

Southminster Presbyterian Church



A Service for the Worship of God

January 3, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

The Second Sunday After Christmas

PREPARATION

Please set out a candle that you can light as we light the Christ Candle during worship.

Today is a Communion Sunday. Please have a cup of juice and a piece of any kind of bread for each person worshipping in your home.

Gathering Around God's Word

Prelude

Jim Pera

Welcome and Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Holly Woods

Call to Worship

Holly Woods

One: Come, hear the Christmas news;

All: Jesus Christ is born!

One: Come, sing the Christmas story;

All: Jesus Christ is born!

One: Come, worship the Christmas child.

All: Jesus Christ is born!

Prayer of Confession

O Holy One, forgive us when we fail to live in the good news of your Christmas story; when we hear the choir sing, “Rejoice!” but we do not join their chorus; when we know the angels say, “Do not fear,” yet fear is all we can muster; when we see a star rising in the east, but we turn away from its light. Forgive us, O Lord, of the sins of our lives and the sins of the systems we fail to disrupt. Convict us with the cry of a child from a manger, and free us to try again.

(Silence for personal reflection and confession.) Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: People of God, hear the good news: Jesus Christ has come to us to set us free.

All: In Christ, our confessions are heard and our hearts are transformed.

One: Let us live as forgiven people, free to love and be loved.

All: Alleluia!

Response to Forgiveness

“Celtic Alleluia”

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.
 Je - sus we praise you as Lord; All of the earth gives you
 glo - ry for your ma - jes - ty — fills the hea - ven, fills the earth.

Passing of the Peace

Holly Woods

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Hearing God's Word**Prayer for Illumination**

Holly Woods

Scripture

Psalm 147:1-12

Extol the LORD, Jerusalem;
 praise your God, Zion.
 God strengthens the bars of your gates
 and blesses your people within you.
 God grants peace to your borders
 and satisfies you with the finest of wheat.
 God sends God's command to the earth;

God's word runs swiftly.
The Lord spreads the snow like wool
and scatters the frost like ashes.
God hurls down God's hail like pebbles.
Who can withstand God's icy blast?
God sends God's word and melts them;
God stirs up breezes, and the waters flow.
God has revealed God's word to Jacob,
God's laws and decrees to Israel.
The Lord has done this for no other nation;
they do not know God's laws.
Praise the LORD.

Children's Time

Josh Sweeney

Anthem

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Cari Sullivan

Scripture

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Sermon

"Among Us"

Rev. Laura Nile Tuell

Hymn #137

"He Came Down"

all stanzas

Presentation of Offerings

Josh Sweeney

If you would like to give online, please go to www.sminster.com/give where you can give once or set-up a recurring monthly offering to the church. You can also mail in checks to the church office.

Presentation Hymn #155

"Raise a Song of Gladness"

**Raise a song of gladness, people of the earth.
Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to every heart.
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart.
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart.**

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to The Table

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

Hymn # 509

“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

omit verse 2

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

Breaking of the Bread and Lifting of the Cup

The bread broken and the cup poured by the pastor symbolizes our unity as the Body of Christ in this sacrament.

After the words, “The Body of Christ, given for you,” are spoken, serve a yourself or a family member, saying the same words. After the words, “The Cup of the New Covenant, given for you,” are spoken, do the same.

Prayer After Communion and 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.

Hymn # 12

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

verses 1, 4

Benediction

Postlude



The flowers were given by Peggy Stichter in loving memory of her husband Bruce for their wedding anniversary on December 26.