



Southminster Presbyterian Church

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

799 Washington Road · Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania 15228
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Second Sunday of Advent Celebration of Worship December 10, 2023 11 a.m.

Prayer of Preparation

(...for a moment of silent reflection.)

Lord, in the midst of our busy time,
when we are in the rush to Christmas, you burst into our lives
with the tantalizing promise of something new.
Open our hearts and spirits to the glorious possibilities
of hope and peace to come.
Help us to prepare our lives to receive you.
We thank you for all the blessings you pour on us
and for the privilege we have in sharing these blessings with others.
Be with us all this day and all these days that we may serve you better
by helping others in need. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

Prelude

Creator of the Stars at Night

arr. Cherwien

Ringing of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Fred Barnes

Call to Worship

Leader: Long ago, a voice cried out in the wilderness.
People: Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight the pathways.
Leader: Something new was about to happen.
People: God would visit God's people in a new way!
Leader: Lord, open our hearts to receive this good news!
**People: Prepare us to be people of great faith and compassion
as we look forward to this wondrous event you have proclaimed to us.
Amen.**
All: Let us worship the Triune God who gives hope and peace.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

People, Look East

BESANÇON

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love the rose is on the way.

Candles of HOPE and PEACE

The Clark Family

* Hymn #9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Call to Confession

Fred Barnes

Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

**Holy and merciful God,
In your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings,
And our offenses to you.
You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways,
In wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love.**

**Have mercy on us, O Lord,
For we are ashamed and sorry
For all we have done to displease you.
Forgive our sins,
And help us to live in your light,
and walk in your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.**

(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 Young Church

Jenn Stampfel

Anthem

E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come
Chancel Choir

Paul O. Manz

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Ken White

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 9:1-7

p. 555

New Testament Lesson

John 14:27

p. 877

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Not as the World Gives"

Rev. Ken White

* Hymn #332

Live into Hope

TRURO

Live into hope of captives freed, Of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see The year of God's own jubilee!

Live into hope the blind shall see, With insight and with clarity,
Removing shades of pride and fear – A vision of our God brought near.

Live into hope of liberty, The right to speak, the right to be,
The right to have one's daily bread, To hear God's Word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captives freed From chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release To faith and hope and joy and peace.

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

In Bethlehem
Chancel Choir

Allen Koepke

*** 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 #13**

Prepare the Way

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Prepare the way, O Zion, Your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley A level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, Foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ that came In God's most holy name.

Christ brings God's rule, O Zion; He comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, And justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, For grace and joy abounding.
O blest is Christ that came In God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; Your Savior's rule embrace.
And tidings of salvation Proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, Their adoration voicing.
O blest is Christ that came In God's most holy name.

*** Benediction**

Rev. Ken White

*** Postlude**

Lo He Comes with Clouds Descending

arr. Stallsmith

*** 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



ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 10, 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 loving memory of Maurine Unrath from Nels Unrath.

THE SHEAF OF WHEAT AND THE CLUSTER OF GRAPES in worship today are in memory of George Cochrane who went home to the church triumphant on November 22, 2023. A memorial service for friends and family will be held at 1 pm on December 15, 2023, in the Chapel at Providence Point in Scott Township. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Cochrane family.

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.

SOUTHMINSTER CAFÉ is open today from 8:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in Rec Hall. Stop in for bagels, donuts, fruit, coffee, tea, or juice anytime on Sunday morning.

THE STEWARDSHIP MAILING for 2024 was sent out recently. If you did not receive your mailing, please let the church know. We are asking that you return your pledge as soon as possible. It is very helpful in planning our budget to hear from as many people as possible. We appreciate your continued support of Southminster Presbyterian. Thanks to The Stewardship Committee: Suzanne Gruneberg, Bruce Leary and Rick Purcell.



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. We hope to see you there!

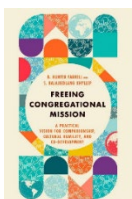


VIVALDI – GLORIA ON SUNDAY, DEC. 17: The Chancel Choir, soloists, and orchestra will be performing the “Gloria” by Antonio Vivaldi at the 11 am worship service. This is a great opportunity to invite friends to come to worship at Southminster. Be sure to be here and bring friends and family with you!

