



**A Place to Call  
Home:  
All are Welcome**

Sunday, May 12, 2024, 10:30 am

Southminster Presbyterian Church

## **GATHERING**

### **Chiming of the Hour**

**Prelude**

**“Lead On, O King Eternal”**

Charles Callahan

**Welcome**

Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed

**Introit**

**“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!”**

DEO GRACIAS

*A hymn of glory let us sing! New songs throughout the world shall ring:  
Christ, by a road before untrod, ascends unto the throne of God.  
“You see him now, ascending high up to the portals of the sky.  
Hereafter you shall Jesus see returning in great majesty.”  
O risen Christ, ascended Lord, all praise to you let earth accord.  
You are, while endless ages run, with Father and with Spirit one.*

### **Call to Worship**

Jothany James

We have come to worship God, the living God,  
**Who calls prophets and disciples to bear witness.**

We have come to praise God, the almighty God,  
**Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.**

We have come to worship God, the gracious God,  
**Who chooses even you and me, to receive and carry the Word of life and hope.  
All glory to God!**

**\* Hymn 35**

**“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”**

LOBE DEN HERREN

*1 Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;  
join me in glad adoration!*

*2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been  
granted in what he ordaineth?*

*3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again;  
gladly for aye we adore him.*

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Almighty God, we confess that we have set our eyes in the clouds instead of on the earth you have given us. We desire heavenly treasure but look to worldly means to attain it. Call us back to the down-to-earth message of your love. You have told us through scripture to care for the widows and orphans among us; help us see all those who are left out and in need. Encourage us to break down the dividing walls that we have placed, so that we may truly be one, as you and Christ are one. For it is in Christ's name 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

Recognition of Seniors

Robert Newman

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

**Ephesians 1:15-23**

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

**"All Earth Rejoice With a Gladsome Voice"**

Vivaldi/arr. Hopson

*All the earth rejoice with a gladsome voice; now sing we alleluia.  
Praise the Lord. Rejoice, rejoice and sing. Sing alleluia, sing, Christ reigns on high.  
Sound the trumpet; sound the harp. Praise the Lord.  
All the earth rejoice with a gladsome voice; now sing we alleluia.*

Second Reading

**Acts 1:1-11**

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed

**\* Hymn 773**

**"Heaven Shall Not Wait"**

HEAVEN SHALL NOT WAIT

*1 Heaven shall not wait  
for the poor to lose their patience,  
the scorned to smile, the despised to find a friend:  
Jesus is Lord;  
he has championed the unwanted;  
in him injustice confronts its timely end.*

*2 Heaven shall not wait  
for the rich to share their fortunes,  
the proud to fall, the elite to tend the least:  
Jesus is Lord;  
he has shown the master's privilege:  
to kneel and wash servants' feet before they feast.*

*3 Heaven shall not wait  
for the dawn of great ideas,  
thoughts of compassion divorced from cries of pain:  
Jesus is Lord;  
he has married word and action;  
his cross and company make his purpose plain.*

*4 Heaven shall not wait  
for triumphant Hallelujahs,  
when earth has passed and we reach another shore:  
Jesus is Lord  
in our present imperfection;  
his power and love are for now and then for evermore.*

**\* Affirmation of Faith**

from "A Brief Statement of Faith"

Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

**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!"**

**Minute for Mission**

**"Pentecost Offering"**

Robert Newman

## **EUCCHARIST**

**Offering**

**\* 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 610**

**“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**

AZMON

*O for a thousand tongues to sing ,u dear Redeemer’s praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God’s grace!*

*The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease,  
sings music in the sinner’s ears brings life, and health, and peace.*

*Christ speaks, and listening to his voice new life the dead receive;  
the mournful waken to rejoice; the poor in heart believe.*

*My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.*

*To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given  
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.*

**\* Charge and Benediction**

**\* Choral Response**

**“Hallelujah, Amen”**

GF Handel

**\* Postlude**

**“Ascended Triumph”**

Donald Busarow



## 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. Childcare is also available for infants through age three in our Nursery (Room 213), staffed by experienced workers. 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  
Jothany James, Liturgist (10:30)



## PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

Help us fund scholarships to Living River for children from Wilcox County!

The offering will be collected next  
Sunday, May 19th!

## Outreach Opportunities

GBM Kid Friendly Food Drive  
May 20th - 24th

Paper bags are available for you to pick up at the entrances to the narthex with a list of items needed. You can put your donations in this bag and return to the church by next Sunday, May 19th!



LIVING RIVER  
A RETREAT ON THE CALIABA

Spring Riverfest  
at Living River!

Saturday, May 18th  
12pm-7pm

Come enjoy a day at camp! There will be food trucks and live music beginning at 5:30pm!

## 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 12**

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

### **Monday, May 13**

5:00 pm      Day School Board Meeting  
5:30 pm      Worship Committee

### **Tuesday, May 14**

10:00 am     Presbyterian Women Officer  
                  Installation  
10:00 am     Celebration Circle  
10:00 am     Grace Circle  
11:30 am     Joy Circle - Botanical Gardens  
4:30 pm      Facilities Assessment Team  
6:30 pm      Administrative Committee - Zoom

### **Wednesday, May 15**

4:00 pm      Board of Pension Clergy Meeting  
6:30 pm      Chancel Choir Practice

### **Thursday, May 16**

11:00 am     Bible Study

### **Friday, May 17**

9:00 am      Day School Chapel  
6:00 pm      Youth End of Semester Party

### **Saturday, May 18**

12 to 7:00 pm   Riverfest at Living River

### **Sunday, May 19**

8:15 am      Worship Service  
9:15 am      Sunday School  
10:00 am     Congregational Meeting  
10:30 am     Worship Service  
4:00 pm      Session Meeting



## *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

27th

Cookout and  
Fireworks

July

28th

Mission Camp  
Kick-off

28th-31st

Water Around the  
World Mission  
Camp