

*Southminster Presbyterian Church*



*A Service for the Worship of God*

Fifth Sunday of Easter  
May 2, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

*PREPARATION: If possible, please have 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**

**Prelude**

*Jim Pera*

**Welcome, Announcements, and Joys and Concerns**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

*Kate Scarpero*

**Call to Worship**

*One: Gracious God, forever seeking us, open our minds to the truth of your care.*

**All: Open our hearts to the transforming power of your love.**

*One: Open our lips to share stories of faith.*

**All: Open our lives to do justice and show kindness.**

**Open our spirits to sing your praise.**

**Hymn # 611**

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

## Prayer of Adoration and Praise

God of wisdom and blessing, we praise you for creating within us the deep desire to know you. We are grateful that you call us to give our support to others as they journey along the road to you. You entrust us with joyfully sharing Christ's love, offering a listening ear, and giving others our attention and compassion. Help us to remember that these are gifts and not burdens. Open our hearts to the guidance of your Holy Spirit, Lord, and use us as vessels of your grace in this world. Amen.

## 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.

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## Passing the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### Prayer for Illumination

Kate Scarpero

### Scripture

1 John 4:1-12

Responsive Paraphrase

One: *My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God.*

All: **Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God.**

One: *If you refuse to love, you don't know the first thing about God, because God is love—so you can't know God if you don't love.*

All: **This is how God showed complete love for us:  
God sent the only Son into the world so we might live through him.**

One: *This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we first loved God, but that God loved us and sent Jesus to cleanse us from our sins and the damage they have done to our relationship with God.  
My dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other.*

**All: No one has seen God, but if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us,  
and God’s love becomes complete in us—perfect love!**

**Children’s Time** *Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

**Anthem** “Gather Us In” *arr. Lloyd Larson*

**Scripture** Acts 8:26-40 *Rev. Laura Nile Tuell*

**Sermon** “Holy Nudges and Moments of Grace” *Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

### **RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

**Hymn # 692** “Spirit, Open My Heart” *omit verse 2*

**Presentation of Offerings** *Rev. Laura Nile Tuell*

**Presentation Hymn # 233** “The Day of Resurrection” *verse 3*

**Now let the heavens be joyful,  
Let earth the song begin,  
Let the round world keep triumph,  
And all that is therein;  
Let all things seen and unseen  
Their notes of gladness blend,  
For Christ the Lord is risen,  
Our joy that hath no end.**

### **THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Invitation to The Table** *Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

**Hymn # 515** “I Come with Joy” *verses 1, 3, and 5*

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving** *Rev. Laura Nile Tuell*

*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 pastors symbolize our unity as the Body of Christ in this sacrament.*

*After the words, “The Body of Christ, given for you,” are spoken, serve 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

*Rev. Laura Nile Tuell*

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 # 749

“Come, Live In the Light!”

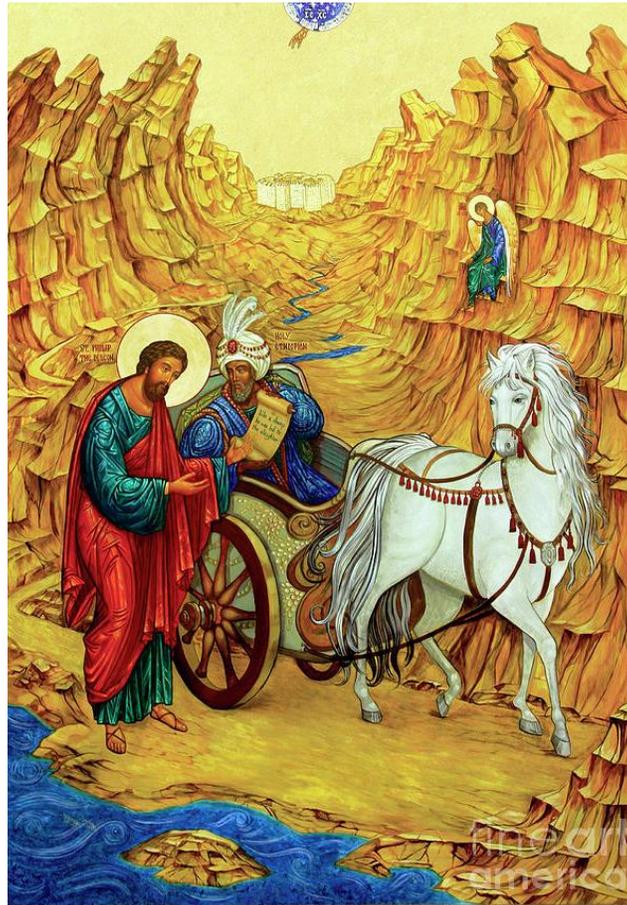
Benediction

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

Postlude

*Jim Pera*

*Cover: A section of an icon of Saint Philip the Deacon with the Ethiopian Eunuch by Ann Chapin*



## Southminster Worshiping Covenant

We are so excited that we can slowly start welcoming members back to in-person worship! In order to ensure that worship is a safe space for everyone who wants to return, we ask that you covenant with us to abide by the following safety guidelines:

1. **Face masks** must be worn over your mouth and nose by all people over the age of 5 at all times, even if you are fully vaccinated. If you forget, we will kindly remind you to put your mask back on.
2. Please maintain a **six-foot distance** between you and other members at all times. Take precautions not to gather closely at places like the coat racks, elevator, and narrow hallways.
3. We ask that you wait to enter the building until at 9:45 am. When you enter, please take a bulletin and find a spot in the pews at least six feet from another household. We ask that **all fellowship and mingling be done outside**, not in the sanctuary, narthex or coffee corner.
4. The **livestream recording begins at 9:55 am** with the prelude. At that time, any sounds above a whisper may be heard on the livestream on YouTube. Anyone in the first few rows of pews may be visible on camera.
5. Unfortunately, **congregational singing will not be permitted**. The soloist will sing the hymns while the congregation remains seated. We ask that you not sing because singing propels aerosolized droplets much further than speaking does.
6. We will **not be shaking hands or hugging** during the passing of the peace. We encourage you to look around and wave instead. You may also put your hands on your heart as you share the Peace of Christ from your seat.
7. We will **not be passing an offering plate around**. You may drop your offering in the container in the Narthex or in a container that will be located on the other side of the front pew.
8. On **Communion Sundays**, you will receive the communion elements in individual containers. You may remove your mask to eat and drink in your seat. Immediately afterward, please put on your mask again.
9. After the postlude, an usher will dismiss you by rows. Please **take your bulletin and all other trash with you**. There will be trash and recycling cans in the Narthex. Please take your belongings and **go outside** (not in the sanctuary, narthex, or coffee corner) to enjoy fellowship with other members.
10. **Nursery and Sunday School** will be available as needed.

If you have any questions about the covenant, please contact the church office. We want worship to be a safe space for all who are ready to return.