

# Southminster Presbyterian Church



## *A Service for the Worship of God Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost*

**August 23, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.**

### PREPARATION

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

### 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: Our help is in the name of the Lord our God,  
the Maker of heaven and earth,*

**All: who comes to our aid in times of need,  
who gives us the courage to do what we know is right,  
who invites us to turn away from the influences of the world around us  
and turn toward love, through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

*One: Let us worship together.*

**Hymn # 630**

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

*omit verse 2*

*See next page.*

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Rul - er of the

na - ture, O thou of God to earth come  
 wood - lands, robed in the bloom - ing garb of  
 moon - light, and all the twink - ling, star - ry  
 na - tions, Son of God and Son of

down, thee will I cher - ish, thee will I  
 spring. Je - sus is fair - er; Je - sus is  
 host. Je - sus shines bright - er; Je - sus shines  
 Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o -

hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.  
 pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.  
 pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.  
 ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

### Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we sometimes think that unless we are able to do great things, we can't make a difference in this world. We can feel powerless and inconsequential. Yet, O Lord, we know it is wrong to deny your power to use us and to work through us.

In your mercy, help us to be conscious each day of any opportunity to act with love and compassion. Give us the strength to be unafraid to do the right thing and the faithful thing, even when it defies the expectations of those around us. Through the power of your Spirit, lead us in the path of Jesus Christ who went against the status quo whenever it stood in the way of your love.

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

## Assurance of Forgiveness

*One: Here is the Good News, my friends: Christ came searching for us, calling us by name, and leading us into new life.*

**All: In Christ, we are forgiven for the ways we have turned away from God.**

*One: When broken, we are made whole; when lost, we are found.*

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Response to Forgiveness**      “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Might Gates”      *Hymn # 93, verse 3*  
*(Organist will play once, then congregation will sing it with the soloist.)*

**Redeemer come! I open wide  
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.  
Let me thy inner presence feel;  
thy grace and love in me reveal.**

## 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*

Exodus 1:8-21

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” Therefore, they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, “When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.” But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?” The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared the Lord, God gave them families.

### Anthem

“Take My Life and Let it Be”

*arr. Kurt Kaiser*

*Vocal Ensemble*

**Scripture Reading:**

*Rev. Laura-Nile Tuell, Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong, Josh Sweeney*

Exodus 1:22-2:10

Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.” Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

**Children’s Time**

*Josh Sweeney*

**Sermon**

**“The Butterfly Effect”**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

**Responding to God’s Word**

**Hymn # 767**

“Together We Serve”

*omit verse 4*

*See next page.*



1 To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love,  
 2 We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope,  
 3 We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor,  
 4 To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work,

(C) (G) (Am7) (Dsus) (D)  
 Eb Bb Cm7 Fsus F



in - vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast.  
 a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.  
 the bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care.  
 re - mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong.

(G) (D) (C) (Bm)  
 Bb F Eb Dm



We work and we pray through sor - row and joy,  
 We learn, year by year, to let love shine through  
 We of - fer a home to those who will come,  
 To - geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth,

(G) (C) (G) (Am) (D7) (G)  
 Bb Eb Bb Cm F7 Bb



ex - tend - ing God's love to the last and the least.  
 un - til we see Christ in each per - son we meet.  
 our hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to dare.  
 re - mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.

**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 reoccurring monthly offering to the church.

**Presentation Hymn # 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.*

**Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

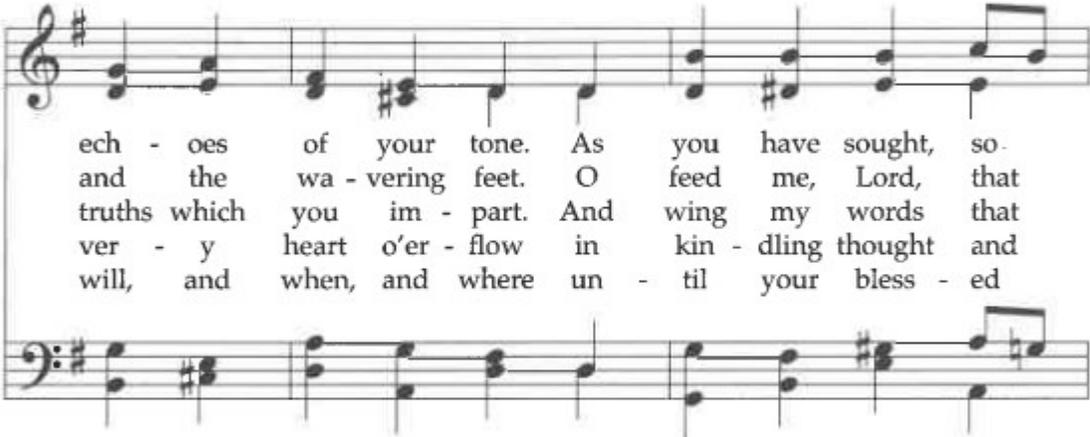
*Rev. Laura Nile Tuell*

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

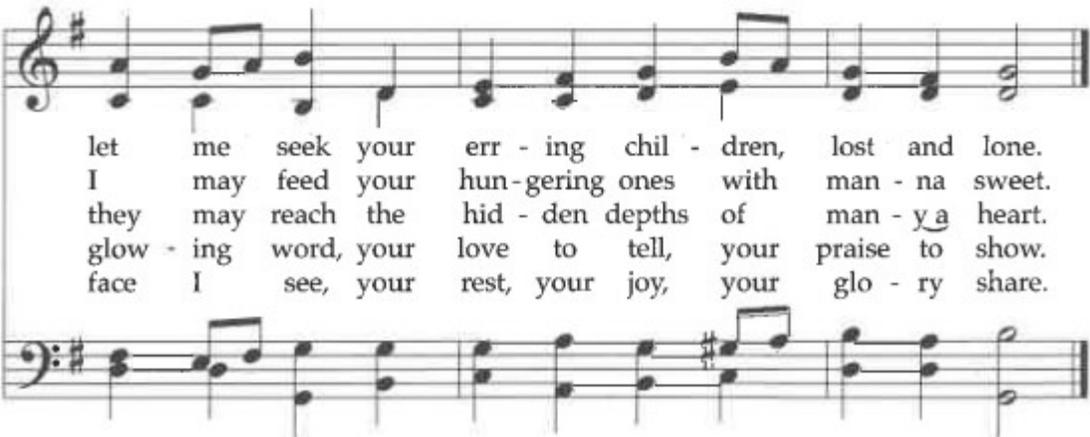
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.



1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak in liv - ing  
 2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wan - dering  
 3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the pre - cious  
 4 O fill me with your full - ness, Lord, un - til my  
 5 O use me, Lord, use e - ven me, just as you



ech - oes of your tone. As you have sought, so -  
 and the wa - vering feet. O feed me, Lord, that  
 truths which you im - part. And wing my words that  
 ver - y heart o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and  
 will, and when, and where un - til your bless - ed



let me seek your err - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.  
 I may feed your hun - gering ones with man - na sweet.  
 they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart.  
 glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.  
 face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

**Benediction****Response to Benediction**

“May the God of Hope Go with Us”

*Ruth Whatley***Postlude**

*The flowers for this Sunday's service  
 were given to the glory of God*

*by Don Barlow in memory of Corky on his birthday  
 and by Todd and Janet Hall in honor of Robert Woods' 88<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 28<sup>th</sup>.*