SPC YOUTH (6TH–12TH GRADES) are going Bowling! Sunday December 17th from 4:00pm-6:30pm. Meet in the church parking lot at 3:45pm and we will carpool to AMF Mt Lebanon. We will bowl a few games and have pizza. There is no charge to attend, but please RSVP by Dec. 13th to heyserph@gmail.com so we reserve enough lanes. As always, bring a friend!!



ADULT INTEREST CENTER (AIC): Now in our 49th year, AIC continues to provide fellowship, fun and food for all seniors who attend. We will 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. Contact Fred Barnes at fred@spchurch.org if you have any questions.



THE ADULT SUNDAY SEMINAR: This class meets in the chapel during the Sunday School hour (10 am) on Sundays. Please join us for a look at congregational mission by authors S. Bala Khylllep and Hunter Farrell on December 3rd and 10th. They co-wrote a new book entitled “Freeing Congregational Mission”. On December 17th our guest speaker will be Geoff Hurd speaking about the life of Philip Brooks. Don’t know who Philip Brooks is? Come join us and find out.











CHRISTMAS EVE AT SOUTHMINSTER: We invite you to bring your entire family to join us for worship on Christmas Eve!

- **10:00 a.m. - Celebration of Worship in Fellowship Hall**
Jennifer Stampfel will preach.
- **5 p.m. - Family Candlelight Worship**
Touch of an Angel, performed by the Children of Southminster
The Crossings Band will play. The Southminster Ringers will ring.
- **10 p.m. - A Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols**
Fred Barnes will preach. The Chancel Choir will sing.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received.

The Southminster Ringers will be ringing outside at the corner of Castle Shannon Boulevard and Washington Road one-half hour after 5 p.m. worship and one-half hour before 10 p.m. worship.

THE NEW CHURCH SANCTUARY BANNERS were a Worship and Music Committee project begun in the early winter of 2023 and completed this November. Each step of the creative process was voted on by committee members. The symbols that you see on the banners are called “Chrismons”, a contraction of the words “Christ” and “monogram”. The banners were constructed and sewn by Sarah Cannon, a retired Art Therapist. Each religious symbol has a meaning. Note that the shape of the banners was designed to repeat the Norman Gothic style architecture of Southminster and the color is the same blue as our stained glass windows.

<p>If you are in the front of the church, looking toward the Narthex, on the left side, front to back are the following Chrismons and their meaning:</p>	
	Butterfly: symbolizes resurrection, transformation in a spiritual transcendence and immortality.
	Celtic Cross: represents a spiritual compass that represents unity, totality, wholeness, and inclusion. The circle represents eternity.
	Communion: a symbol which commemorates the Last Supper of Christ and the Disciples during which bread and grape juice are consumed. The stalks of wheat represent the staff of life. “This is my body, broken for you” “This is my blood shed for your sins.”
	The Trefoil: these three interwoven circles represent the trinity...Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Within each small shape is a Celtic Knot which has no beginning and no end.
<p>If you are in the front of the church, looking toward the Narthex, on the right side, front to back are the following Chrismons and their meaning:</p>	
	The Ship: a fishing boat symbolizes the Christian Church, the Kingdom of Christ, and his followers. Jesus told his disciples to “follow me and I will make you fishers of men”. The central seating area of the sanctuary is called “The Nave”, derived from the Latin word for ship. The mast and yardarm form a simple cross (in wood) which stands for Jesus who saved us by giving Himself on the cross, that we might be forgiven. The equilateral cross on the sail represents both the “four gospels” and the “four corners of the earth”. The center aisle of the church represents the keel, the pews, the boat ribs.
	Baptism: the descending dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit who was present when Jesus was baptized. The scallop shell often contains three drops of water symbolizing the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
	Natal Star: the star has four elongated points that form a cross. The four smaller points represent the four gospels. From the Latin word “natus”, “to be born”. There are many other possible meanings surrounding this star, “The Star of Bethlehem”.
	The Alpha and Omega: are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet symbolizing that Jesus the Christ has come, will come again and is the beginning and end of all things.