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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 | We take com-munion |

(Kids – use your worship packet and the tools listed at the end of the bulletin to do all these things.)

**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**December 3, 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.

For those who are in the sanctuary, please put your phone in airplane mode.

Today we are having communion. Those at home may want to gather the elements (“bread” and “wine” or whatever you have) before the service begins.

**** 1 Gathering Music

 Our Photo Story today is “Advent Candles.”

**** 2 Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Mission

3 Lighting the Advent Wreath Lighters: Jay and Max Lerch

Lighters: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

**All:** **We wait in hope!**

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4  Response 314: *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness* (verse 1)

*(Christ, Be Our Light)*

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
Light for the world to see.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

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**** 5 Call to Worship  (Romans 13:11-12)

Leader: Awake from your sleep: salvation is near!

**People: The night is far gone; the day is at hand.**

**All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

**** 6  Hymn 100: *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout* (all 4 verses)

**** 7 Prayer for Advent: (unison) (PCUSA website)

**Faithful God, you are at work to restore all of creation in its intended harmony. Give us your shalom, that we may be reconciled to all enemies in the peace that passes all understanding through Christ Jesus our Lord. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. Amen.**

(Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

**** 8 The Good News of Jesus Christ (Isaiah 35: 1, 10)

Leader: The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom.  
 The people of God will return with joy and singing.

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!   
 Thanks be to God.**

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9 Response 84: *Creator of the Stars of Night* (verse 1)

**Creator of the stars of night,  
Your people’s everlasting light,  
O Christ, redeemer of us all,  
We pray you, hear us when we call.  
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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****12 Prayer for Illumination

13 Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 6:1-5 Pew Bible, p. 635 (O.T.)

Isaiah 11:1-5 Pew Bible, p. 640 (O.T.)

14 Sermon: “Hope”

****15 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)   
 *The Apostles’ Creed* [Ecumenical]

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

****16 Hymn 377: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*  (all 3 verses)



****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.]

17 Offertory Anthem:  *Prepare Ye*  Marc A. Robinson

****18 Response 314 : *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness* (verse 5)

**Many the gifts, many the people,  
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
Making your kingdom come.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

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19 Prayer of Dedication

Service of the Lord’s Supper

20 Invitation

[We extend an invitation to the Lord’s Supper to all who have been baptized. You do   
 not need to be a member of this congregation or a Presbyterian to share in this meal.   
 We remember that access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a   
 privilege given to believers who come in faith, repentance, and love.]

21 Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

**** Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People**: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

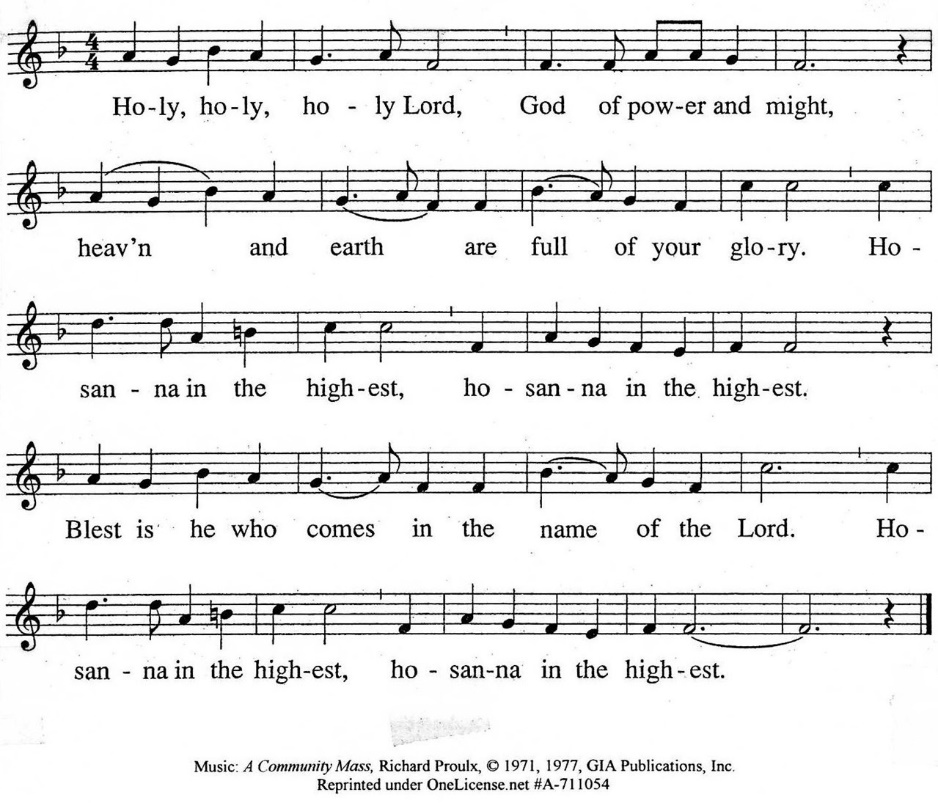
**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

22 *The minister gives thanks…*

****23 The congregation responds by singing together:

****

24 *The minister continues the Thanksgiving…*

**** **According to Christ’s commandment**

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory.**

*The minister continues with Intercessions for the Church and the World  
and Prayers of the People…*

**A picture containing wrench, tool

Description automatically generated** Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

**People**: **hear our prayers.**

Our 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.**

Words of Institution

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25 Communion Music:  *xx*

*We all will receive communion by intinction. Our usher will invite you to come forward by pew, beginning from the back. If you are unable to come forward, a server will come to you after everyone else has received. Please consume the elements when you are comfortable doing so. You do not need to wait – please do so as the Spirit leads (right away, as you pause after receiving, or back in your seats).  
With Christian love we serve gluten-free communion bread and alcohol-free grape juice.*

**A picture containing wrench, tool

Description automatically generated**26 Prayer after Communion

****27 Hymn 105: *People, Look East* (verses 1, 2)

****28 Charge and Benediction

Leader: Now go and serve the Lord,

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

****29 Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden

Liturgist: Pete Petersen

Deacon Greeter/Fellowship: Linda Ellinghausen

Musicians: Tom Anderson, Southminster Choir, David Kozich

Worship Associate: David Kozich

Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Heidi Shierry in honor of her foster brother, Ravi Parekh.

**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. |
|  | | **We share communion.** The Lord’s Supper not only nourishes, it also teaches, and we learn about communion by participating in it. Even very young children can sense that the Lord’s Supper is a special meal to be received with respect, and they can share a deep sense of belonging to the forgiving, accepting, loving community of the church. Parents or guardians may decide when their children have reached this point and are ready to celebrate communion. |

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.