

# Southminster Presbyterian Church



Painting by Justin Christenbery

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

August 30, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

### PREPARATION

- 1) Please set out a candle that you can light as we light the Christ Candle during worship.
- 2) Just for this Sunday, for reasons that will become evident during the sermon, you are encouraged to take off your shoes for the worship service.

### 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: Hearing their cries, God called to Israel,*

**All: "Come Out" of slavery in Egypt into a land of promise.**

*One: Hearing their lamentations, God called, through the prophets,*

**All: "Come back" from the land of exile into a new beginning.**

*One: Hearing our despair, Jesus calls to his disciples,*

**All: "Come, follow me," out from your bondage to sin, self, and status quo into the Kingdom of love, peace, and joy of the Spirit.**

**Hymn # 49**

"The God of Abraham Praise"

*verses 1,2, and 4*

**Prayer of Confession**

**Holy God, we are thankful that your Spirit calls to each of us, but we admit that we are reluctant to respond. Our excuses come more easily than our faithfulness. We**

**cling to what is comfortable, familiar and safe. Cleanse our hearts, Lord. Take away the excuses that keep us from listening to you, and give us the courage to be vessels of your love in this world.**

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

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

*One: God has claimed us and will not let us go.*

*There is no one and there is no thing  
that can keep God from forgiving us, loving us and healing us.*

**All: Loved, we can love the unlovable;  
Granted grace, we can be a blessing to others;  
Forgiven, we can forgive those who have hurt us.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Response to Forgiveness**      “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Might Gates”      *Hymn # 93, verse 3*

**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**

Matthew 16:24-26

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?”

#### **Hymn # 720**

“Jesus Calls Us”

*verses 1 and 4*

#### **Scripture Reading:**

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.” When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to

me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.”

But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.” But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’: This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

**Children’s Time**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

**Anthem**

“Make Me A Channel of Your Peace”

*Vocal Ensemble*

**Sermon**

“**Holy Ground**”

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

**Responding to God’s Word**

**Hymn # 726**

“Will You Come and Follow Me?”

*verses 1, 3, and 4*

**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.

**Hymn # 313**

“Lord, Make Us More Holy”

*verses 1,2, and 4*

**Benediction**

**Postlude**



***FLOWERS for this Sunday’s service were given to the glory of God  
by Bob and Jean Clements in celebration of their 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary***