



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

Third Sunday of Advent Celebration of Worship December 17, 2023 11 a.m.

Prayer of Preparation

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

Lord God,

As we gather this day, we open our hearts to you,
seeking your healing and transforming love.

Our world cries for justice for all people, yet the leaders seem intent
on bantering with one another, unmindful of the peace-bringers
and those who would heal and teach the ways of peace.

Be with all of us.

Prepare us for this bright light of love which you are sending to us,
for we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Prelude

Prelude from Christmas Oratorio, Op. 12
Instrumentalists

Camille Saint-Saens

Ringing of the Hour

Welcome

Fred Barnes

Call to Worship

Leader: Love has come down to us this Advent Season.

People: Divine love which heals and transforms our lives.

Leader: With great joy, we receive that love and share it with others.

**People: We open our hearts to all God's children, the last, the least, and the lost,
as well as those who feel privileged.**

Leader: The Lord has done and continues to do great things for us.

**People: Praise be to God who loves us so much and who challenges us
to be people of joy in this darkened world. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Candles

People, Look East

BESANÇON

Birds, though you long have ceased to build, Guard the nest that must be filled.

Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.

People, look east and sing today: Love the bird is on the way.

Candles of HOPE, PEACE, and JOY

The Usner Family

* Hymn #462

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

RATISBON

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise, Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return Till Thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart, Cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine; Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiance divine; Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display, Shining to the perfect day.

Call to Confession

Fred Barnes

Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

Holy and loving God, we have dwelt in darkness and preferred it to the light;
we have been proud of our accomplishments and despaired over our shortcomings.
Smooth down the mountains of our pride, and lift up the valleys of our doubts.
Open a path in the wilderness of our lives that we might find our way to You again.
Refine us and prepare us once again for life in Your Kingdom.
Hear our prayer, O Lord.

(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

Jenn Stampfel

Hymn

Jesus Loves Me!

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so;
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

Reading from the Gospel of Luke

Fred Barnes
Jenn Stampfel

Prayers of God's People

Fred Barnes

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Special Music

Gloria
Chancel Choir, Soloists, Orchestra, Organ

Antonio Vivaldi

Invitation to the Offering

Fred Barnes

Offertory

Christmas Overture in D Major, GWV 424
Instrumentalists

Christoph Graupner

* 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 #15

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

LLANGLOFFAN

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising And soon He will draw nigh;
Up, watch with expectation, At midnight comes the cry.

See that your lamps are burning, Replenish them with oil;
Look now for your salvation, The end of sin and toil.
The marriage feast is waiting, The gates wide open stand;
Arise, O heirs of glory, The Bridegroom is at hand!

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, Thou sun so longed for, Above this shadowed sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption, And ever be with Thee!

* Benediction

Fred Barnes
Jenn Stampfel

* Postlude

Toccata on 'Veni Emmanuel

Andrew Carter

** 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

GLORIA PARTICIPANTS

CONDUCTOR

R. Craig Dobbins

SOLOISTS

Mollie Moreci, Mezzo Soprano Diana Roth, Soprano

ORCHESTRA

Violin I: Ashley-Buckley-Freeburn

Viola: Jennifer Gerhard

Bass: Jeffrey Mangone

Trumpet: Drew Fennell

Violin II: Rochelle Agnew

Cello: Jacob Nathanson

Oboe: Rise Kostilnik

Organ: Ryan Croyle

CHOIR

Soprano

Samantha DeFurio

Patti Dobbins

Gwen Hepler

Barbara Hois

Mollie Moreci

Amy Pople

Diana Roth

Leah Smith

Alto

Sarah Buffington

Sandy Dunlop

Marjorie Kemper

Pat Miyamoto

Dottie Robinson

Ann Strader

Carol Walton

Tenor

Fred Barnes

Charles Buffington

Henry Tucker

Jon Walton

Bass

Ken Dobbins

Christopher Erskine

John Erskine

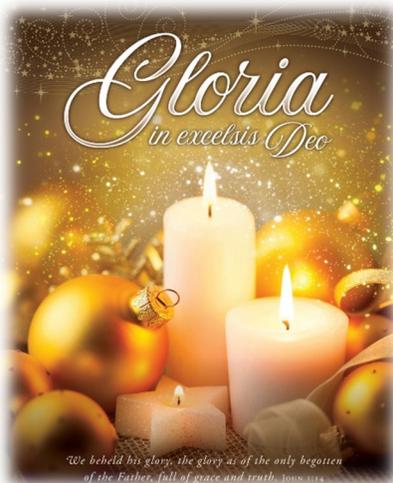
Andy Pople

Templeton Smith



GLORIA

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|-------|--|--|
| I. | Gloria in excelsis Deo. | Glory to God on high |
| II. | Et in terra pax hominibus
bonae voluntatis. | and on earth peace, good will
towards men. |
| III. | Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te
<i>(Duet: Diana Roth & Mollie Moreci)</i> | We praise thee, we bless thee
We worship thee, we glorify thee. |
| IV. | Gratias agimus tibi | We give thanks to thee |
| V. | Propter magnam gloriam tuam | We glorify thee. |
| VI. | Domine Deus, Rex coelestis
Deus Pater Omnipotens.
<i>(Diana Roth)</i> | O Lord God, heavenly King
God the Father Almighty. |
| VII. | Domine Fili Unigenite, Jesu Christe. | O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ |
| VIII. | Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris
Filius Patris
Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis
<i>(Mollie Moreci)</i> | O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of
the Father
That takes away the sins of the world, have
mercy on us. |
| IX. | Qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem Nostrum | Thou that takes away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer |
| X. | Qui Sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.
<i>(Mollie Moreci)</i> | Thou that sits on the right hand of the
Father, Have mercy on us. |
| XI. | Quoniam tu solus Sanctus. Tu
solus Dominus. Tu solus
Altissimus, Jesu Christe. | For Thou art holy; thou only art the Lord
Thou alone art merciful, Jesus Christ. |
| XII. | Cum Sancto Spiritu, in Gloria
Dei Patris. Amen. | With the Holy Spirit, art most high in the
glory of God the Father. Amen. |



