



# Southminster Presbyterian Church

"A Christ-centered ... intentionally missional congregation ..."

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## Fourth Sunday of Easter Celebration of Worship April 30, 2023 11 a.m.

### Prayer of Preparation

(...for a moment of personal reflection)

Merciful God,

who is more than we can ever imagine,  
give us a wider vision of the world;  
give us a broader view of justice;  
give us dreams of peace that are  
not defined by boundaries of geography,  
race or religion.

Open our eyes and our ears that wherever we go,  
we may hear your voice calling us by name;  
calling us to serve, to share, to praise,  
so that we never give up on the promise of  
your kingdom, where the world is transformed. Amen.

### Prelude

*Fanfare and Chorale*

Chesterton

### Ringing of the Hour

### Welcome

Don Ewing

### \* Call to Worship

Leader: In the darkest valley, or at the banquet table;

**People: In the hard work of life, or at moments of ease;**

Leader: In our day-to-day reality, or at times set aside like this moment,

**People: Times for worship, for listening, for paying attention;  
with every step we take; goodness and mercy follow us;  
our cups overflow.**

### \* Hymn #478

*Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

LAUDA ANIMA

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; To His feet thy tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Evermore His praises sing:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favor To His people in distress;  
Praise Him still the same as ever, Slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like, He tends and spares us; Well our feeble frame He knows;  
In His hands He gently bears us, Rescues us from all our foes.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet His mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore Him: Ye behold Him face to face;  
Sun and moon, bow down before Him, Dwellers all in time and space.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

## \* **Prayer of Adoration**

Don Ewing

## **Call to Confession**

Fred Barnes

### **Prayer of Confession** *(In Unison)*

**Our Lord,**

**We gather today and recognize our need for You.**

**We admit that it is easy to lose sight of your goodness  
and purpose when faced with emotional, physical,  
and spiritual storms.**

**Forgive us for the times we lack trust in Your promises.**

**Help us hear Your voice and see You move in our  
ordinary day-to-day lives.**

**In Jesus' name. Amen.**

*(Moment for silent confession)*

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

## \* **Glory to God**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen. Amen.

## **Announcements**

Fred Barnes

## **Hymn**

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

ROYAL OAK

All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful: The Lord God made them all.

## **Time With the Young Church**

Laura Bentley

## **Prayer for Illumination**

Fred Barnes

## **Old Testament Lesson** *(read in unison)*

Psalm 23

p. 435

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## New Testament Lesson

Acts 2:42-47

p. 886

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

“Grace at the Table”

Don Ewing

## \* Hymn #364

*I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

GRAND ISLE

I sing a song of the saints of God, Patient and brave and true,  
Who toiled and fought and lived and died For the Lord they loved and knew.  
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen, And one was a shepherdess on the green:  
They were all of them saints of God, and I mean, God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, And God's love made them strong;  
And they followed the right, for Jesus' sake, The whole of their good lives long.  
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest, And one was slain by a fierce wild beast:  
And there's not any reason, no, not the least, Why I shouldn't be one too.

They lived not only in ages past, There are hundreds of thousands still;  
The world is bright with the joyous saints Who love to do Jesus' will.  
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,  
In church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;  
For the saints of God are just folk like me, And I mean to be one too.

## Prayers of the People

Don Ewing

### 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.

### Prayer Response

Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.

### Invitation to the Offering

Fred Barnes

### Offertory

*Alleluia No. 1*  
Chancel Choir

Donald Fishel

### \* Praise to God

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### \* Prayer of Dedication

Fred Barnes

**\* Hymn #426**

*Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak*

CANONBURY

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak In living echoes of Thy tone;  
As Thou hast sought, so let me seek Thine erring children lost and lone.

O lead me, Lord, that I may lead The wandering and the wavering feet;  
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed The hungering ones with manna sweet.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach The precious things Thou dost impart;  
And wing my words, that they may reach The hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with Thy fullness, Lord, Until my very heart o'erflow  
In kindling thought and glowing word Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.

O use me, Lord, use even me, Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where;  
Until Thy blessed face I see, Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.

**\* Charge and Blessing**

**\* Postlude**

*Toccata in C Major*

*Baptista*

**\* If you are able, please stand.**

If you are visiting with us this morning, WELCOME! Please complete a CONNECT Card  
so we can be in touch with you.  
Thank you for sharing Worship with us.

