



# Southminster Presbyterian Church

"A Christ-centered ... intentionally missional congregation ..."

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## Celebration of Worship

February 11, 2024

11:00 a.m.

### Thought For Meditation

*The tops of high peaks are barren, intimidating places. People don't belong there.  
There is nothing to protect you: no trees, no shelter. There is just a lot of wind,  
and the nagging fear that if the weather changes you're so exposed that you could die on the spot.  
To stand in that place is to put ourselves in the hands of force and power that we cannot control  
and that is too great for us to resist. That is exactly the feeling you should have in worship.*

Craig Barnes

### Prelude

*Sunrise from the Pastorale Suite*  
Clifford Demarest

Liz Peters

### Ringing of the Hour

### Welcome

Doug Marshall

### \* Call to Worship

Romans 4:18-20

Leader: God promised that Abraham would be the father of many nations.

**People: Against all hope, Abraham believed God's promise.**

Leader: Abraham did not live on the basis of what he *couldn't* do, but what God *would* do.

**People: Abraham grew strong in his faith and gave glory to God.**

Leader: Let us give glory to God – the God of Abraham praise!

### \* Hymn of Praise #488

*The God of Abraham Praise*

The God of Abraham praise, Who reigns enthroned above;  
The ancient of eternal days, The God of love!  
The Lord, the great I Am, By earth and heaven confessed,  
We bow before Your holy name, Forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free, High surging where it will;  
In prophet's word You spoke of old And You speak still.  
Established is Your law, And changeless it shall stand,  
Deep writ upon the human heart, On sea, or land.

You have eternal life Implanted in the soul;  
Your love shall be our strength and stay, While ages roll.  
We praise You, living God! We praise Your holy name;  
The first, the last, beyond all thought, And still the same!

## Call to Confession

Jennifer Stampfel

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

God of transfiguration, you meet us in the ordinary as well as the extraordinary moments of life. We seek you in the valleys and on the mountaintops, longing for your abiding presence and gracious love. We admit that too often our eyes are blind to your presence and our ears are deaf to your call. Forgive us, we pray, through Jesus Christ, and set us free to love and serve ...

*(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.

### Announcements

#### Hymn

*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

#### Prayer for Illumination

#### Scripture Lessons

Exodus 24:15-18

Matthew 17:1-8

p. 62

p. 798

#### Response

Leader: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

#### Sermon

"The Mountaintop"

## \* Hymn of Response #73

*Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory*

Swiftly pass the clouds of glory, Heaven's voice, the dazzling light;  
Moses and Elijah vanish; Christ alone commands the height!  
Peter, James, and John fall silent, Turning from the summit's rise  
Downward toward the shadowed valley Where their Lord has fixed His eyes.

Glimpsed and gone the revelation, They shall gain and keep its truth,  
Not by building on the mountain Any shrine or sacred booth,  
But by following the Savior Through the valley to the cross  
And by testing faith's resilience Through betrayal, pain, and loss.

Lord, transfigure our perception With the purest light that shines,  
And recast our life's intentions To the shape of Your designs,  
Till we seek no other glory Than what lies past Cavalry's hill  
And our living and our dying And our rising by Your will.

## Prayers of the People

### 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.

## Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

*I Love To Tell the Story*  
arr. Donald Moore

Chancel Choir

## \* Praise to God #59 I

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 of Dedication #408

*Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life (v. 1-3, 5)*

Where cross the crowded ways of life,  
Where sound the cries of race and clan,  
Above the noise of selfish strife,  
We hear Thy voice, O Son of Man.

In haunts of wretchedness and need,  
On shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,  
From paths where hide the lures of greed,  
We catch the vision of Thy tears.

From tender childhood's helplessness,  
From human grief and burdened toil,  
From famished souls, from sorrow's stress,  
Thy heart has never known recoil.

O Master, from the mountainside,  
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;  
Among these restless throngs abide,  
O tread the city's streets again.

## \* Charge and Benediction

### \* Postlude

*Troisieme Sortie*

Rob Peters

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

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## Welcome

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

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