



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

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Celebration of Worship

November 19, 2023

11 a.m.

Prayer of Preparation

(...for a moment of personal reflection)

Awesome God,
you created the world and all that is in it.
You blessed each element of creation with your love.
You called us from slavery into witness and service.
Be with us this day as we gather to worship.
Clear our minds of all the distractions which would draw us
away from you.
Open our hearts and spirits and let your healing and empowering love flow in.
Prepare us to be witnesses to your power and love as we use the gifts
with which you have blessed us in your service.
For we offer this prayer in the name of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prelude

Rigaudon

André Campra
arr., Martha Lynn Thompson

Southminster Handbell Ensemble

Ring of the Hour

Welcome

Fred Barnes

* Call to Worship

Leader: The time for harvest is close at hand.
What have you done with the gifts God has given you
People: We have brought our gifts to the house of the Lord.
Leader: Praise God for the gifts and for opportunities for service that they represent.
People: We praise God for all the ways in which our lives have been blessed.
Leader: Generous God, accept our gifts and our lives this day.
People: Loving God, accept our praise and gratitude. Amen

*Hymn #276

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not; as Thou hast been Thou forever will be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed Thy hand hath provided;

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above

Join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. (Refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)

Call to Confession

Fred Barnes

Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

Eternal God,

In whom we live and move and have our being,

whose face is hidden from us by our sins,

and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts:

Cleanse us from all our offenses,

and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires,

that with reverent and humble hearts

we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace,

and finding in you our refuge and strength;

through Jesus Christ your Son.

(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

Jesus Loves Me

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me! This I know, as He loved so long ago,

Taking children on His knee, saying, "Let them come to Me."

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Time With the Young Church

Jennifer Stampfel

Anthem

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

John Zundel

Arr., Arnold B. Sherman

Southminster Handbell Ensemble

Prayer for Illumination New Testament Lesson

Luke 17:11-19

Rev. Louise Rogers
p. 852

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Thanks at the Table”

Rev. Louise Rogers

Litany

Episcopal Prayer Book

Leader: Let us give thanks to God our Father for all gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

People: For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea, we thank you, Lord.

Leader: For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ, we thank you, Lord.

People: For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends, we thank you, Lord.

Leader: For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve, we thank you, Lord.

People: For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play, we thank you, Lord.

Leader: For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity, we thank you, Lord.

People: For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice, we thank you, Lord.

Leader: For the communion of saints, in all times and places, we thank you, Lord.

People: Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Leader: To Jesus praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

* Hymn #403

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

CONVERSE

What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh what peace we often forfeit, oh what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged: take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee, thou wilt find a solace there.

Prayers of God's People

Jennifer Stampfel

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

Sing to the Lord of the Harvest

Healey Willan
Words by J.S.B. Monsell

Chancel Choir

* 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 #555

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
To Father and to Son and Spirit now be given.
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,
The God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

* Benediction

Rev. Louise Rogers

* Postlude

** 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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 19, 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 are given to the glory of God in memory of Paul Schaughency, Dan Hepler, Al Akers, Rene Brungraber, Sue Reid, and the rest of the Southminster Heavenly Choir.

THE FLOWERS IN CROSSINGS are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Don's birthday from Cheryl Polito.

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.

SUNDAY MORNING CHILDCARE for infants to 4 yrs. is available from 8:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Childcare Room of the Kingdom Keepers Wing which is located off Rec Hall. There will be no Childcare on November 26, 2023.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON NOVEMBER 26: There will be no Sunday School on November 26, 2023.

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



CHRISTMAS DINNER, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12! Please join us Tuesday, December 12, 2023 for our annual Christmas Dinner at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There will be singing and delicious food. Please RSVP by Wednesday, December 5 by calling the church office (412-343-8900) or emailing info@spchurch.org with the number of adults and children in your party. Your RSVP will assist us in preparations and ensure that we have enough food for everyone!

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH will be Saturday, December 9, at 9:30 a.m. Join us for a morning of food and fellowship. The speaker will be Elaine Wertheim - - "A Visual Journey to Bethlehem." All women of SPC and their guests are welcome. Please extend an invitation to friends, family, and neighbors. The cost is \$15 per person. **RSVP by Monday, December 4th** to spchurchlife@gmail.com or by calling the Church Office (412-343-8900). Payments can be made in advance by sending a check or going online at the **DONATE NOW** Link. Enter "Women's Brunch" in the additional instructions field.



