



# A Place to Call Home: All are Welcome

Sunday, May 5, 2024, 10:30am

Southminster Presbyterian Church

## GATHERING

### Chiming of the Hour

#### Prelude

**"Blessed Jesus, We Are Here"**

Joyce Jones

#### Welcome

Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

#### Introit

**"Now God be Praised"**

M. Vulpious

*God's grace defends us from all ill; His Christ shall be our leader still,  
Till heav'n and earth shall do His will; Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!*

### Call to Worship

John Liddle

Here in this place of worship, with the congregation of the faithful,  
**We lay down our fears, to boldly sing God's praise.**

Here on this journey we listen for words that include us, calling us sisters and brothers  
in Christ,

**Learning of God's love, visions of boundaries once used to separate, now  
torn down.**

Here where God claims us in the waters of baptism:

**We are led by the Spirit into the wonders of God's creation.**

### \* Hymn 297

**"In Christ Called to Baptize"**

ST. DENIO

*1 In Christ called to baptize, we witness to grace  
and gather a people from each land and race.  
In deep, flowing waters, we share in Christ's death,  
then, rising to new life, give thanks with each breath.  
2 In Christ called to banquet, one table we share,*

*a haven of welcome, a circle of care.  
Although we are many, we share in one bread.  
One cup of thanksgiving proclaims Christ, our head.*

*3 In Christ called to witness, by grace we will preach  
the life-giving gospel; God's love we will teach.  
By grace may our living give proof to our praise  
in costly compassion reflecting Christ's ways.*

*4 Unite us, anoint us, O Spirit of love,  
for you are within us, around us, above.  
Equip us for service with gifts you bestow.  
In Christ is our calling. In Christ may we grow.*

## **Call to Confession**

### **Prayer of Confession**

**O God, we confess that we have allowed fear to rule our lives. We have allowed fear to keep us from loving our neighbors who are different from us. We have allowed fear to close our doors, our hearts, our minds. But you are Perfect Love, and you cast out all fear. Help us to let go of what holds us back and to be open to your Spirit, to love freely, and to love deeply. We know that our hearts may be broken, but help us anyway to love those most in need, the most vulnerable, and guide us into ways of love and care that help heal our brokenness. In the name of Christ, the One who laid down his life for us because he loved us so much, we pray.**

### **Silence**

### **Assurance of Grace**

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

### **\* Sung Response 240**

ALLELUIA NO. 1

***Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the living Lord.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, sing praise to His name!***

### **\* Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## **WORD**

### **Time for Children**

Robert Newman

### **Prayer for Illumination**

## First Reading

## Psalm 22:25-31

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. <sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever! <sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. <sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations. <sup>29</sup>To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. <sup>30</sup>Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, <sup>31</sup>and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Anthem

## “Write Your Blessed Name”

K. Lee Scott

*Write your blessed name, O Lord, upon my heart, there to remain so indelibly engraved  
that no prosperity, that no adversity shall ever, ever move me from your love.  
Be to me a strong tower of defence, comforter in tribulation, a deliv'rer in distress,  
and a faithful Guide to the courts of heav'n through the many temptations and the dangers of this life.  
O Jesus, my only Savior!*

## Second Reading

## Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

*Refrain:*

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

*1 Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,  
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. (Refrain)*

*2 All newborn servants of the Crucified  
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died. (Refrain)*

*3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
your death has brought us life eternally. (Refrain)*

*4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory. (Refrain)*

**\* Affirmation of Faith**

from “A Brief Statement of Faith”

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”**

**EUCHARIST**

**Offering**

Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed

**\* Doxology 609**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*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!*

**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 295

### "Go to the World!"

SINE NOMINE

*1 Go to the world! Go into all the earth.  
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,  
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.*

*2 Go to the world! Go into every place.  
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.  
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.*

*3 Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;  
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.  
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.*

*4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,  
for I am with you till the age shall end,  
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"  
Alleluia. Alleluia.*

### \* Charge and Benediction

**\* Choral Response**

**“Hallelujah, Amen”**

GF Handel

**\* Postlude**

**“Now Is Eternal Life”**

Charles Ore

## 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](http://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. Joys and concerns are shared by email each Monday morning. If you would like to receive our weekly email, please contact Betsy, [betsy@southminsterpcusa.org](mailto:betsy@southminsterpcusa.org). A printed copy of the prayer concerns is available 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](http://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  
 John Little, Liturgist (10:30)



## Outreach Opportunities

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



## Sunday May 19th

Congregational Meeting  
 10am

Join us as we elect a new class of elders and nominating committee!

## This Week at Southminster

### Sunday, May 5

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

### Monday, May 6

11:00 am        Congregational Care Committee

### Tuesday, May 7

11:30 am        Rotary Meeting

### Wednesday, May 8

4:00 pm         Fellowship Committee  
6:00 pm         Chancel Choir Practice

### Thursday, May 9

9:45 am         Presbytery Meeting - Oakmont  
6:00 pm         Property Committee  
7:00 pm         Vulcan District Eagle Boards

### Friday, May 10

9:00 am         Day School Chapel

### Sunday, May 12

8:15 am         Worship Service  
9:15 am         Sunday School  
10:30 am        Worship Service  
5:00 pm         Serve Dinner at First Light

*Let Justice Flow Down*

## Summer Series

### Speakers

June 2nd-Rev. Sue Westfall  
June 16th- PSL Anti-Racism  
June 30th- Kairos Prison Ministry  
July 14th- Rev. Garrett Harper  
July 28th- Cahaba River Society

### Fellowship

June 9th  
June 23rd  
July 7th  
July 21st

*Join us at 9:15am this summer!*

# Summer Save the Dates

June 13th Birmingham Barons Game	July 28th Mission Camp Kick-off
27th Cookout and Fireworks	28th-31st Water Around the World Mission Camp