ANTONIO VIVALDI (1678 – 1741)



Antonio Lucio Vivaldi composed *Gloria* in Venice, probably in 1715, for the choir of the Ospedale della Pietà, an orphanage for girls (or more probably a home, generously endowed by the girls' "anonymous" fathers, for the illegitimate daughters of Venetian noblemen and their mistresses). The Ospedale prided itself on the quality of its musical education and the excellence of its choir and orchestra. Vivaldi, a priest, music teacher and virtuoso violinist, composed many sacred works for the Ospedale, where he spent most of his career, as well as hundreds of instrumental concertos to be played by the girls' orchestra. This, his most famous choral piece, presents the traditional Gloria from the Latin Mass in twelve varied cantata-like sections.

Today Vivaldi is one of the most popular of all composers, who during his lifetime enjoyed considerable success and fortune, which he squandered through extravagance, and when he died in Vienna he was buried in a pauper's grave. For two centuries after his death, the *Gloria* lay undiscovered until the late 1920's, when it was found buried among a pile of forgotten Vivaldi manuscripts. However, it was not performed until September 1939 in Siena in an edition by the composer Alfredo Casella. This was by no means an authentic edition (he described it as an "elaborazione"), as he embellished the original orchestration of trumpet, oboe, strings, and continuo, while reducing the role of the continuo, and cut sections from three movements. It was not until 1957 that the now familiar original version was published and given its first performance at the First Festival of Baroque Choral Music at Brooklyn College, NY.

R. CRAIG DOBBINS

A native of West Virginia, R. Craig Dobbins recently completed thirty-five years as the Director of Music Ministries at Sewickley Presbyterian Church. Prior to he and his family moving to southwestern Pennsylvania, he served the First Presbyterian Churches of Greenville, Mississippi and Jacksonville, Florida. Dobbins holds degrees from Baldwin-Wallace College and The University of Michigan and was the recipient of a fellowship to study at Clare College, Cambridge University. When our denomination's General Assembly met in Pittsburgh in 2012, Dobbins chaired the Worship Committee. He is very active with the American Guild of Organists and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, having served both at the local, regional, and national levels, including serving as the National President of the latter.



ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 17, 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 SHEAF OF WHEAT AND THE CLUSTER OF GRAPES in worship today are in memory of Lance LaDuke who went home to the church triumphant on December 10, 2023. A memorial service for friends and family is being planned for the Spring of 2024. Our thoughts and prayers are with the LaDuke 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.

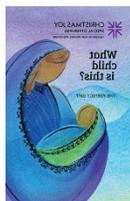
SOUTHMINSTER CAFÉ is open today from 8:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in Rec Hall. Stop in for bagels, donuts, fruit, coffee, tea, or juice anytime on Sunday morning.

THANK YOU FROM SOUTH HILLS FOOD PANTRY! Thanks to your generosity with your time and your finances, the South Hills Food Pantry was able to deliver **86 Christmas deliveries** of food this past Sunday to those in the South Hills who are food insecure. Over 40 individuals volunteered to make a special Christmas delivery to our clients. In addition to our usual monthly distribution of perishable and non-perishable food items, each delivery included a Christmas Ham and assorted side dishes provided by you all as part of the Thanksgiving/Christmas contribution drive. The well over 100 individuals benefiting from this generosity thank you for your hospitality and generosity this Christmas Season. **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!**

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.



VIVALDI – GLORIA TODAY: The Chancel Choir, soloists, and orchestra will be performing the “Gloria” by Antonio Vivaldi at the 11 am worship service.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING. A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Whether providing financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families or providing opportunities for deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools, your generous gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will shine the One True Light of Christ's love. We will receive the Christmas Joy Offering on **Today and on Christmas Eve.**

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!!



THE ADULT SUNDAY SEMINAR: This class meets in the chapel during the Sunday School hour (10 am) on Sundays. 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.

NAME TAGS! More name tags will be ordered in January! Please let the Church Life Committee know if you would like one! Email your name, as you would like it to appear on your name tag, to SPChurchLife@gmail.com! OR fill out the form at any Get to Know Your Church Family information table at the church entrances! Our deadline is January 14!

CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT SCHEDULE:

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17: 9:00 am TO 12 pm: ALL PARTICIPANTS Room R-13

THURSDAY December 21: 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm: REHEARSAL IN THE SANCTUARY

SATURDAY December 23: 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm : REHEARSAL IN THE SANCTUARY

SUNDAY December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE: 3:00 pm report in the Sanctuary



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.

Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th – The Church Office will be closed.

10 a.m. December 31st Worship Service – Combined Worship in Fellowship Hall – No 11 a.m. service, Sunday School or Cafe.

Monday, January 1st – The Church Office will be closed.