## **PASTORAL TEAM**

The Rev. Dr. Donald R. Ewing, Interim Pastor

The Rev. Laura A. Bentley, Designated Associate Pastor

Mr. Frederic D. Barnes, Pastoral Care Associate & Director of AIC

Mr. Richard B. Pinkerton, Minister of Music

Ms. Jennifer Stampfel, Director of Children's Ministry

# ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR APRIL 30, 2023

**WELCOME.** In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to this Celebration of Worship. May we, each one, by the power of the Holy Spirit experience a *close communion* with God and a *warm fellowship* with one another.

**THE FLOWERS** in the *Sanctuary* this morning, are given in loving memory of our parents and daughter-in-law from Ken and Patti Dobbins.

**SUNDAY MORNING CHILDCARE** is available from 8:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. in Room 409 for infants to 4 yrs. old.

**THE SOUTHMINSTER CAFÉ** in Rec Hall is open today from 8:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Stop in for donuts, bagels, fruit, coffee, tea, or juice anytime on Sunday mornings.

**“PRAISE PACKS”** for children are available at all entrances to the Sanctuary and at Crossings worship. Please return the bags and books at the end of worship.

**SUNDAY SEMINARS FOR ADULTS – IN MEMORY OF ED SELL.** This group is open to all adults and meets during the 10 a.m. church school hour in our Chapel. Donuts and coffee are available in the Parlor as well. Here's what's coming up:

4/30 & 5/7 – “Words of Love – The Ten Commandments – Fred Barnes

5/14-5/28 – Minor Prophets of the Old Testament – Dr. Stephen Tuell

May 28<sup>th</sup> will be the final meeting of the Sunday Seminars for the spring. We will reconvene in September. Come and take advantage of this time to learn more about our faith and how to put it into action!



**THANK YOU SOUTHMINSTER!** This spring's blood drive was a success! We had 20 DONORS! Vitalant was thrilled and we are so grateful for your support. Thank you to all those who participated in making this blood drive a success.



## ALASKA MISSION TRIP

**LAST CALL FOR THE WALL OF GIVING:** Stop outside of Fellowship Hall after Crossings or in the Narthex after traditional worship to take an envelope to donate to the Youth and College Mission Trip to Alaska. And don't forget to bring back your pledges! Donations can be made by cash, check, or online. Be sure to mark all donations “Alaska Mission Trip.” Thank you for your support!

**FRESH START BIBLE STUDY.** This is a great way to get your week off on a “fresh start”. This time of fellowship and study starts at **11 a.m. on Monday mornings** in the chapel. Starting tomorrow through May 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will be looking at “The Belonging Project” which is an outreach program featured in “The Presbyterian Outlook” magazine. Questions can be directed to Fred Barnes.



**PICKLEBALL AT SPC.** You are invited to play in SPC's fellowship hall with members and guests who are 18 yrs + or High School students with a parent. Four players minimum are required per session and up to eight can be accommodated. Please sign up in advance on SPC Team Snap or [info@spchurch.org](mailto:info@spchurch.org). Here are upcoming Dates:

**Wednesdays @ 1 p.m.**  
5/3, 5/10, 5/17, 5/24

**Mondays @ 6:30 p.m.**  
5/8, 5/22

**Thursdays @ 6:30 p.m.**  
5/4, 5/18

**OUR WOMEN'S RETREAT** is from dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 12, until lunch at noon on Saturday, May 13 at Sandcrest Retreat and Conference Center, in Wheeling, West Virginia. It's an easy one-hour drive from Pittsburgh. **Sign up by May 3 with [eslgwen@yahoo.com](mailto:eslgwen@yahoo.com). Send \$160 to Southminster Presbyterian Church.** Many women choose to gather at our church parking lot around 11:30 a.m. on Friday and carpool to lunch in Wheeling and kick off our time together. Hope to see you there!

**THE MAY HUNGER OFFERING** will be taken in order to **purchase McDonald's Gift Cards**, given by the church, along with winter kits of warm outerwear, to the homeless in Pittsburgh each year. The gift cards will be distributed through our partners at East Liberty Family Health Center and Shepherd's Heart. The Hunger Offering will

be received on **Sunday, May 14th** and throughout the month of May. You can give online through the Donate Now button or by mailing the Church Office.

