



# Southminster Presbyterian Church

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

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## Celebration of Worship

February 18, 2024

11:00 a.m.

### Thought For Meditation

*We put more energy into building and maintaining walls to mark our boundaries ...  
than we put into building relationships, diverse communities  
and just systems that remove the need for walls.*

Teri McDowell Ott

### Prelude

*A Festive Chime*  
Kevin McChesney

Southminster Handbell Ensemble

### Ringing of the Hour

### Welcome

Jennifer Stampfel

### \* Call to Worship

Leader: We are beginning our journey through Lent.

**All: God is with us on the way.**

Leader: We come to find light in the shadows and strength in our weakness.

**All: We will remember God's faithfulness.**

Leader: We seek God's mercy and truth step by step, day by day.

**All: We trust in God's steadfast love, so we worship with grateful hearts!**

### \* Hymn of Praise #361

*How Firm a Foundation*

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!  
What more can be said than to you God hath said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
For I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,  
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”

## Call to Confession

Michelle Zmijanac

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

Wise and Merciful God,  
You made a covenant with us in faithfulness,  
but we confess we are not always so faithful to you.  
We grow tired and restless when things don’t go our way.  
We lose patience with others.  
We lack compassion for our neighbors in need,  
And forget to express love for those closest to us.  
Forgive us.  
Make us prisms of your love,  
With the light of Christ shining through us. Amen

*(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

Cecile Usner

### 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

### Anthem

*Pie Jesu  
from Requiem*

Southminster Handbell Ensemble

**Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Sermon**

“Tested and Approved”

**\* Hymn of Response #179**

*God is My Strong Salvation*

God is my strong salvation; What foe have I to fear?

In peril and temptation My light, my help, is near.

Though hosts encamp around me, Firm to the fight I stand;  
What terror can confound me, With God at my right hand?

Place on the Lord reliance, My soul,, with courage wait;  
God’s truth be thine affiance, When faint and desolate.

God’s might thy heart shall strengthen, God’s love thy joy increase;  
Mercy thy days shall lengthen; The Lord will give thee peace.

**Prayers of the People**

Bob Brown

**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**

Beth Hosking

**Offertory**

*God is Working His Purpose Out*

A.C. Singer; arr. Austin Lovelace

Chancel Choir

**\* Praise to God #591**

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 #344**

*Christ of the Upward Way*

Christ of the upward way, My guide divine,  
Where You have set Your feet May I place mine;  
And move and march wherever You have trod,  
Keeping face forward up the hill of God.

Give me the heart to hear Your voice and will,  
That without fault or fear I may fulfill  
Your purpose with a glad and holy zest,  
Like one who would not bring less than the best.

Christ of the upward way, My guide divine,  
Where You have set Your feet May I place mine;  
And when Your last call comes serene and clear,  
Calm may my answer be, "Lord, I am here."

**\* Charge and Benediction**

**\* Postlude**

*Toccata Giocosa*  
William Mathias

Ryan Croyle

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



**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