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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**

**8th Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 23, 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.

**** 1 Gathering Music

****Our Photo Story today is “Meet Rev. Jess Scholten.”

2 Welcome and Announcements

**** 3a Prelude

****

3b Lighting the Candles (Galatians 5:22-23a)

**By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**

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[Please remain seated while singing these songs.]

4a Hymn 406: *We Are Standing on Holy Ground* (sing 2 times)

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4b Hymn 408: *There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

**** 5 Call to Worship

Leader: We come. We wait.

**People: We long. We hope.**

Leader: We suffer. We pray.

**People: We rejoice. We sing.**

Leader: We are God's beloved children, waiting for Christ to set all things right.

**All:** **We are God's beloved children, gathered to worship and sent out   
 to help usher in the Kingdom of God.**

****

6 Hymn 443: *There Is a Redeemer* (all 3 verses)

**** 7 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Ever-present God, there is no place where you are not with us. You see us at our worst and at our best. There is much we would hide from you - the ways we harm your creation, the ways we mistreat others, the ways we turn away when we are called to turn toward. Even as you know us, forgive us. Guide our thoughts, our words, our actions, that you may delight in us as we delight in you. Amen.**

(Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

**** **** 8 Declaration of God’s Grace/The Good News of Jesus Christ

Leader: Beloveds, hear the good news: God knows and forgives us   
 and leads us in the way of everlasting life.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

****

9 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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10 The Passing of the Peace



11a Word with Children Andrea Schmidt

Children worshiping in the sanctuary, please come forward.

****11b *God Welcomes All*  Hymnal 399

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;**

**God’s love is strong and it never ends.**

Text: John L. Bell, 2008

Music: South African song, transc, John L. Bell, 2008

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**A picture containing wrench, tool

Description automatically generated**12 Prayer for Illumination



13 Scripture Lessons:  Romans 8:12-25 Pew Bible, p. 158, (N.T.)

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 Pew Bible, p. 14, (N.T.)



14 Sermon: “The Kingdom of Heaven and Bearing the Fruit of Patience”   
 The Rev. Jessica Scholten

****15 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)   
 adapted from *The Confession of Belhar* (PCUSA)

**We believe in the triune God who gathers, protects, and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do so to the end. We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints from the entire human family. We believe that Christ’s work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and one another. We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God’s Spirit, we love one another and share in one faith, obedient to one Lord, working together by the power of the Holy Spirit to share God’s love and hope in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

****

16 Hymn 819: *Be Still, My Soul* (all 3 verses)

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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.]

18 Offertory: *I Will Rise* Chris Tomlin

****19 \**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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****20 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

****21 Hymn 649: *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* (all 5 verses)

****22 Charge and Benediction

Leader: Now go and serve the Lord,

**All: For we are blessed to be a blessing!  
 Alleluia, amen!**

****

23 Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Guest preacher: Rev. Jessica Scholten   
Liturgist/Worship Host: Terry Kline

Greeter/Fellowship: Sue Knisely  
Musicians: Tom Anderson  
Worship Associate: David Kozich  
Tech support: Chris Kozich

Flowers today are given by Barb Zink in memory of Dave and by Louanne Jourdan to celebrate the birthday she shares with her daughter, Jennifer (July 26).

**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.” |

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| 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.