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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**

**3rd Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 21, 2024**

**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 “Artists’ Reception.”

2 Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Mission

**** 3a Lighting the Candles (John 13:34)

**“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.   
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.”**

**** 3b Improvisational Prelude

****[Please remain seated while singing the opening songs.]

4a Hymn 175: *Seek Ye First* (all 3 verses)

4b Hymn 401: *Here in This Place (Gather Us In)* (verses 1, 3)

**** 5 Call to Worship

Leader: We enter this sacred space

**People: To voice the longings of our hearts in prayer.**

Leader: In the company of sacred gathering,

**People: We offer our love to the Holy One.**

**All:** **We worship God together.**

****

6 Hymn 171: *A Sower Came from Ancient Hills* (all 4 verses)

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

**Lord God, we forget to listen; forgive us. Help us tend the soil of our souls so that we may grow in the knowledge of your love for all people. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

(Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

**** **** 8 Declaration of God’s Grace/The Good News of Jesus Christ (1 John 4:7-21)

Leader: Beloved, let us love one another.

**People: Love is from God.**

Leader: Whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven,**

**because God is love. Alleluia!**

****

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.

As children leave the sanctuary:

****11b *Lord, Prepare Me (Sanctuary)*  (sing 1 time) Hymnal 701

**Lord, prepare me  
To be a sanctuary,  
Pure and holy,  
Tried and true.  
With thanksgiving  
I'll be a living  
Sanctuary for you.**

CCLI Song # 24140

John W. Thompson | Randy Scruggs

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**A picture containing wrench, tool

Description automatically generated**12 Prayer for Illumination



13 Scripture Lessons:  Mark 4:1-9 Pew Bible, p. 38, N.T.)

Mark 4:21-29 Pew Bible, p. 38 (N.T.)

Mark 4:30-34 Pew Bible, p. 38 (N.T.)



14 Sermon: “Listen”

****15 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)   
 from *The Confession of 1967* (PCUSA) [9.23, edited]

**The new life does not release us from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, fear. We still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as we mature in love and faithfulness in our life with Christ, we live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.**

****15 Hymn: *Bring Forth the Kingdom*  p. 6, gold supplement

**A picture containing wrench, tool

Description automatically generated**16 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.]

17 Offertory Anthem: *When You Call*  Ruth Elaine Schram

****18 \**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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****19 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

****20 Hymn 247: *Now the Green Blade Rises* (all 4 verses)

****21 Charge and Benediction

Leader: Now go and serve the Lord,

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

****

22 Improvisational Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden   
Liturgist: Andrea Schmidt  
Greeter/Fellowship: Nick Kaskovich  
Music: Tom Anderson, Southminster Choir  
Worship Assistant: David Kozich

Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are from Craig and Sarah Allen to celebrate Craig’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**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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.