



Southminster Presbyterian Church

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

799 Washington Road · Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania 15228
412-343-8900 · www.spchurch.org · info@spchurch.org

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Celebration of Worship September 24, 2023 11 a.m.

Prayer of Preparation

(...for a moment of personal reflection)

Lord, who lifts us up, reside in our hearts today.
Help us to listen closely for your word to us.
Remind us that you are always with us, throughout all of our lives.
Give us confidence in your presence, so that we may go into your world
ready to witness to your love, through our works and our deeds,
for we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prelude

*What God Wills, That is Right
Holy, Holy, Holy God Almighty*

arr., Johann Pachelbel
arr., Wayne Earnest

Ringing of the Hour

Welcome

Fred Barnes

* Call to Worship

Fred Barnes

Leader: Open your hearts to God's loving mercy.
People: Lord, come into our hearts this day.
Leader: Having received God's mercy, bring that love to others.
People: Lord, be with us as we reach out to others in compassion.
Leader: Feel your spirits filled with the goodness of God.
**People: Lord, we thank you for the many blessings which you pour
into our lives. Amen.**

*Hymn # 446

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

AUSTRIAN HYMN

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode.
On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the Giver, never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.

* Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Fred Barnes

Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

Merciful God,
We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart,
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
 we have broken your law,
 we have rebelled against your love.
We have not loved our neighbors,
 and we have refused to hear the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(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

Jennifer Stampfel

Prayer for Illumination

Fred Barnes

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 33: 1-11

p. 26

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Lesson

1 Peter 2:1-10

p. 984

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"What If?"

Rev. Brian Wallace

* Hymn 366

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

ST. CATHERINE

Jesus, thy boundless love to me no thought can reach, no tongue declare;
O knit my thankful heart to thee, and reign without a rival there!
Thine wholly, thine alone, I'd live; myself to thee entirely give.

O grant that nothing in my soul may dwell, but thy pure love alone;
O may thy love possess me whole, my joy, my treasure, and my crown!
All coldness from my heart remove; may every act, word, thought be love.

O Love, how gracious is thy way! All fear before thy presence flies;
Care, anguish, sorrow melt away where'er thy healing beams arise.
O Jesus, nothing may I see, nothing desire, or seek, but thee.

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

Surely It is God Who Saves Me
Chancel Choir
Diana Roth, Soloist

Jack Noble White

* 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 281**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; hold me with Thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.

*** Charge and Blessing**

Rev. Brian Wallace

*** Postlude**

Toccata on 'Lift High the Cross'

Gordon Young

*** 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.



CHURCH STAFF

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