



**A Service for the Worship of God
First Sunday of Advent**

November 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Gathering Around God's Word

Prelude

Jim Pera

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

Advent Song

Candles Glowing, Promise Showing
Tune of "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly," lyrics by Elana Keppel Levy

Lighting of the first Advent Candle

Mildred Moore, Max Jenks, Lois Cromes

***Hymn # 347**

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Prayer of Confession

Peggy Stichter

We bring to you, our God, the recollection of our sins. They may not be gaudy ones, but they are real. They are resentments, jealousies, suspicions, greed, pride, unreasonable anger, unfulfilled promises. It is good news for us that you ask us to turn them over to you. Free us from the discouragement they cause and help us to recommit our lives to the better way of living shown to us by our Lord, Jesus Christ.

(Silence for personal reflection and confession.) Amen

Assurance of Forgiveness

*One: The promise of the season of Advent
is the promise of Emmanuel, God with us.*

**All: Jesus calls us to keep awake so that we are ready for God's arrival.
Therefore, let us lay aside all those things that distract us
from faithfully watching for God.**

One: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*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

Peggy Stichter

Scripture

Isaiah 62:6-12

Children's Time

Rev. David Fleming

Anthem

"There's Still My Joy"

arr. Audrey Snyder

Scripture

Mark 13:24-27, 32-37

Sermon

"Waiting and Watching"

Rev. David Fleming

Responding to God's Word

*Hymn # 83

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Presentation of Offerings

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

If you would like to give online, please go to www.sminster.com/give where you can give once or set-up a recurring 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. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

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 # 93

"Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gate"

*Benediction

Rev. David Fleming

*Postlude

Jim Pera

**Please rise in body or spirit*

*Cover photo by Lisa Johnston, used by permission
Of Catholic News Service, St. Louis Review.*



WELCOME GUEST! We are so glad that you are here to worship with us today! Please consider filling out a visitor card, found in the pew in front of you, on the other side of the member card.

Also, we hope you will stop by our Welcome Center in the Narthex, where someone can greet you and give you more information about the church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

After Children's Time, children ages 3—8 and 9—11 are invited to go to "Children and Worship" for the remainder of the service. Each age group will hear a Bible lesson and respond to the story with a variety of mediums.

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PB'nJ PUPPET MINISTRY

PB'nJ Puppet Ministry will meet **today** at 5:15. This is open for elementary through high school youth. No puppet experience is necessary to volunteer! Please meet in the Community Room.

ADVENT

Advent Small Groups will begin today, November 28. Please go to our website at www.sminster.com/Advent to sign up. If you would like to lead a group, please contact Josh at josh@sminster.com.

YOUTH MINISTRY

There are still a few spots available for Montreat 2022. Please sign up and give your deposit to Josh by today, November 28.

ELDERBERRIES

Elderberries will meet on December 3, in the CFC for lunch and a Christmas Sing-a-long featuring the children from *A Great Start Preschool*, accompanied by Art Nitsch. Lunch will start at 11:30 a.m. and the program will start at noon. Please bring your own lunch. Please sign up in the Narthex, in the church office or on the website at www.sminster.com.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Breakfast with Santa is Saturday, December 11, at 9:00 a.m., in the CFC. There will be a pancake breakfast, a craft for the kids, and a visit from Santa.

Southminster Contributions – 2021*

Period	Budgeted Contributions	Actual Contributions	Excess/ (Shortfall)
Last Week	\$9,085	\$4,050	\$(5,035)
Year to Date	\$426,995	\$489,141	\$62,146

* As of November 22, 2021

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, November 28

10:00 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
10:15 a.m.	Children/Worship & Sunday School	Room 206 & 225
11:00 a.m.	Confirmation Class	Ark Room
5:15 p.m.	Puppet Ministry	Community Room

Monday, November 29

7:00 p.m.	Scout Troops 515 & 516	CFC/Comm. Room
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Tuesday, November 30

7:00 p.m.

Session Meeting

via Zoom

Wednesday, December 1

10:00 a.m.

Staff Meeting

Adult Lounge

5:15 p.m.

Bell Choir Practice

Sanctuary

7:00 p.m.

Vocal Choir Practice

Sanctuary

Thursday, December 2

9:30 a.m.

Intercessory Prayer

Chapel

Friday, December 3

11:00 a.m.

Elderberries

CFC

Saturday, December 4

9:00 a.m.

Gentle Yoga

Community Room



CHURCH EVENTS

Please scan the QR code for the full calendar of events or to make a room request.



LEADING IN WORSHIP

Vocal Ensemble
Jim Pera, *Organist*
Ruth Whatley, *Director of Music*
Peggy Stichter *Liturgist*
Rev. David Fleming, Guest Pastor
Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong, Pastor/Head of Staff

USHER: Scott Stout

GREETERS: Ralph & Janice Young, Ken Cherry, and Tom Novak

STREAM TEAM: Josh Sweeney, Mark Locke, Linda Wiggers, Ken Irwin and Todd Hall