



A Place to Call Home: All are Welcome

Sunday, April 21, 2024, 10:30am

Southminster Presbyterian Church

GATHERING

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord”

David Cherwien

Welcome

Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed

Introit

“Now God be Praised”

M. Vulpious

*Now God be prais'd in heav'n above, praised be He for His great love,
wherein all creatures live and move, Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!*

Call to Worship

Frank James

Home is a place of rest.

My home is in the Lord.

Home is a sense of peace.

My home is in the Lord.

Home is a generous welcome.

My home is in the Lord.

Home is refuge from fear.

My home is in the Lord.

Home is an open table.

My home is in the Lord.

Home is an end to eternal longing.

My home is in the Lord.

Opening Prayer

1 O for a world where everyone
respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done
with justice and with praise.

2 O for a world where goods are shared
and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared,
equality achieved.

3 We welcome one world family
and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity
and gives our vision voice.

4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong;
the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong,
who perishes will rise.

5 O for a world preparing for
God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more,
and all but love will cease.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, your justice protects those who are weak, yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power. Your righteousness redeems those who are poor, yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions. Your peace upholds those who are oppressed, yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution. Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance, that we may trust you in all things; through Jesus Christ 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 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

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-7

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

"Seek the Lord"

John Carter

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him, call while he is near.

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;

let him return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Second Reading

Matthew 20:1-15

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a

denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Called to Service”

Rev. Jan Dus

*** Hymn 761**

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

BEECHER

- 1 Called as partners in Christ’s service,
called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring
to fulfill God’s chosen end.
- 2 Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring,
Christ’s clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering,
reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
all God’s people, young and old,
blending human skills together
gracious gifts from God unfold.
- 3 Thus new patterns for Christ’s mission,
in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other’s burdens,
breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action,
make us colleagues, free and fair.
- 4 So God grant us for tomorrow
ways to order human life
that surround each person’s sorrow
with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving
hope and confidence and peace.

* Affirmation of Faith

from "A Brief Statement of Faith"

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!"

EUCCHARIST

Offering

Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

* 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!*

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

"When All Is Ended"

ENGELBERG

1 When all is ended, time and troubles past, shall all be mended, sin and death out-cast?
In hope we sing, and hope to sing at last: Alleluia!

2 As in the night, when lightning flickers free, and gives a glimpse of distant hill and tree,
each flash of good discloses what will be: Alleluia!

3 Against all hope, our weary times have known wars ended, peace declared, compassion shown, great days
of freedom, tyrants overthrown: Alleluia!

4 Then do not cheat the poor, who long for bread, with dream-worlds in the sky or in the head,
but sing of slaves set free, and children fed: Alleluia!

5 With earthy faith we sing a song of heaven: all life fulfilled, all loved, all wrong forgiven.
Christ is our sign of hope, for Christ is risen: Alleluia!

6 With all creation, pain and anger past, evil exhausted, love supreme at last,
alive in God, we'll sing an unsurpassed Alleluia!

Charge and Benediction

*** Choral Response**

"Hallelujah, Amen"

GF Handel

*** Postlude**

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

Barry Bobb



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
Rev. Jan Dus, Guest Preacher
Robert Newman, Program Director
Dr. Larry Hardin, Director of Music Ministries
Kyle Henderson, Director of Worship Arts
David Renaker, Organist
Ty Thornton, Pianist
Frank James, Liturgist (10:30)

Welcome Rev. Jan Dus!

Jan is a member of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (ECCB), which has very close ties with Presbyterian Church (USA). Jan is a volunteer ECCB Pastor serving a number of congregations. Jan's engagement with ECCB brought him to humanitarian work, which ended up in them founding Camino. Jan has extensive experience as a field director for Doctors Without Borders and has served eight Doctors Without Borders' missions in the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia. Camino is a Christian humanitarian organization legally registered in the Czech Republic. Its founders are Dr. Anna Dusova and Pastor Jan Dus. Camino was founded in 2022 with a twofold purpose - to provide humanitarian help in Ukraine and to organize service-tourism trips.



You can support Camino with a secure donation by scanning the QR Code, or through a check to the church with "Camino" in the memo line.

This Wednesday 5:30-7pm

Program: Summer Preview and Senior Recognition

Menu: BBQ Chicken, Broccoli Salad, Peach Cobbler

Reservations: 205-822-1124



Tell Me More!



Interested in knowing more about Southminster? Curious why we do what we do? Join Tom and Leanne for lunch on April 28th at 11:45am to learn more about our church family! RSVP contact Leanne!

Outreach Opportunities

Food Distribution at Greater Birmingham Ministries
April 23rd: 11am

Presbyterian Home for Children Thrift Store Pick-up
May 4th, 9 am to 12 pm

This Week at Southminster

Sunday, April 21

8:15 am Worship Service
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship Service
4:00 pm Session Meeting
5:00 pm Birmingham Youth Group - SPC

Wednesday, April 24

5:30 pm Fellowship Supper
6:15 pm Summer Preview and Senior
 Recognition
7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, April 25

11:00 am Bible Study

Friday, April 26

7:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
9:00 am Day School Chapel

Saturday, April 27

8:00 am Community Grief Support
 Volunteer Training

Sunday, April 28

8:15 am Worship Service
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 a m Worship Service
11:45 am Tell Me More Lunch
1:30 pm Hope Circle
5:00 pm Birmingham Youth Group - SPC

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Fri., April 26, 7:00 am

Prayer Concerns

DeLilah Aillsbrook
Frances Avery
Beverly Brasell
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