

Southminster Presbyterian Church



A Service for the Worship of God
Twenty-third Sunday After Pentecost
November 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

DEDICATION SUNDAY

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

Gay Amos

Call to Worship

One: Like leaves skipping over a carpet of grass,

All: God stirs our hearts with the joy of the Spirit.

One: Like the moon lighting our way on a cloudless, autumn night,

All: God provides the Light of Christ to help us walk the path ahead.

One: Like the first glimpses of the sun peeking over the horizon,

All: God warms our hearts with hope and peace.

Let us worship the Creator of all life.

Hymn # 726

“Will You Come and Follow Me”
“The Summons”

verses 1,3, and 4
Cari Sullivan

Prayer of Confession

Loving Creator, we come before you, stripped of our pretensions and pride. We know that nothing we do or say can be hidden from you. You hear the angry and impatient words we speak, and you sift through the rubble of the hurts we have caused. You see how we get weighed down by other priorities and distractions that keep us from following Jesus. In your mercy, God, empty our hands of all the unnecessary things to which we cling too tightly. Help us to let go of all that might hold us back and grant us the courage to be faithful disciples.

(Silence for personal reflection and confession.) Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: The God whom we know in Jesus Christ is a God of mercy and love.

All: When we are disillusioned with others and ourselves, God still accepts us as we are and moves toward us with forgiveness and comfort.

One: We are freed by God's love to live in the freshness of each new day.

All: Thanks be to God!

Response to Forgiveness

“Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me”

Hymn 703, verse 1

**Jesus, thy boundless love to me
no thought can reach, no tongue declare;
O knit my thankful heart to thee,
and reign without a rival there!
Thine wholly, thine alone, I'd live;
myself to thee entirely give.**

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Hearing God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Josh Sweeney

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 4:12-16

Hymn # 691

“Lord, When I Came into This Life”

verses 1, 2 and 3

Scripture Reading

Mark 10:17-27

Rev. Laura Nile Tuell

Children's Time

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

Anthem

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

arr. Linda Scholes

Sermon

“Open Hands”

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

Responding to God's Word

Hymn # 694

“Great God of Every Blessing”

verses 1 and 2

Profession of Faith

(Adapted from A Brief Confession of Faith)

In life and death, we belong to God. We trust in one God, the Holy One, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ. Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain, and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the powers of sin and evil, delivering us from death to eternal life.

We trust in the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The spirit justifies us by grace through faith, and sets us free to accept ourselves, and to love God and neighbor. In gratitude to God we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks, and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come Lord Jesus!

Moment for Mission

Thank Offering

Gay Amos

Presentation of Offerings and Pledges

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. Today, we are dedicating our pledges for 2021. If you did not receive a pledge card, please contact the office. You also can make a pledge by sending an email to Sharon Ark at office@sminster.com.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication of our Pledges and Gifts of Time and Talent

Presentation Hymn #710

“We Lift Our Voices”

(“We Are an Offering”)

**We lift our voices; we lift our hands;
we lift our lives up to you; we are an offering.**

**Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands;
Lord use our lives; they are yours; we are an offering.**

**All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be,
we give to you, we give to you.**

**We lift our voices; we lift our hands;
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering;
we are an offering.**

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 # 697

“Take My Life”

verses 1,2,3, and 6

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Nancy R. Birdsong

Postlude

Jim Pera