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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**

**4th Sunday of Advent**

**December 24, 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.

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1 Gathering Music

****Our Photo Story today is “The Nativity.”

2 Welcome and Announcements

**** 3a Lighting the Advent Wreath Lighters: the Bohi family

Lighters: We light this candle in hope.

We light this candle for peace.  
 We light this candle of joy.  
 We light this candle of love.  
 We light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love   
 as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

**All:** **Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!**

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3b  Response 314: *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness* (verses 1, 2)

*(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.**

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.  
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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3c Improvisational Prelude: *Blest Be the God of Israel*  (hymnal 109)

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4 Hymn 101: *No Wind at the Window* (all 4 verses)

**** 5 Call to Worship

Leader: Through history God’s promise has remained the same:

**People: “I will be with you and you will be my people.”**

Leader: Today we worship God in flesh- Emmanuel God with us.

**All:** **We give thanks for God’s abiding presence.**

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6 Carol 147: *The First Nowell*  (verses 1, 6)

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

**Wondrous God, your love is wider than our sight; your grace is more wonderful than we can sing. You chose to visit us as a child in a manger, and love us as a friend. We admit that there is much in us that is not ready to receive you. Help us to pause in your presence long enough that we might hear a song that lights our hearts, that we might find you in our common tasks. Come; give us a heart of praise and a song of gladness, in Jesus Christ we pray. Now hear our personal and silent prayers. Amen.**

(Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

**** **** 8 The Good News of Jesus Christ (1 John 1:4-7)

Leader: What you are longing and hoping for is nearer than you know:

**People: Jesus Christ is Emmanuel, God with us.   
 We rejoice in the good news.**

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made new.**

****

9 Response 132: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*  (verses 1, 2)

**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!**

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10 The Passing of the Peace



11a Word with Children (Pastor Wendy)

Children worshiping in the sanctuary, please come forward.

**** Carol 114: *Away in the 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 the Manger* (verse 2)

**The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,**

**But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.**

**I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,**

**And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

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****11b Carol 128: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* (verse 1)

**Infant holy, infant lowly**

**For His bed a cattle stall;**

**Oxen lowing, little knowing**

**Christ the babe is Lord of all.**

**Swift are winging angels singing,**

**Noels ringing, tidings bringing,**

**Christ the babe is Lord of all!**

**Christ the babe is Lord of all!**

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**A picture containing wrench, tool

Description automatically generated**12 Prayer for Illumination



13 Scripture Lessons:  Luke 1:46-56 Pew Bible, p. 57, N.T.)

Luke 1:67-80 Pew Bible, p. 58 (N.T.)



14 Sermon: “Dawning Light”

****15 Singing What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)

Carol 137: *He Came Down* (all 4 verses)

**He came down that we may have love;**

**He came down that we may have love;**

**He came down that we may have love;**

**Hallelujah forever more.**

**2. He came down that we may have light…**

**3. He came down that we may have peace…**

**4. He came down that we may have joy…**

Text: Camaroon traditional

Tune: Camaroon traditional, transcribed and arr. by John L. Bell © 1990, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

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****16 Carol 113: *Angels We Have Heard on High* (verses 1, 3)

**A picture containing wrench, tool

Description automatically generated**17 Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

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

**The Lord’s Prayer:** (unison)

**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: *O Come, Little Children*

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

****21 Carol 146: *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* (all 3 verses)

****22 Charge and Benediction

Leader: Now go and serve the Lord,

**All: For we are blessed to be a blessing!  
 Amen! Amen!**

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23 Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Pastor Wendy Boden  
Liturgist: Blair Nelson  
Greeter/Fellowship: Barb Kocinski  
Music: Tom Anderson; Nick Kaskovich, accordion  
Worship Associate: David Kozich  
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The poinsettias were given by the following people:

Craig and Sarah Allen Caroline and Ralph Linde

Sue and Walt Briney Del Meester

Jonathan and Derek Buckley Lanny Russell

Linda Ellinghausen The Sanders family

Lynn Ferino Angela Smith

Victor King Diane Swiss

Barb and Joe Kocinski Rita Zapel

The Kozich family Barb Zink

**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.