

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024 -10:30 AM**

**GATHERING**

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE**                    **“Savior of the Nations, Come”**

**WELCOME**    Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed

**INTROIT**                    **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**    Brandon Bierley

God says,

**“Do not be afraid.”**

God says,

**“I have called you by name.”**

God says,

**“I will be with you.”**

God says,

**“You are precious and honored in my sight.”**

At the beginning of this season, at the start of this week,  
may we remember these words.

**May we begin again.**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**    The McGibboney Family

**\*HYMN #104**                    **“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”**

***1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart’s delight!***

*O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,  
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.*

*2 Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;  
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace  
in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.*

*3 You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,  
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.  
In patient expectation we live for that great day  
when your renewed creation your glory shall display.*

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, your first words to creation were words of love. You looked at this earth and said, "It is good." You spoke mercy through the prophets. You spoke blessings over Mary. You spoke belonging through Christ. At every turn, you remind us that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love. Forgive us for forgetting this truth. Forgive us for measuring worth by society's measuring stick instead of yours. We believe. Help our unbelief. Amen.**

## **SILENCE**

## **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

**Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:**

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

## **SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn #92, v. 1)**

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

**WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION****FIRST READING****Isaiah 43:1-7**

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight and honored and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM****"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"****SECOND READING****Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will

conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed

**\*HYMN #129            "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"**

*1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.  
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.*

*2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior,  
when half spent was the night.*

*3 This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.  
Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us*

*and lightens every load.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

**EUCCHARIST**

**OFFERING**

**\*SUNG RESPONSE**

*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 #87      “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”**

*1 “Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God.  
“Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.  
To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.”*

*2 For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.  
O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.  
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.*

*3 Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.*

#### **\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE      “Rejoice!”**

**\*POSTLUDE      “People, Look East”**

## Worship Notes

Our worship series is based on resources from A Sanctified Art, LLC, [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).



The banner and quilt squares were created by Sharon Schuler. This week’s square is a simplified abstract image of the angel Gabriel who tells Mary she is “blessed among women.”

The bulletin cover features “When You Pass Through the Waters” 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**

**Kyle Henderson, Director of Worship Arts**

**Ty Thornton, Pianist**

## Coming Up

### After worship today

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

### Christmas Party - Friday, December 6, 6 pm

We'll enjoy a delicious meal and entertainment by Three On a String! The cost is \$25 per person. Childcare, if needed, will be provided in the nursery. RSVP by calling the church office by tomorrow at noon. We hope you'll join us!

### Advent and Christmas at Home

Each family is invited to pick up an Advent devotional, calendar, and ornament at either entrance to the Sanctuary.

### Greater Birmingham Ministries Angel Tree

You are invited to remove an angel off the tree in the Grace Hall gathering area, shop for the age group on the back, and place your gift back under the tree. You can also purchase Visa or Walmart gift cards and turn those into the Church Office by Sunday, December 8th.

### Christmas Poinsettias

It's time to start placing orders for the beautiful poinsettias that decorate the Sanctuary during Advent. If you would like to order one, or more, in honor or memory of someone, please call the Church Office. The cost is \$20 per poinsettia.

## 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](http://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](http://southminserpcusa.org/give).

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## **This Week**

### **SUNDAY / DECEMBER 1**

8:15 & 10:30am / Worship Service

9:15am / Sunday School

1:00pm / Chancel Choir Rehearsal for Lessons and Carols

5:00pm / BYG – Edgewood

### **MONDAY / DECEMBER 2**

11:00am / Congregational Care Committee

### **TUESDAY / DECEMBER 3**

11:00am / Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team

5:00pm / Covenant Ringers Rehearsal

### **WEDNESDAY / DECEMBER 4**

5:30pm / Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### **THURSDAY / DECEMBER 5**

11:00am / Bible Study

### **FRIDAY / DECEMBER 6**

6:00pm / Adult Christmas Party

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7**

9:00am / King's Home Thrift Store Pickup

### **SUNDAY / DECEMBER 8**

8:15 & 10:30am / Worship Service

9:15am / Sunday School



11:45am / Lunch Bunch

1:00pm / Chancel Choir Rehearsal for Lessons and Carols

5:00pm / BYG – Edgewood