday, March 25, from 10:00 a.m. to noon if you can help. The more the merrier!
* Invite families to attend the party! Here are the details: Southminster invites all children to an Easter Saturday Celebration on April 8. Arrive any time between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Take a walk through the Holy Week story, receive crafts to take home, and join in an egg hunt. No cost – no RSVP – just come and celebrate Easter!

**From the Worship Ministry**
**Easter flower orders are due today!**We would love to have at least **10 Easter lilies** (2 stem plants @ $32 each) and **10 pink azalea plants** (6” pots @ $28 each) to beautify the sanctuary on Easter. Sign up in the narthex. Checks should be made to SPC with “Easter flowers” on the memo line. Thanks to everyone who will help fill our sanctuary with color and beauty on Easter morning.
**An invitation from Tom Anderson, our Music Director**: We are always in need of volunteers to give the gift if music in worship, but especially for Holy Week, which this year is the first full week of April. The additional services give us more opportunities to celebrate and reflect on our faith together, and music is a special part of that shared worship. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in contributing musical gifts – singing, playing, even temporarily adding your voice to our choir – or if you have questions about doing so, even if you’re on the fence, please contact me at tomanderson101@gmail.com or (651) 246-5129.

**Note: This Wednesday March 22 – a week early! – is the deadline for the April Dialog!**
We want to send the April Dialog out on March 29 rather than on April 5 to publicize information for Holy Week and Easter. (Holy Week begins on April 2, Palm/Passion Sunday.) Please have articles and calendar dates for April turned in by March 22.

**Session has called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to be held
next Sunday, March 26, at the close of the worship service.**The reports booklets should be ready for you to pick up today. Please read through them and then bring them back with you next week for the meeting,
Officers, your booklets are in your mailboxes.

**From the Mission Ministry**March Madness and **March Mission Madness** are in top gear! How well will your bracket(s) do? Even if you aren’t one of the top finishers, the winners in the end are the missions and projects we support!
If you haven’t yet contributed your $15 per bracket (or more, if you feel like it!), please write a check to Southminster and add your bracket name(s) on the memo line so our treasurer can reconcile the contributions.

**From the Christian Ed. Ministry**
**Kids’ Corner Proudly Presents...**

On Sunday, April 2, Kids’ Corner will proudly present “Palm and Light,” a shadow play created and prepared by the children of Southminster. If you have children (or youthful friends) who may want to participate, please contact Blair Baldwin at blairbaldwin@southminsterpc.org.

**Connect with Our Kids!**

Southminster is looking for volunteers to be available on Sunday mornings in the event we need nursery + Sunday School services! Hopefully, we’ll have some new chicks hatching this spring, which means we need YOU! Yes, you – the adults of the church – to step up and nurture our future generations. If you are willing to be on an “on call” list of volunteers, please contact Blair Baldwin at the email address above. This is not a weekly commitment but rather an attempt to gain a list of folks who can potentially help out if we need additional adults.

**Jubilee Bucks** (from Bobbi Frey):
Many thanks to all who ordered Jubilee Bucks last Sunday. Your next opportunity to purchase gift cards will be April 2. (You’ll have the cards just in time to tuck into Easter baskets.)
 **Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)** (also from Bobbi Frey):
The number of clients at the PRC keeps rising, which means the need continues to be great. All donations are appreciated! Collection bins continue to be on a bench in the main entryway of the church.

