

BAPTISM OF THE LORD
SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH, 2025 - 10:30 AM

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE **“I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry”**

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

INTROIT **“Write Your Blessed Name”**

*Write your blessed name, O Lord, upon my heart
there to remain so indelibly engraved
that no prosperity, no adversity
shall ever move me from your love.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Nancy Deerman

Like the soft whisper of a little child singing to
herself before anyone else in the house is awake,
**ever so gently, God’s voice cradles us
with songs of wonder and awe.**

With the persistence of teenagers and young adults,
heady with the newfound freedom of questioning
everything,

**God’s voice rumbles like a river through our
lives, sweeping away all the boundaries between us.**

Like the grandpa who passes on the secret to his bread,
like the nana who teaches her grandkids how to drive,

**God’s voice is always reminding us that we are precious and
loved.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We know what it is like to be burned by our mistakes, Holy God. We look for ourselves in all the wrong places - success, power, adulation. We carve our names in the granite walls of work, hoping we will be remembered when we are gone. We have gone through the waters of baptism, but live as if they have not changed us.

We need to hear your sure word, 'do not fear,' Shaper of our lives. Our failures do not cause you to quit loving us, for you continue to claim us, gathering us up in your compassionate arms. In our baptism, we discover not the end, but the first step of our journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

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

SUNG RESPONSE

***O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring 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.***

PASSING OF THE PEACE

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Psalm 29:1-4

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor. The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“O Christ, Surround Me”

SECOND READING

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

HYMN 482

“Baptized in Water”

REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

SCRIPTURE SENTENCES

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles'

Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

EUCCHARIST

OFFERING

Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed

COMMUNION SONG

*Every day we need your nurture; by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread. God,
renew us; guide our footsteps, free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.*

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 #691 "Lord, When I Came Into This Life"

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

POSTLUDE "Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized"

Leading Today's Worship

Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed, Co-Pastor

Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson, Co-Pastor

Robert Newman, Program Director

Dr. Larry Hardin, Music Director

Kyle Henderson, Director of Worship Arts

David Renaker, Organist

Ty Thornton, Pianist

Coming Up

No Lunch Bunch gathering today

We will meet again in February to share a meal together following the 10:30 worship service.

Wednesday Night Connect, January 15th

Join us at 5:30 for dinner. Following dinner, we will head to the sanctuary at 6:15 for a reading of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s moving "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." We hope you can join us.

Congregational Meeting, Sunday, January 26th, 10:00am

A congregational meeting has been called for the purpose of receiving the 2024 budget and to approve the co-pastors' terms of call. We will meet in the sanctuary at 10:00am. Please make every effort to be in attendance.

Presbyterian 101, Sunday, January 26th and February 2nd

Whether you're new to the Presbyterian tradition or not, you might enjoy learning more about who we are and what we believe. We will focus on worship and why we do what we do in worship. Join Tom and Leanne for conversation during the Sunday School hour on the two dates above.

Dinners for Eight will return in February

There are sign-up forms in the narthex and in the gathering area. These groups were such a hit in the fall we decided to bring them back. It's a great way to meet some folks you might not know so consider signing up.

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 southminsterpcusa.org/give.

This Week

SUNDAY / JANUARY 12

8:15 & 10:30am / Worship Service

9:15am / Sunday School

11:30am / Faith Formation Committee

11:45am / Tell Me More Lunch

11:45am / Matthew 25 Committee

4:00pm / Birmingham Youth Group Epiphany Party

TUESDAY / JANUARY 14

10:00am / Celebration Circle

10:00am / Grace Circle

11:00am / Joy Circle

WEDNESDAY / JANUARY 15

4:30pm / Facilities Assessment Team

5:30pm / Wednesday Night Supper-Chicken Kabobs, Macaroni
and Cheese, Caesar Salad, Cupcakes

6:15pm / Reading of the "Letter From a Birmingham Jail"

7:00pm / Chancel Choir Practice

THURSDAY / JANUARY 16

11:00am / Bible Study

FRIDAY / JANUARY 17

9:00am / Day School Chapel

SUNDAY / JANUARY 19

8:15 & 10:30am / Worship Service

9:15am / Sunday School

3:00pm / Session Meeting

4:00pm / Birmingham Youth Group