

# *Southminster Presbyterian Church*



## *A Service for the Worship of God*

**March 14, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.  
The Fourth Sunday in Lent**

### Gathering Around God's Word

#### **Prelude**

*Jim Pera*

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

#### **Gathering Hymn # 701**

“Lord Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary”

*Sing twice*

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living  
sanctuary for you.**

#### **Call to Worship**

Psalm 107:1-3, 21-22

*John Woods*

#### **Hymn # 649**

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

*verses 1, 3, and 5*

#### **Call to Reconciliation**

*Holly Woods*

#### **Prayer of Confession**

Eternal God, we are grateful for your boundless love. We are amazed that Jesus poured himself out for us with a resolution and sacrifice that shames our pale commitments. While we admit that it is hard for us to follow in Jesus' footsteps, we are grateful that you know our weakness and help us in our journey. Forgive us when we are timid in showing love or when we hold back our affection for one another. Inspire us to life without barriers or limits to our kindness. Forgiving God, cleanse our hearts and move us to love freely as you have loved us in Jesus Christ.

*(Silence for personal reflection and confession) Amen.*

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

**One:** Remember that God loves you, forgives you, and creates new life in you.

**All:** May God's compassion make us more passionate to serve;  
May God's forgiveness in Jesus Christ make us eager to forgive;  
May God's love move us to love one another. Amen.

**Response to Forgiveness # 607**

Doxology

*Inclusive Version*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

## **Hearing God's Word**

**Prayer for Illumination**

*Holly Woods*

**Scripture**

Isaiah 54:10

**Children's Time**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

**Anthem**

“What Wondrous Love Is This”  
*Vocal Ensemble*

*Carlton R. Young*

**Scripture**

John 3:16-21

*Rev. Laura Nile Tuell*

**Sermon**

“Into the Light”

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

## **Responding to God's Word**

**Hymn # 435**

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

**Presentation of Offerings**

*Rev. Laura Nile Tuell*

*If you would like to give online, please go to [www.sminster.com/give](http://www.sminster.com/give) where you can give once or set-up a recurring monthly offering to the church. You can also mail your offering to the church office.*

**Presentation Hymn # 223 “When I Survey the Wonderous Cross”**

*verse 4*

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small;  
    love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

**Joys and Concerns**

*Rev. Laura Nile Tuell*

## **Prayers of the People 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 # 366**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

omit verse 4

**Benediction**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

**Postlude**

*Jim Pera*