 **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 given by Heidi and Steve Shierry, who are celebrating their 39th wedding anniversary. **We celebrate joys**.
**We pray for the whole world and our nation:**  - Former President Jimmy Carter and his family, as he is under in-home hospice care
  - We continue to pray for peace in the world Ukraine, the Holy Land, Pakistan, Iran, and everywhere that people face war, civil unrest, and the fight for civil rights
  - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation: Thus far, in 2023 there have been more mass shootings than there have been days in the year. Click on [data from the Gun Violence Archive](https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/reports/mass-shooting) to see the statistics. **We pray for those who mourn. Please lift up grieving families and friends:**  - the family of Marilyn Barr, who died last week after a long illness. She was 90.
  - Walter Stewart, a Chicago firefighter who lost his wife and 3 children in a fire last week
  - The family and many friends of Dan Bohi, and especially Deb, Jessica and Megan and their spouses, and the four grandchildren.
  - Please pray for the La Fernanda Congregation in Havana, Cuba, and for Dania, wife of Pastor Padin, and their family. We received word that Pastor Padin passed away quite unexpectedly. He was a devoted servant of God, and shared his many gifts of the spirit with all he met. We bless Pedro Luis, who has now been installed to lead La Fernanda.
**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:**
 - Nikki Petersen Mendoza, adult daughter of Pete Petersen, who is home from the Mayo Clinic
  - Continuing prayers for Linda Wolf Jeziorski as she rests at home
  - We continue to pray for: Steve, Peggy, Cameron A., Rod B., Sam C., Tammy G., Tracy J., Tracy N., Jan M., Margaret R, Charlene S., Helen S, Jim S., Jon S., Connie V., Beverly W., 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:**
 - Floyd Rogers, health concerns
  - Jim, undergoing tests
  - Our members who are in long term care: **Ed Koska** at Tabor Hills, **Gail Johnston**, in hospice care at Du Page Convalescent Center (If you send a card, please send to Andrea Schmidt, whose address is in the directory.), and **Grace Van Beveren** at Oak Brook Care
**We pray for the Jeremiah 29 discernment task force as they seek God’s will for Southminster in the 21st century.** May we reach out beyond our doors to invite people to share in our spiritual journey with Jesus Christ.
**The upcoming school board and other local elections**

**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 March, call 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.

**Office Schedule: The office closed on Mondays.**Barb’s regular schedule is to be in the office Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from approximately 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. while her son attends his day program on those days. Mondays and Wednesdays she works from home.

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 –for details contact Ron Birchall.

**Dates to remember this week:**    **Sunday, March 19 – *4th Sunday in Lent***
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook.
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following worship.
 **Staff Meeting** at 10:45 a.m. in the Pastor’s Office
 **Chili Cook-Off** at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Monday, March 20 – Pastor’s Sabbath. The church office is closed.**
**Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.  **Tuesday, March 21**
 **Session** meets at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, March 22** **eNotes** go out **but it is also the deadline for the April *Dialog* – yes, a week early!** We want to *Dialog* to go out on March 29, since Holy Week begins on April 2.
**Friday, March 24**
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall **Saturday, March 25
 Easter Celebration Craft Workshop** from 10:00 a.m.-noon in Fellowship Hall.
 Come help us assemble take-home craft projects to give out at the celebration. **Next Sunday, March 26 – *5th Sunday in Lent***
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook.
 Session has called the **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** to be held at the conclusion of worship
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following the meeting.
 **Staff Meeting** at 10:45 a.m. in the Pastor’s Office
 **Adult Ed.** at 11:15 a.m. either by Google Meet or by joining Blair in
 the McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Youth: No meeting – enjoy spring break!**

**Bearing Fruit – March 19, 2023**

**The “Nowie, Now” and OGHS**The Mission Ministry met in early March to work on their budget, asking the tough question, “How do we love neighbor with the funds we are allocated from Southminster’s budget?” Those were not our exact words, but that was the drift of the conversation. Then a phrase “Nowie, Now” came up.

“Nowie, Now” was about the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance or PDA. When a disaster, a catastrophic or crisis event happens anywhere in the world, PDA is there. PDA is there for the disaster, for the relief, and for the recovery. They are generally not first on the ground, like the Red Cross or the Salvation Army, but they are there for the long haul. For example, two years ago when a violent tornado hit western Kentucky, the PDA arrived. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is still helping folks gain a new normal. PDA helps with reconstruction. “Until the church bells ring!” according to Mary Lidtke of PDA.

We are in it for the long haul! Whenever a disaster strikes and your heart is moved to help, Southminster will forward your donation to PDA and it will used for the concern on your heart. Your donation is used, now, right away.

One of the areas One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) funds go to is to fund reserves for PDA. These reserves enable the PDA to go right away, NOW, before funds for a particular catastrophic or crisis event happens. That is the nowie now. Giving to One Great Hour enables us to bring aid quickly now before designated funds are donated. When we give to OGHS, we are sowing seeds of hope in the midst of some future disaster.

Our donations to One Great Hour of Sharing help us to be present with people now in need no matter what the concern is, Nationally or internationally – and into the future. Besides PDA, OGHS also supports the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People. The three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

One Great Hour of Sharing is one way how we bear the fruit of God’s love now and in the future – the Nowie Now.