



SOUTHMINSTER 
Presbyterian Church

*A Service for the Worship of God
The Sixth Sunday of Easter*

May 17, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

PREPARATION:

*Please set out a candle that you can light as we light the Christ Candle during worship.
If you'd like, print out and color the illustration above while you worship.*

Gathering Around God's Word

Prelude

Jim Pera

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Laura Nile

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

*Call to Worship

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

One: Bless the lord, o people, sing!

All: Let the sound of praise ring out.

One: Come and hear what the lord has done,

All: the Lord who has made the world and everything in it! Alleluia!

*Hymn #12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

verses 1, 4

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:
In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.
Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;
We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

*Prayer of Adoration and Praise

Holy God, we give you thanks for the gift of life and breath that is ours today in Christ. You listen to our prayers and you do not reject us. You have sent us your spirit so that we may never be alone. Make us eager to do good and to resist evil, and grant us the wisdom to recognize the difference. Fill us with your assurance in all we say and do that we may share the hope that is within us in gentleness and reverence of Christ. 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 of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

Hearing God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

Scripture Reading

Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.

For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Anthem

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”
Rowland Hugh Prichard

Beth Menke Miller

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Sermon

“All That the Light Touches”

Rev. Laura Nile

Responding to God's Word

*Hymn #372

O for a World

verses 1,4,5

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,
where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Presentation of Offerings

If you would like to give online, please go to www.sminster.com/give where you can give once or set-up a reoccurring monthly offering to the church.

***Presentation Hymn # 246**

“Christ is Alive!

verse 5

Organist will play it once. Then, we all will sing it.

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

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 #735**

I Need Thee Every Hour

all verses

music on next page

735 I Need Thee Every Hour

1 I need thee ev - ery hour, most gra - cious Lord;
 2 I need thee ev - ery hour; stay thou near by;
 3 I need thee ev - ery hour; teach me thy will,
 4 I need thee ev - ery hour, Most Ho - ly One;

no ten - der voice like thine can peace af - ford.
 temp - ta - tions lose their power when thou art nigh.
 and thy rich prom - is - es in me ful - fill.
 O make me thine in - deed, thou bless - ed Son.

Refrain

I need thee, O I need thee, ev - ery hour I need thee!

O bless me now, my Sav - ior— I come to thee!

***Benediction**

***Postlude**