



# Southminster Presbyterian Church

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

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## Celebration of Worship

February 14, 2024

7:00 p.m.

### Thought For Meditation

*Gracious God: out of your love and mercy, you formed us from the dust of the earth, and breathed into us your Spirit of life. Call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness.*

*Strengthen us through these forty days to face our mortality, that we may wonder at your steadfast love, and comprehend more fully the joy of Easter.*

*Renew us through prayer, fasting, and works of compassion, as you lead us on the Way of the Cross, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### Prelude

Canon In D  
Pachelbel

H.K. Hilner  
Chris Edwards

### Welcome

Jennifer Stampfel

### \* Call to Worship

Psalm 51:10-11; 17

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**All: And put a new and right spirit within me.**

Leader: Cast me not away from your presence,

**All: And take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

Leader: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;

**All: A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not scorn.**

### \* Opening Hymn #339

*Be Thou My Vision*

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art -  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

## **“The Observance of Lent” Prayer**

### **Call to Confession**

Michele Zmijanac

### **Prayer of Confession** *(In Unison)*

Holy and merciful God,  
we confess to you and to one another,  
and to the whole communion of saints  
in heaven and earth,  
that we have sinned by our own fault  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart,  
and mind, and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.  
Have mercy on us, O God ...

*(Moment of Silent Prayer)*

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

#### **\* Glory to God #579**

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.

### **Anthem**

*Living Hope*

### **Scripture Readings**

Esther 4:1-3  
Jonah 3:5-7

### **Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord  
**People: Thanks be to God**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

### **Sermon**

“Love in the Ashes”

### **Thanksgiving Over the Ashes**

## Imposition of Ashes

Jennifer Stampfel  
Cheryl Polito

## Prayers of the People

Karen Rossi

## 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.

## \* Closing Hymn

*The Old Rugged Cross*

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suffering and shame;  
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

*(Refrain)*

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it some day for a crown.*

Oh, that old rugged cross so despised by the world,  
Has a wondrous attraction for me;  
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above,  
To bear it to dark Calvary. *(Refrain)*

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,  
A wondrous beauty I see;  
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,  
To pardon and sanctify me. *(Refrain)*

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,  
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;  
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,  
Where His glory forever I'll share. *(Refrain)*

## \* Charge and Benediction

## \* Postlude

*\* If you are able, please stand.*

## Friends in Christ,

Every year before the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery.

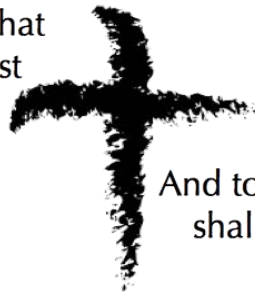
We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes.

This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life and marks the penitence of this community.

We thus begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

You are invited to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.

Remember that  
you are dust



And to dust you  
shall return

## Church Staff

Dr. Douglas (Doug) B. Marshall, Interim Senior Pastor

Mr. Frederic D. Barnes, Pastoral Care Associate & Director of AIC

Ms. Jennifer Stampfel, Director of Children's Ministry

Ms. Paula Iannotta, Administrative Assistant

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