

Southminster Presbyterian Church



"Simeon and Anna" by Jan van't Hoff (used with permission)

A Service for the Worship of God

The first Sunday after Christmas

December 27, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

PREPARATION

We invite you to light your Christ Candle at home as we light it during worship.

Gathering Around God's Word

Prelude

Jim Pera

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

Call to Worship

Gay Amos

*One: God of hope and light, we are thankful
for the great starry night of Jesus' birth,*

**All: when your good news of great joy
was emblazoned across the skies in angel song,
celebrated by shepherds and witnessed by animals.**

*One: You have given to us the gift of your love,
enfleshed in an infant and alive within our hearts today.*

**All: We pray that you will teach us
how to shine that love in the world around us.**

One: Guide our thoughts, our lives, and our spirits.

**All: Be with us as we worship you today
for we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Hymn # 110

“Love Has Come”
(Same tune as “Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella”)

Prayer of Praise and Adoration (in unison)

written by Joy Cowley.

Gay Amos

Glorious are you, Mystery of Life, essence of all creation. You are the symphony of stars and planets. You are the music of the atoms within us. You are the dawn on mountain peaks, the moonlight on evening seas. Forest and farm, the rush of the city, everything is embraced in your love.

Glorious are you, O Jesus Christ, cosmic love in human flesh. You graced the smallness of time and place to teach us to dance to the music. You walk on our seas and heal in our streets. You make your home in our lives, revealing that cross and resurrection are one on the road to freedom.

Glorious are you, O Spirit of Truth, wisdom and breath of our being. You are the wind that sweeps our senses. You are the fire that burns in our hearts. You are the needle of our inner compass, always pointing to the path of Jesus, guiding us in the sacred dance. We praise you for your abiding and saving love. Amen.

Response

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Hymn 113, verse 1

**Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Glo...ria in excelsis Deo.
Glo...ria in excelsis Deo.**

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

Hearing God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Gay Amos

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

Anthem

“The Virgin’s Slumber Song”
Cari Sullivan, soloist

Max Reger

Children’s Time

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

Sermon Skit and Scripture Reading

“Hope-filled”

Luke 2:22-40

*The Gospel reading is interspersed within the drama.
Simeon (Mark Locke), Anna (Linda Meily),
Narrator (Nancy Birdsong), Music (Vocal Ensemble)*

