



A Place to Call Home: All are Welcome

Sunday, April 28, 2024, 8:15am

Southminster Presbyterian Church

GATHERING

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

“Almighty God, Whose Power Upholds”

FOREST GREEN

Welcome

Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed

Gathering Song

*God is here today; as certain as the air I breathe,
as certain as the morning sun that rises;
as certain when I sing you'll hear my song.*

Call to Worship

Beloved, let us love one another.

We come in response to the one who calls us friends.

Remember God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

Let our hearts sing for joy.

Abide in the love revealed in Jesus Christ.

Let our hands reflect a serving Savior.

Beloved, let us love one another.

Let us worship God.

* Hymn 301

“Let Us Build a House”

TWO OAKS

*1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:*

Refrain:

all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

*2 Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: (Refrain)*

*3 Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: (Refrain)*

*4 Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: (Refrain)*

*Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: (Refrain)*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we confess that we have not loved well. We have prioritized the powerful and the popular. We have forgotten the lonely and the abandoned. We have neglected ourselves. In your mercy, help us to share and receive love. Teach us to abide in your love, our heart's true home.

Silence

Assurance of Grace

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

Sung Response 246

TRURO

*Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.*

WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Psalm 98

O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory. The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD. Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness”

In a deep, unbounded darkness, long before the first light shone,
you, O God, beyond all merit worked a wonder faith makes known:
in your mercy, in your mercy, you embraced us as your own, evermore and evermore.

Though our world is ever-changing, you are constant, firm, and sure,
faithful to your covenant promise. Trusting you, we live, secure:
singing praises, singing praises, long as heart and breath endure, evermore and evermore.

Second Reading

John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed

* Hymn 418

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

*1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.*

Refrain:
*"Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"*

*2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? (Refrain)*

*3 O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. (Refrain)*

Prayers of the People

Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

EUCCHARIST

Offering

Communion Song

*We gather at your table, Lord, because you bid us come.
Our lives, though scattered through the week, we now unite as one.
Before us is the bread, the wine. Prepare our souls to eat.
Come join us by your Spirit, Lord, and make the feast complete.*

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.

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

SENDING

* Hymn 767

“Together We Serve”

SAN ANSELMO

*1 Together we serve, united by love,
inviting God’s world to the glorious feast. We work and we pray
through sorrow and joy, extending God’s love to the last and the least.*

*2 We seek to become a beacon of hope,
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet. We learn, year by year,
to let love shine through until we see Christ in each person we meet.*

*3 We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor,
the busy, the lonely, and all who need care. We offer a home
to those who will come, our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.*

*4 Together, by grace, we witness and work,
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong. Together we serve
in Spirit and truth, remembering love is the strength of our song.*

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude

“Called As Partners in God’s Service”

John Zundel

Join us for coffee and doughnuts after the service!
You’ll find refreshments at the entrance to Grace Hall,
out the doors at the front of the sanctuary and to your right.

Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:15.

Welcome

We warmly welcome you 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 to learn more about our ministries. We hope you'll join us for any opportunity that interests you.

Children: We welcome children of all ages in worship. During the 10:30 am service, children are invited forward for a special message during our Time for Children. Worship bags for children are available in the Narthex.

Communion: All are welcome at the table as we celebrate the Lord's Supper each week. The bread and juice are gluten and alcohol 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.

Offering: Offerings may be placed in the offering boxes located at the sanctuary entrances, or you may give securely online by visiting southminsterpcusa.org.

Leading Worship Today

Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson, Co-Pastor
 Rev. Leanne Pearce Read, Co-Pastor
 Robert Newman, Program Director
 Dr. Larry Hardin, Director of Music Ministries
 Kyle Henderson, Director of Worship Arts
 David Renaker, Organist
 Ty Thornton, Pianist



Tell Me More!



Interested in knowing more about Southminster? Curious why we do what we do? Join co-pastors Tom and Leanne for lunch today at 11:45am in Grace Hall to learn more about our church family!



Bring fresh bread
 next Sunday, May 5!

Fresh bread collected for Greater Birmingham
 Ministries food pantry every first Sunday



"To B or Not to B"
 A Recital by Ty Thornton

Sunday, May 5th
 4:30 pm
 Grace Hall

Outreach Opportunities

Presbyterian Home for Children Thrift Store Pickup
 May 4th, 9 am to 12 pm

Serve Dinner at First Light Women's Shelter
 May 12th, 6 pm

GBM Kid Friendly Food Drive May 20th - 24th
 Drop off items by Sunday, May 19th

This Week at Southminster

Sunday, April 28

8:15 am	Worship Service
9:15 am	Sunday School
10:30 am	Worship Service
11:45 am	Lunch with Co-Pastors
1:30 pm	Hope Circle
5:00 pm	Birmingham Youth Group - SPC

Wednesday, May 1

6:00 pm	Choir Practice
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Thursday, May 2

11:00 am	Bible Study
4:00 pm	Welcome and Engagement Committee
6:00 pm	Vulcan District Round Table Meetings

Friday, May 3

9:00 am	Day School Chapel
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Saturday, May 4

9:00 am	Presbyterian Home for Children Thrift Store Pickup
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Sunday, May 5

8:15 am	Worship Service
9:15 am	Sunday School
10:30 a m	Worship Service
11:45 am	Faith Formation Committee
11:45 am	Matthew 25 Committee
4:30 pm	Ty Thornton's Piano Recital
5:00 pm	Birmingham Youth Group End of Year Party @ McCallum Park



Prayer Concerns

DeLilah Allsbrook
Frances Avery
The family of Jean Buttler
Audrey Cooper
the family of Sue Driftmier
Doug Ferrell
Bennett Fuller
Cal Hyer
Bernadette James
Charles James
Diane Kenney
Elizabeth Judd
Phyllis Kirk
Ann Marich
Gene McElroy
Amy Nance
Barbara Nelson
Lee Ann Peyton
Walton Vaughn