

Southminster Presbyterian Church



A Service for the Worship of God *Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost*

August 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

PREPARATION

- Please set out a candle that you can light as we light the Christ Candle during worship.
- Please print out the last page, called “Children’s Page,” if you have a child.

Gathering Around God’s Word

Prelude

Jim Pera

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Josh Sweeney

Call to Worship

One: When we trust God enough to be vulnerable,

All: we open ourselves to the possibility of active discipleship and vibrant faith.

One: When we let go of the need to be right or to have everything go our way,

All: we make room for an honest and trusting relationship with God.

One: As we worship this day, let us be open to the whispers of the Spirit

All: and the love that Christ can put in receptive hearts.

Hymn # 386

“Come Worship God” (Psalm 95)

verses 1 and 4

See next page.

1 Come, wor - ship God, who is wor - thy of hon - or;
 2 Ruled by your might are the heights of the moun - tains;
 3 We are your peo - ple, the sheep of your pas - ture;
 4 Now let us lis - ten, for you speak a - mong us;

en - ter God's pres - ence with thanks and a song!
 held in your hands are the depths of the earth.
 you are our Mak - er, and to you we pray.
 o - pen our hearts to re - ceive what you say.

You are the rock of your peo - ple's sal - va - tion
 Yours is the sea, yours the land, for you made them,
 Glad - ly we kneel in o - be - dience be - fore you;
 Peace be to all who re - mem - ber your good - ness,

to whom our ju - bi - lant prais - es be - long.
 God a - bove all gods, who gave us our birth.
 great is the one whom we wor - ship this day!
 trust in your word, and re - joice in your way!

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and all-knowing God, you made us in your image with a mind to know you, a heart to love you, and a will to serve you. Yet, we realize that our knowledge is incomplete, our love is inconsistent, and our actions fall short of our intentions.

In our desire to be self-sufficient, we forget about your faithfulness to us. We like to pretend that we have control over every situation, and we are hesitant to humble ourselves and to put our trust in you.

Forgive our dimness of vision. Teach us to be patient in our trials, confident of your love, and joyful in your presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Silence for personal reflection and confession.) Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

*One: On this day, as on every day,
God's arms are wide open to embrace us;
God's heart is wide open to forgive us.
Friends, this is the good news:*

**All: Through Jesus Christ, we discover grace that will never end.
We will rejoice in God's healing love. Amen.**

Response to Forgiveness "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

Hymn # 1, verse 1

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.**

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. Laura Nile Tuell

Scripture Reading *Rev. Laura Nile Tuell, Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong, Josh Sweeney, Ruth Mappes*

2 Kings 5:1-8

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel." He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me." But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel."

Hymn # 793

"O Christ, the Healer"

verses 1 and 3

See next page.



1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for
 2 From ev - ery ail - ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies
 3 How strong, O Lord, are our de - sires, how weak our
 4 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og -
 5 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com -



health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to
 clam - or to be freed; yet in our hearts we
 knowl - edge of our - selves! Re - lease in us those
 nize the world's dis - ease; our com - mon life de -
 mu - ni - ty may find the whole - ness that, en -



be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?
 would con - fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.
 heal - ing truths un - con - scious pride re - sists or shelves.
 clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
 rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind. //

Scripture Reading:

2 Kings 5: 9-19a

So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?"

He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "**Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?**" So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel; please accept a present from your servant." But he said, "As the LORD lives, whom I serve, I will accept nothing!" He urged him to accept, but he refused. Then Naaman said, "If not, please let two mule-loads of earth be given to your servant; for your servant will no longer offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god except the LORD. But may the LORD pardon your servant on one count: when my master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, leaning on my arm, and I bow down in the house of Rimmon, when I do bow down in the house of Rimmon, may the LORD pardon your servant on this one count." He said to him, "Go in peace."

Children's Time

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

(The Children's Page at end of bulletin can be used for discussion with your child after worship.)

Anthem "Christ Has Broken Down the Wall" *by Mark Miller*
Vocal Ensemble

Sermon "Wade in the Water" *Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

Responding to God's Word

Hymn "Wade in the Water" *Traditional Spiritual*

*Ruth Whatley will sing the verses.
The congregation will join her in the refrain below.*

**Wade in the water,
Wade in the water, children,
Wade in the water,
God's a gonna trouble the water.**

Presentation of Offerings *Rev. Laura Nile Tuell*

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 *Sung to the tune of "All Creatures of Our God and King.*

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff is the melody. The second and third staves are lyrics with corresponding notes. The lyrics are: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more; Praise Tri - une God whom we a - dore. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!"

Moment for Mission **Christian Education** *Karen Locke*

Sharing of 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 # 547 "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" *verses 1 and 3*

See next page.

1 "Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev-er a-lone.
 2 "Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me.

Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.

In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for-
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry; here you touched him, saw his
 Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you; here my ten-der com-fort

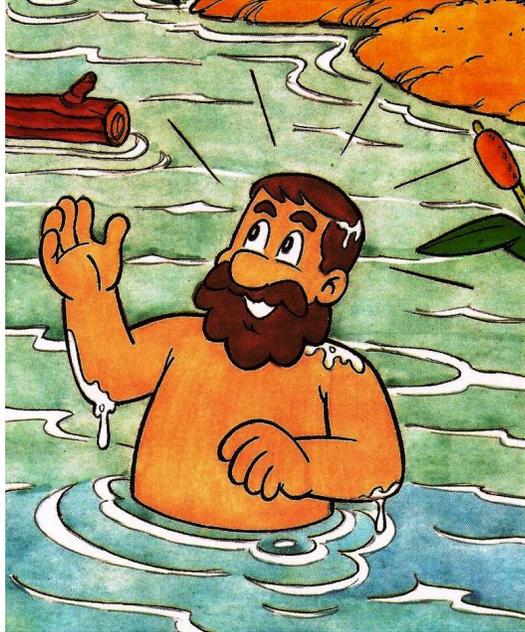
ev-er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
 glo-ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure."
 stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free."

Benediction

Postlude

*The flowers for this Sunday's service
 were given to the glory of God
 by our Worship Team.*

Children's Page



Naaman, the great and powerful Commander of the King's army, had leprosy.

Why do you think the little servant girl in the story wanted to help him?

Do you think she was brave for speaking up?

Do you speak up when it is important?

Do you ever worry that people won't listen to you?

God always listens to you, cares about you, and loves you. How does that make you feel?