



Southminster Presbyterian Church

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

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First Sunday of Advent Celebration of Worship December 3, 2023 11 a.m.

Prayer of Preparation

(You are invited to pray this prayer in silence.)

God of love and mercy, we thank you for your loving presence in our lives.
You have formed us in your image and you continue to transform us as we grow in faith.
Break through the darkness in our lives and let the light of your love flood in,
that we may become more productive disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prelude

*Prince of Peace
Infant Holy
Ringers 2*

arr., Bill Ingram
arr., Susan Rucker

*Joy to the World
Southminster Handbell Ensemble*

John A. Behnke

Ringing of the Hour

Welcome

Fred Barnes

Call to Worship

Leader: If only the heavens would tear open, and God would come down!

People: The mountains would shake and tremble — all earth would stand in awe!

Leader: People have turned their backs on God, believing that they, under their own power,
can right all wrongs.

People: We have failed miserably when we depend only on ourselves.

Leader: Be with us, O Lord. Tear open our hearts and pour your love into our lives.

People: Give us confidence in you, for you are always with us. Amen.

Advent Hymn #12

People, Look East

BESANÇON

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love the guest is on the way.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Candle of HOPE

The Zmijanac Family

* Hymn #2

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

* Call to Confession

Fred Barnes

* Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

**Gracious God,
Our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us
a consuming fire of judgement.**

**Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace
to grow more and more in our likeness and image;
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.**

(Moment of Silent Prayer)

* 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 Children

Jenn Stampfel

Anthem

The Rose Carol
Southminster Handbell Ensemble

Arnold B. Sherman

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Larry Ruby

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 9:6-7

p. 555

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Lesson

Philippians 2:5-11

p. 954

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"The Other Christmas Story"

Rev. Larry Ruby

* Hymn #263

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small; In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree, Then wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.

Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light, Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see 'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

Invitation to the Offering

Fred Barnes

Offertory

A Shoot Shall Come Forth
Chancel Choir

Richard Horn

* 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

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation

Prayer

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.

The Words of Institution
The Receiving of the Elements
Please hold elements. We will commune together.
The Prayer of Thanksgiving

*** Hymn #8**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates, Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here!
Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ, Adorned with prayer, and love, and joy.
Redeemer, come! I open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.

*** Benediction**

Rev. Larry Ruby

*** Postlude**

Postlude on Hyfrydol

Prichard

*** 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 this morning!



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

