

# Southminster Presbyterian Church



*Painting by George Tully*

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

September 6, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

### PREPARATION

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

*For Communion, please have a cup of juice and a piece of any kind of bread for each person worshipping in your home.*

### Gathering Around God's Word

**Prelude**

*Jim Pera*

**Welcome and Announcements**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

*Linda Wiggers*

**Call to Worship**

*One: Lord of life and hope, we gather this day  
seeking nourishment for our souls and healing for our spirits.*

**All: Give to us your living bread, that having been nourished in soul and spirit,  
we may be witnesses to your transforming love. Amen.**

**Hymn # 409**

**"God Is Here"  
Ruth Whatley and Congregation**

*verses 1, 3, and 4*

## Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, whenever we share Holy Communion, we are reminded that you sustain us through Jesus Christ. At the same time, that assurance too easily slips from our consciousness. We can wallow in our difficulties and make excuses for not living the kind of life that you would have us live. We have treated others in ways that are not healthy or loving. Forgive us, Lord. Stop us in our tracks and help us to examine the ways in which we have not served you well. Fill us with gratitude for your amazing love, and help us to follow in the path of Christ.

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

## Assurance of Forgiveness

*One: Friends, hear the Good News:  
God so loved the world that God sent Jesus to us,*

**All: not to condemn the world,  
but that the world might be healed and forgiven through him.  
Thanks be to God!**

## Response to Forgiveness

“Holy, Holy, Holy

Hymn # 595

*(Organist will play once, then congregation will sing it with the soloist.)*

**Holy, holy, holy.  
my heart, my heart adores you!  
My heart knows how to say to you:  
you are holy, Lord!**

## Passing of the Peace

*Josh Sweeney*

*One: The peace of Christ be with you.  
All: And also with you.*

## Hearing God's Word

### Prayer for Illumination

#### Scripture

Ephesians 5:15-20

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because these days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### Anthem

“Just As I Am”  
*Vocal Ensemble*

*arr. Joseph R. Martin*

#### Scripture

John 6:51-58

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” The people then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as God sent me and therefore I live, so whoever feeds upon me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”

Children's Time

Rev. Laura Nile Tuell

Sermon

"Eww, Gross!"

Rev. Dr. Nancy R. Birdsong

**Responding to God's Word**

Hymn # 288

"Spirit of the Living God"

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Presentation of Offerings**

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 recurring monthly offering to the church

Presentation Hymn #582

*verse 1, sing twice*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me  
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me  
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be Amen.**

**THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Invitation to The Table

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

Hymn # 526

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

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

*After the words, "The Body of Christ, given for you," are spoken, serve a family member (or, if alone, serve yourself), 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**

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 #498**      “Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken”    verses 1,2 and 4

**Benediction**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

**Postlude**



*FLOWERS for this Sunday's service were given to the glory of God  
by Bob and Dottie Eggers in celebration of their September birthdays and  
by Mike and Cindy Stevens in celebration of their 46<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.*