

# Southminster Presbyterian Church



## *A Service for the Worship of God* *Second Sunday of Advent*

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

### PREPARATION

*This Sunday, we will be lighting our second Advent candle, the candle of PEACE. If you have made an Advent wreath, we invite you to light the first candle before we begin worship. Then, light the second candle at the same time that Laurie and Louise light it during the service.*

### Gathering Around God's Word

Prelude

Jim Pera

Welcome and Announcements, Joys, and Concerns

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

Advent Song

Cari Sullivan

Shine on us, O God of jus - tice;  
Guide our path through gloom of  
night; Bear with - in us  
Wis - dom's glo - ry; Come to us, O  
Christ the Light!

**Lighting of the Second Advent Candle**      PEACE      *Laurie Bankston and Louise Snyder*

**Hymn # 96**      “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”      *verses 1,2, and 4*

**Prayer of Confession**      *Peggy Stichter*

Gracious God, as we enjoy the warmth of hearth and home, we sometimes forget those who have no warmth, no food, and no home. We don’t often think about how we could reach out to and care for others who need to see your love made visible through us. Busy looking for the faults and mistakes of others, we forget to look within to see where we may need to make some changes. In your mercy, show us new ways to live. Sweep clean the rooms of our hearts, that Christ may find a home among us.

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

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

*One: Here is the good news:  
we can speak of hope until it silences despair;  
we can sing the carols of compassion until all join in the chorus;  
we can shower others with wonder and delight and join in God’s dance of grace.*

**All: We are forgiven! Let us offer to others the kind of love and comfort we have known through Jesus Christ.**

**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**      Luke 3:1-6

**Children’s Time**      *Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

**Anthem**      “Have You Heard?”      *arr. Joel Raney*  
*Small Vocal Ensemble*

**Scripture**      Luke 3: 7-16a      *Rev. Laura Nile Tuell*

**Sermon**      “What Are You Going to Do with That Coat?”  
*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

### **Responding to God’s Word**

**Hymn # 94**      “Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”      *verses 1 and 3*

**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 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.**

**THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Invitation to The Table**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

**Hymn # 517**

“Here, O Our Lord, We See You”

*verses 1 and 4*

**Advent Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

*Excerpts from a prayer written by Thom Shuman*

*One: In this Advent of disquiet, remember God comes to you.*

**All: God approaches to be with you, as well.**

*One: Let us offer our hearts to our God as we begin this journey to Bethlehem.*

**All: God approaches to fill us with grace and hope.**

*One: With weary souls and trembling voices, let us sing praises to our God.*

**All: God approaches to teach us new songs of love.**

**Breaking of the Bread and Lifting of the Cup**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

*Rev. Laura Nile Tuell*

*The bread broken and the cup poured by the pastors  
symbolize our unity as the Body of Christ in this sacrament.*

*After the words, “The Body of Christ, given for you,” are spoken,  
serve yourself or a family member, 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**

*Rev. Laura Nile Tuell*

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 # 109**

“Blest Be the God of Israel”

*verses 1 and 3*

**Benediction**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

**Postlude**

*Jim Pera*



*The flowers today are given to the glory of God by Laurie Bankston  
in memory of her beloved grandmother, Voncile.*