



Surprising Acts of God

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 18th, 8:15am
Southminster Presbyterian Church (USA)

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE “Draw Us in The Spirit’s Tether”

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

GATHERING SONG “The Spirit Knows, the Sprit Calls”

CALL TO WORSHIP

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 300 “We Are One in the Spirit”**

***We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:***

Refrain:

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

***2 We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: (Refrain)***

***3 We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
we will work with each other; we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride: (Refrain)***

*4 All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: (Refrain)*

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!***

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed

EUCHARIST

OFFERING

COMMUNION SONG

*Here, O our Lord, we see you face to face.
Here would we touch and handle things unseen,
here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,
and all our weariness upon you lean.*

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.

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

SENDING

***HYMN 757 “Today We All 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**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***POSTLUDE “O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee”**

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

After worship today

Join us following the worship service for refreshments and Sunday School for all ages.

Called Congregational Meeting

We will have a Called Meeting today at 10am in the sanctuary to hear a report from the Nominating Committee to elect new elders. We hope you will stay and take part in this important meeting.

Barons Game, Tuesday, June 3rd, 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. 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 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 southminserpcusa.org/give.

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