

losing sight of hope. Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is. Open our hearts to see the world as you see it, to dream dreams and to risk hope. Amen.

SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

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

***SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn #92)**

*While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

WORD

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY

Hymn #115

"Away in a Manger"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

ANTHEM

"O Lord, Most Holy"

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

***HYMN #100**

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

EUCCHARIST

OFFERING

COMMUNION SONG (Hymn #106)

*Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.*

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 #105**

"People, Look East"

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

***POSTLUDE**

"Fling Wide the Door"

Worship Notes

Our worship series is based on resources from A Sanctified Art, LLC, sanctifiedart.org.



The banner and quilt squares were created by Sharon Schuler. This quilt square was displayed in the sanctuary last week and the design is called a “log cabin,” and is meant to symbolize that together we can hold one another up and make something greater.



The square for today, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, is called “birds in the air.” Sometimes when we take a risk, hope takes flight. At times it may feel like you’re falling, but you’ll find that, in God’s embrace, you are flying.

The bulletin cover features “The Good That Is Yours” by Lisle Gwynn Garrity. The worship liturgy was adapted from Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed.

Leading Today’s Worship

Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed, Co-Pastor

Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson, Co-Pastor

Dr. Larry Hardin, Director of Music

Kyle Henderson, Director of Worship Arts

David Renaker, Organist

Ty Thornton, Pianist

Laura Bannon, Liturgist

Coming Up

Ty Thornton Piano Concert, this afternoon, 4:00 pm

If you missed Ty’s piano concert a couple of weeks ago, he will present his annual Keyboard Christmas program, “Joyeux Noël,” which features carols from France.

Christmas Eve Service of Candlelight and Communion, 5:00 pm

Join us on Tuesday evening as we celebrate together the birth of the Christ Child. Come hear the familiar story of shepherds and angels, stars and God’s love revealed to us in the tender face of a child. Come and sing the joyful songs of our faith. Come, gather as the family of God around the table of love. There will be overflow seating in Grace Hall.

First Sunday after Christmas, December 29th

Come join us next Sunday morning. There will be no Sunday School and only one worship service at 10:30.

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 / DECEMBER 22

8:15 and 10:30 am / Worship Service

9:15am / Sunday School

4:00pm / Ty Thornton's Christmas Piano Concert

TUESDAY / DECEMBER 24

Church Office Closed

5:00pm / Christmas Eve Service of Candlelight and Communion

WEDNESDAY / DECEMBER 25

Church Office Closed - Christmas Day

SUNDAY / DECEMBER 29

10:30am / Worship Service