

*Southminster Presbyterian Church*



*“For the Lord does not see as people see;  
they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”*

*A Service for the Worship of God  
Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost*

**October 25, 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*

**Moment for Mission**

*Kevin Dickson*

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

*Holly Woods*

**Call to Worship**

*One: Jesus reached inside himself  
and took a handful of love, like a pile of stardust, and said,  
“This is for you. It is all you need. It is all you will ever need.  
There is enough here to change the whole world. Take it.”*

**All: With that love, we can welcome the lonely, feed the hungry,  
and stand with the lost.**

*One: With that love, we are changed and the world is made new.*

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Hymn # 314

“Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness”  
 (“Christ, Be Our Light”)

verses 1,2, and 5

### Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we ask about people's backgrounds to see if they are like us, while you look at the touch of grace within. We examine another's good looks or athletic prowess, while you take notice of how they reach out to those who are different. We gaze at the size of another's house, car, or portfolio to judge how successful they are, and you observe whether or not they have faith the size of the smallest seed. We judge ourselves by the world's standards and forget who you call us to be.

Forgive us when we forget that we are all created in your image. Reshape us into new people with eyes to see you in one another. Teach us how to look for what is in the heart.

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

### Assurance of Forgiveness

*One: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

**All: The promise rests on God's grace, not on our best efforts.**

*One: At any time, in every moment, God's constant love  
heals our hearts, mends our brokenness and restores us to life.*

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

Response to Forgiveness “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

*Hymn 645 vs 1*

**Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,  
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.  
With healing balm my soul is filled,  
and every faithless murmur stilled:  
to God all praise and glory.**

### 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

Mark 4:30-34

Anthem

“The Sacrifice of Praise”  
*Vocal Ensemble*

*Taylor Davis*

Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

*Josh Sweeney, Holly Woods, Rev. Laura Nile Tuell, and Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

Children's Time

*Josh Sweeney*

Sermon

“Beneath the Surface”

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

**Responding to God’s Word**

Hymn # 754

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

verses 1, 2, 3

Moment for Stewardship

Caroline

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

“Give Thanks”

Hymn 647

**Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks because we’re given Jesus Christ, the Son.**

**And now let the weak say, “We are strong”;  
let the poor say, “We are rich  
because of what the Lord has done for us!”**

**Give thanks. Give thanks.**

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 # 546

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

verses 1 and 2

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

Postlude



***FLOWERS for this Sunday’s service were given to the glory of God  
by the Alobwede family in memory of Gordon,  
beloved husband of Victorine and devoted father to their boys.***