**SERVING WITH THE TABLE, THURSDAY MAY 4:** There are two ways to serve with our mission partners at The Table, a meal ministry of Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community. Sign up to prepare food in the kitchen at 1 p.m. Or pick up the prepared food at 4:30 p.m. and serve it at The Table in the South Side. For additional details or to **sign up email Pastor Laura at [info@spchurch.org](mailto:info@spchurch.org) or call the church office.**

**ADULT INTEREST CENTER (AIC)** This ministry to folks aged 55+ meets twice a month in Fellowship Hall. Coming up on **May 5<sup>th</sup> – Singer Steve Tori will entertain everyone. On May 19<sup>th</sup> we will Pursue Trivia!** The entertainment begins at 11 a.m. and lunch is available for \$9.00 at noon. May 19<sup>th</sup> will be the final meeting of the Spring. We will not meet June through August. The 49<sup>th</sup> year of AIC will begin in September. Make sure you are on the mailing list or visit our website at [spchurch.org](http://spchurch.org). Invite a friend or neighbor to join the group!

**THE ALL CHURCH PROGRESSIVE DINNER** returns **Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 5 – 9 p.m.** (early departure fine, of course!). You're invited, and friends and family are welcome! Cost per person is \$10 for non-hosting guests. Meal addresses (four stops over the evening) will be provided per guest at the opening appetizer location. Please RSVP and if willing to host, please indicate your preferred course to serve and the number of people you can host (between 8 and 12 guests per course average). **Please RSVP to [info@spchurch.org](mailto:info@spchurch.org) by May 6<sup>th</sup>.** We look forward to seeing you there!

**CALLING ALL BAKERS!!** Shortbread is vital to a successful Scottish Sunday. If you are willing to make a batch of shortbread to share with the congregation, please package in a Ziploc bag (labeled with your name) **and bring it to the church Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> in the cooler on the screened in porch at Southminster House or bring on Sunday morning to Fellowship Hall Kitchen!** Thanks so much!



**SCOTTISH SUNDAY.** Join us **on Sunday, May 7,** for Southminster's 52<sup>nd</sup> annual celebration of Scottish Sunday. The 11 a.m. Celebration of Worship will start with a procession into the Sanctuary by the Carnegie Mellon University Pipes and Drums, Chancel Choir, elders, deacons, and clergy. Enjoy special music and worship as once again we commemorate our Scottish Presbyterian heritage. Immediately following worship, the celebration continues on the Southminster lawn (or in Fellowship Hall if it's rainy). The Celtic Spirit Dancers will perform

traditional dances. If you have one, be sure to wear your tartan. Come join us for worship, music, dancing, fellowship, and homemade shortbread.

**THE EVENT—PITTSBURGH YOUTH GATHERING FOR 6TH-12TH GRADERS:** All middle and high school students are invited to The Event, taking place at Hampton Presbyterian Church on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. We will **meet in Southminster's parking lot at 5:30 p.m.** to carpool to Hampton. We will **return at 9 p.m.** The Event gathers youth groups from across the Pittsburgh Presbytery for one giant youth group experience. There will be worship, speakers, games, and more! There is no cost, but we need to know if you're coming! **RSVP by emailing Pastor Laura at [laura@spchurch.org](mailto:laura@spchurch.org).**

**Save the Date** for the **YOUTH MISSION TRIP CAR WASH! ON SATURDAY, MAY 20TH** we will have a carwash fundraiser in the **church parking lot from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Can't get your car here that day? You can still support the youth's efforts by pledging a flat donation or per car donation. More information to come!

**SAFE CHURCH AND CPR TRAINING—MAY 21** following 11 a.m. worship until 2 p.m. in **Fellowship Hall:** Our Safe Church Training and Luncheon is for all volunteers who work with children, elders, ushers, staff, and anyone who would like to learn more about how we keep children safe at SPC. As a part of the Safe Church training, a CPR overview will be provided. **Please RSVP by May 14 by emailing [info@spchurch.org](mailto:info@spchurch.org) or calling the church office.**

**JOIN THE SPC WORSHIP TECH TEAM!** We are creating a Worship Technology Team to run our slides, livestream, and audio. Help is needed at both worship times. Learn a new skill or hone your craft! We will provide training. We need Tech Team members to commit to serving during worship at least 1/month. Interested? Want more information? **Contact Pastor Laura at [info@spchurch.org](mailto:info@spchurch.org).**