TIME TO ORDER CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS! It is a tradition at Southminster to decorate the worship spaces with poinsettias for the Christmas season. To order memorial or honorary poinsettias for Sunday, December 17, please complete the form (found in the Sunday bulletin) and send it to the Church Office with your check payable to Southminster Presbyterian Church. You may also email your order to info@spchurch.org and pay using the **DONATE NOW** button on the SPC website. The cost of poinsettias is \$10 each. The deadline for orders is Monday, December 5. Poinsettias may be picked up after each Celebration of Worship on Sunday, December 17.



ANGEL TREES 2023!!! It's hard to believe Christmas is just around the corner! Please help us provide gifts for children and seniors from our area. There are two ways to be an Angel this year: 1) **Take tag from the trees which are in the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall. Purchase the gift requested and return unwrapped items, with tag attached to the collection box at Main Entrance (glass doors) to the Church by November 28, 2023.** 2) **Make a monetary donation by using the DONATE NOW link on church website or use The Angel Tree envelopes found in the pews.** Please note on the check or on the website that it is for The Angel Tree. Place envelopes in the collection plate of mail to church office. This year's gifts will go to East Liberty Family Health Care Center children and the men and women of Washington Presbyterian Senior Care System. Questions? Contact: Carol Bengston or Sue Robinson or email info@spchurch.org.

ADULT INTEREST CENTER (AIC): Now in our 49th year, AIC continues to provide fellowship, fun and food for all seniors who attend. All seniors in the South Hills area are invited to attend. We will meet on Friday, December 1st at 11 am with a guest speaker – Dr. William White speaking on “Training to Live Well”. We will also meet on Friday, December 15th at 11 am for a Christmas concert by Mr. Steve Tori, a well known local singer and musician. A wonderful home cooked lunch will follow at Noon for only \$9.00. Please consider joining this group at this festive time of year.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT! Calling all angels, shepherds, and shining stars! Our Christmas Pageant needs you! Anyone from preschool through high school may participate in the Southminster Christmas Pageant for the 5pm Christmas Eve service. If you are interested in participating, please contact Betsy Charles (betsyhcharles@gmail.com) or Samantha DeFurio (psurn99@gmail.com). No voice is too small to glorify the Lord and celebrate Jesus's birth!



YOUTH BELL TEAM: Are you interested in learning how to ring handbells? Do you want to find a new way to express yourself through music? Youth from 2nd grade on up are welcomed! Please let Samantha DeFurio (psurn99@gmail.com) know if you are planning on attending.

THE ADULT SUNDAY SEMINAR – IN MEMORY OF ED SELL: Dr. Jim Davison will be talking for four consecutive weeks about “We Three Kings...Plus One” starting on October 29th. He will discuss three of the most fascinating personalities in the Old Testament- the first three kings of Israel: Saul, David, and Solomon. These complex characters and their fluctuating faith are instructive for how we live today. The fourth king we know as the King of Kings. All adults and senior high school students are welcome to join the discussion.

NOVEMBER HUNGER OFFERING: In November the Hunger Offering will be directed to Family Promise of Southwestern Pennsylvania. This family-oriented organization connects homeless children and their families with a network of community services and resources, all focused on providing them with shelter, meals, hospitality, and support until they are able to return to sustainable, independent lives in their own homes. The Hunger Offering will be collected at the worship service on Sunday, November 5th and throughout the month of November. You can also give online at the web site spchurch.org or mail a check to the church office.

JESUS AND JOE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP: This time of men's fellowship meets at 8 am each Friday in Southminster House (because of the holidays we will not meet on November 24th, December 22nd or December 29th). We are currently finishing up the book “A Long Obedience in the Same Direction” by Eugene Peterson. We will then be led in a biblical history in the context of contemporary world history by Scott Frost. He will examine biblical events and world events that were happening at the same time throughout history. Sounds interesting. This fellowship is open to all men and friends of the church.



OUTREACH WINTER KIT PROJECT! The items for the winter kits have all been assembled & packed thanks to the Children's Sunday School and members of the Outreach Committee. They will be distributed this week to East Liberty Family Health Care Center and Shepherd's Heart, two organizations in Pittsburgh that help homeless individuals. Outreach wants to thank everyone who helped make this project possible!

THANK YOU, BEDNERS!!!! We want to thank Bedners Farm Market on Bower Hill Road in Bridgeville, PA for the donations of pumpkins, mums, and other festive decorations for our 1st ever Harvest Fest! The most wonderful time of the year is upon us – and Bedners has a wide range of Christmas Trees and other décor. Stop by and check out their array of Christmas! 412-221-5525.

