



Southminster Presbyterian Church

“A Christ-centered ... intentionally missional congregation ...”

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Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Celebration of Worship September 17, 2023 11 a.m.

Prayer of Preparation

(...for a moment of personal reflection)

Lord of heaven and earth,
We have lived through the week as disciples.
At times we never gave our discipleship a thought.
At other times we have sought your presence.
Now, in worship, is the time of joy and celebration.
Gathered with other disciples who seek you also.
Receive our worship and pour out your spirit. Amen.

Prelude

*Amazing Grace
Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

arr., Hal Hopson
arr., Fred Bock

Ringing of the Hour

Welcome

Fred Barnes

* Call to Worship

Leader: I shall speak of your works to all the people;
People: We will offer praise to you throughout our community.
Leader: You that fear the Lord, praise him;
People: Hold God in honor, all you descendants of Jacob.

*Hymn # 260

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same;
And he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God has willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure;
One little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly powers no thanks to them abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still;
His kingdom is forever!

* Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Laura Bentley

Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

**Merciful God, we confess that we have been jealous of others
and harsh in our treatment of brothers and sisters.
Open our eyes to the ways we do not live our faith.
Forgive us. Gently lead us into your grace.
Wash away all that blocks our vision of you and that keeps us
arms length from our neighbors.
This we ask in the restoring grace of Jesus Christ. 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

Fred Barnes

Prayer for Illumination

Laura Bentley

Old Testament Lesson

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

p. 537

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

You Are My All In All
Ally Wells and Diana Roth

Dennis Jernigan
arr., Lloyd Jernigan

New Testament Lesson

Romans 5: 1-8

p. 917

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Love Poured Out"

Fred Barnes

* Hymn 347

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

DETROIT

"Forgive our sins as we forgive," you taught us, Lord, to pray,
But you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart,
That broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:
What trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls, and bid resentment cease;
Then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

Prayers of God's People

Fred Barnes

The Lord's Prayer *(In Unison)*

**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.**

Invitation to the Offering

Fred Barnes

Offertory

Every Valley (Isaiah 40:4,5)
Chancel Choir

Benedetto Marcello

* 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

* Hymn 358

Help Us Accept Each Other

BARONITA

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, Your lessons, as in our daily life
We struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
To love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Let Your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
In living situations to do the truth in love;
To practice Your acceptance until we know by heart
The table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance, for justice, and for bread,
We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
Renew us with Your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

* Charge and Blessing

Fred Barnes

* Postlude

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

Benedetto Marcello

** If you are able, please stand.*

THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held immediately
after the 11 AM worship in the sanctuary. The meeting is called to elect congregation members
to the Congregational Nominating Committee, and to Dissolve the Associate Pastor Relationship.



CHURCH STAFF

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
Ms. Jennifer Stampfel, Director of Children's Ministry
Mr. H.K. Hilner, Crossings Music Director
Ms. Trish O'Connell, Bookkeeper
Mrs. Sue Remely, Church Hostess
Mrs. Cheryl Polito, Wedding Coordinator
Mr. Raymond Clayton, Facilities Superintendent
Ms. Eileen Kinner, Coordinator of Communication Technologies & Facilities Associate
Mr. Anthony Maiorano, Facilities Associate
Mrs. Lori Guenther, Director Southminster Early Learning Academy
Ms. Bonnie Kline, Director Southminster Child Care Center