

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
APRIL 6TH, 2025 – 8:15 AM

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

GATHERING SONG

*O day of peace when all have learned
that in between grace finds a home,
and when we meet each other there
we dwell in love within God's care.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to worship because we long for mercy.
We long for community.
We long for God.

We come to worship because we need a good word.
We need connection.
We need moral reminders.

We come to worship because we are in between:
hope and grief,
faith and doubt,
joy and longing,
curiosity and conviction.

So we come to worship and God meets us here.
**Surely, we are not alone. Thanks be to God
 for meeting us in the middle! Amen.**

***HYMN 475**

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, when we fail to be righteous, show us mercy.
When we fail to be merciful, show us what is right. Again
and again, bring us closer to you. Again and again, show us
the way. Amen.**

SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

**Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 471)

*The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise:
all my hope comes from God.
The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise:
God, the well-spring of life.*

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING**Psalm 119:37-44**

***Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.***

You are righteous, O Lord, and your judgments are right. You have appointed your decrees in righteousness and in all faithfulness. My zeal consumes me because my foes forget your words. Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it. I am small and despised, yet I do not forget your precepts. Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and your law is the truth. Trouble and anguish have come upon me, but your commandments are my delight. Your decrees are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.

***Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.***

ANTHEM**“God Is My Strong Salvation”****GOSPEL READING****Luke 19:1-10**

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the

poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

***HYMN 697**

“Take My Life, and Let It Be”

*Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.*

*Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.*

*Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.*

*Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.*

*Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed

EUCCHARIST

OFFERING

COMMUNION SONG (Hymn 501)

*Feed us, Lord. Feed us, Lord.
In the broken bread, be revealed again.
Come and feed our hearts, O Lord.*

*Quench us, Lord. Quench us, Lord.
On this thirsty ground, may your love flow down.
Come and quench our hearts, O Lord.*

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.

Communion of the People

SENDING

***HYMN 366**

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

*Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.*

*Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

***BENEDICTION**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***POSTLUDE “God Is My Strong Salvation”**

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.

Lunch Bunch today following the 10:30 Service

Come join Southminster friends at Newk's in Vestavia Hills for food and fellowship following the 10:30 worship service.

Wednesday Night Connect, 5:30 pm

Join us on Wednesday evening at 5:30 for a meal of Spaghetti and Meatballs, Green Beans, Salad, and Banana Pudding. At 6:15 we will continue our Lenten study, discussing some of the essential tenets of our faith in a series called "Making Sense of the Christian Faith." There will be one short video and then time for deeper discussion and prayer. This week's study will be "Eschatology."

Lunch and Learn, Thursday, April 10th, 12 noon

Join us for Lunch and Learn as we welcome our guest speaker from Community on the Rise, a nonprofit and social enterprise dedicated to empowering people experiencing homelessness in Birmingham. Lunch is provided; a \$5 donation is appreciated.

Time to order Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies will decorate our Sanctuary for Easter Sunday and are available for \$20. They can be placed in honor or memory of loved ones. Contact Betsy at betsy@southminsterpcusa.org to order yours. Deadline is April 11th.

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 / APRIL 6

8:15 & 10:30am / Worship Service
9:15am / Sunday School
11:45am / Lunch Bunch – Newk’s
3:00pm / “At the River” film, dinner, and discussion
5:00pm / Birmingham Youth Group

MONDAY / APRIL 7

10:30am / Centering Prayer

TUESDAY / APRIL 8

10:00am / Celebration Circle
10:00am / Grace Circle
11:00am / Joy Circle
1:00pm / Memorial Service for Ann Tillman
5:00pm / Handbell Practice

WEDNESDAY / APRIL 9

5:30pm / Supper
6:15pm / Lenten Program
7:00pm / Chancel Choir Practice

THURSDAY / APRIL 10

11:00am / Bible Study
12:00pm / Lunch and Learn

SUNDAY / APRIL 13

8:15 & 10:30am / Worship Service
9:15am / Sunday School
11:45am / Faith Formation Committee
5:00pm / Birmingham Youth Group