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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**

**16th Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 17, 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 “Our Musicians.”

2 Welcome and Announcements

**** 3a Prelude

****

3b Lighting the Candles (Psalm 42:1)

**As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.**

****[Please remain seated while singing these songs.]

4a Hymn 451: *Open My Eyes, That I May See* (all)

4b Hymn 452: *Open the Eyes of My Heart* (all)

**** 5 Call to Worship

Leader: May we shelter under the wings of peace;

**People: May we be kept in safety and in love;**

Leader: May grace and compassion find their way to every soul;

**People: May this be our blessing to all people this week.**

**All:** **We worship God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

****

6 Hymn 71: *Surely It Is God Who Saves Me* (all)

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

**Lord God, there have been moments this week when we have lived with our eyes and hearts closed. We have neglected to see others, we have hidden in fear, and we have turned away from love. We have not forgiven others. Open our eyes and teach us how to live. Fill our hearts with joy and love. Strengthen us through the presence of the Holy Spirit within us. We stand in the grace and mercy of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

(Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

**** **** 8 Declaration of God’s Grace/The Good News of Jesus Christ (Isaiah 43:1, 19)

Leader: Do not fear, says the Lord,

**People: For I have redeemed you.**

Leader: I have called you by name, you are mine.

**People: God is doing a new thing, now it springs forth!**

**All: By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!   
 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 Blair Baldwin

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:  Genesis 18:1-15 Pew Bible, p. 14, (O.T.)

Genesis 21:1-7 Pew Bible, p. 16, (O.T.)



14 Sermon: “Laughter”

****15 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison) Lamentations 3:22-23

**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come   
to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.**

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16 Hymn 76: *Do Not Be Afraid* (all)

**A picture containing wrench, tool

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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 Anthem: *“Something New”*

****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 39: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* (all)

****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**

Rev. Wendy Boden   
Liturgist: Pete Petersen  
Greeter/Fellowship: Elise Henkels  
Musicians: Tom Anderson, Southminster choir  
Worship Associate: David Kozich  
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Chris Kozich to celebrate Heidi Shierry’s birthday.

**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. |

Worship Symbols Guide based on *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.