



# Surprising Acts of God

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Fifth Sunday of Easter  
May 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am  
Southminster Presbyterian Church (USA)

## GATHERING

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE      “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing”

WELCOME      Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

INTROIT      “Ubi Caritas”

CALL TO WORSHIP      John Liddle

God’s love knows no boundaries.

**God’s grace welcome all people.**

The Holy Spirit falls on every nation, every household, every heart.

**We gather to praise the God who makes all things clean and  
calls us to new community.**

Let us worship God together!

**\*HYMN 317      “In Christ There Is No East or West”**

*1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,  
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.*

*2 In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.*

*3 Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be.  
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.*

*4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet south and north.  
All Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.*

### CALL TO CONFESSION

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, You show no partiality, but we are quick to judge. You pour out your Spirit on all people, but we draw lines and build walls. You call us to welcome and include, but we turn away from those who are different. Forgive us for doubting your power to change hearts- including our own. Forgive us for calling unclean what you have made clean. Open our eyes and hearts to your surprising grace. By your Spirit, make us one family in Christ, welcoming all as you welcome all. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray.

## **SILENCE**

## **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

## **\*SUNG RESPONSE**

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!*

## **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## **WORD**

## **TIME FOR CHILDREN**

Robert Newman

## **FIRST READING**

**John 13:31-35**

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new

commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **ANTHEM**

## **“The Gift of Love”**

## **READING FROM ACTS**

**Acts 11:1-18**

Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be

baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

**\*HYMN 738      "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"**

*1 O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free;  
tell me thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.*

*2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;  
teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.*

*3 Teach me thy patience, still with thee in closer, dearer company,  
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over  
wrong.*

*4 In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way;  
in peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.*

## **EUCCHARIST**

**OFFERING**

Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed

**\*DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.*

*Praise God, all creatures high and low.*

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Praise God, in Jesus fully known:*

*Creator, Word, and Spirit one.*

*Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Invitation to the Table*

*Great Thanksgiving*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Breaking of the Bread*

*Communion 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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## SENDING

**\*HYMN 757 "Today We Are Called to Be Disciples"**

*1 Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,  
to help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,  
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,  
to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.*

*2 God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race  
to live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace.  
But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife.  
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.*

*3 Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,  
with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.  
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,  
a world that was created for a harmony of peace.*

*4 May we in service to our God act out the living word,  
and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.  
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord  
to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.*

## **\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

## **\*POSTLUDE “You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim”**

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### **Leading Today’s Worship**

Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson, Co-Pastor

Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed, Co-Pastor

Kyle Henderson, Director of Worship Arts

Ty Thornton, Pianist and Interim Choir Director

### **Coming Up**

#### **Barons Game, Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6pm**

Make plans to head to Regions Field and join the church family as we watch the Barons take on the Rocket City Trash Pandas. Ticket prices will be \$15. Email Robert at [robert@southminsterpcusa.org](mailto:robert@southminsterpcusa.org). Deadline is today!

#### **Montreat Fundraiser**

Help send our youth to Montreat by picking up an envelope in the narthex with your favorite number or two. Place a check or cash in the envelope and return to the church office or in the collection boxes at the entrances to the sanctuary.

#### **Summer Worship Schedule**

Next Sunday we begin our summer worship schedule of one service at 10:30, with Sunday School for all ages at 9:15.

## Welcome to Southminster

**Connect:** If you are new to Southminster, we are glad you are here! Fill out a connect card and visit us online at [southminsterpcusa.org](https://southminsterpcusa.org) to learn more about what's coming up.

**Children:** We welcome children of all ages in worship. Childcare is also available for infants through age three in our Nursery (Room 213), staffed by caring, experienced workers. Worship bags for children are available in the entryway.

**Communion:** All are welcome at the table as we celebrate the Lord's Supper each week. The bread and juice are alcohol-free and gluten-free. If you prefer to remain seated during communion, an elder will be glad to bring the elements to you.

**Prayer concerns:** Fill out a card to share prayer concerns with our pastoral staff. You can pick up a copy of prayer concerns at the entrances to the sanctuary each week.

**Offering:** Offerings may be placed in the offering boxes located at the sanctuary entrances, or you may give securely online by visiting [southminsterpcusa.org/give](https://southminsterpcusa.org/give).

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## **This Week**

### **SUNDAY / MAY 18**

8:15 & 10:30am / Worship Service

9:15am / Sunday School

3:00pm / Session Meeting

### **MONDAY / MAY 19**

10:30am / Centering Prayer

### **TUESDAY / MAY 20**

11:30am / Rotary

6:00pm / Day School Graduation

### **WEDNESDAY / MAY 21**

9:00am / Day School Awards Day

5:00pm / Pilgrimage Pre-trip Meeting

6:30pm / Chancel Choir Practice

### **THURSDAY / MAY 22**

11:00am / Bible Study

### **SUNDAY / MAY 25**

9:15am / Sunday School

10:30am / Worship Service

1:30pm / Hope Circle