

Order of Worship

**All who are able please stand*

Please contact an usher or greeter to obtain an assisted hearing device

FOR REFLECTION

"If we are here for any good purpose at all, I suspect it is to entertain the rest of nature. A gang of sexy primate clowns. All the little critters creep in close to listen when human beings are in a good mood and willing to play some tunes."

--Gary Snyder

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Enduring Love

Joyce Ruppⁱ

**Stream of Enduring Love,
I yearn to have a feeling of oneness with you,
I wish I felt a driving passion, an insatiable thirst
Instead, there's just this steady hum of fidelity,
With an occasional flicker of intense longing.**

**Each day I deliberately place myself
in the midst of your stream of enduring love.
I want so much to feel spiritual refreshment,
to have your divine passion sweep over me
with the power of an energizing waterfall.**

**Stream of Enduring Love,
I must let go of my desire to desire.
You provide for what I need.
You keep my heart alive in your love.
More than this I do not need,
but my ego clamors greedily for more.**

**I will rest in the stream of your goodness,
let your enduring love quietly wash over me,
be grateful for all that I have.
I will quiet that incessant voice in me
that whines for something more.**

***HYMN**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

#366

***GREETING OF PEACE**

May the Spirit of peace and wisdom be with you all.

And also with you.

Please greet one another with a sign of peace.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

*(After the children's time children are dismissed for Godly Play & Joyful Path;
Youth for Connections & Everyday Leadership)*

Parents: If this is your first time at Southminster Sunday School, please go with your children (age 3-4th grade) and sign them in. Thank you.

READING

It Happens All the Time in Heaven
*It happens all the time in heaven,
And some day*

Hafizⁱⁱ

*It will begin to happen
Again on earth—*

*That men and women who are married,
And men and men who are
Lovers,*

*And women and women
Who give each other
Light,*

Often will get down on their knees

*And while so tenderly
Holding their lover's hand,*

*With tears in their eyes,
Will sincerely speak, saying,*

*My dear,
How can I be more loving to you;*

*How can I be more
Kind?"*

ANTHEM

Love Never Fails, J.A.C. Redford

Chancel Choir

*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels,
but have not love,
I am only a resounding gong and a clanging cymbal.*

*If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge,
And if I have a faith that can move mountains,
but have not love,
I am nothing.*

*If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames,
but have not love,
I gain nothing.*

*Love is patient, love is kind,
Love leaves envy far behind.
Never boastful, proud or rude,
Love rejoices with the truth.*

*Slow to anger, stores no wrongs,
Love will never seek its own.
Love does not delight in sin.
It bears all things, believes all things,
Love hopes all things, endures all things.
Love never fails. Love never fails.
Love never fails.*

*Prophecies someday will cease.
As for tongues, they will be stilled.
Knowledge, it will pass away,
Yet love remains, it hopes all things,
Believes all things, endures all things.
Love never fails. Love never fails.
Love, love never fails.
-adapted by J.A.C. Redford*

READING

I Corinthians 13 (Scholars' Version)ⁱⁱⁱ

*if I were fluent in human and heavenly tongues
but lacked love
I'd sound like a hollow gong
or a crashing cymbal*

*if I could interpret oracles
had the key to all the sacred rites and secrets
and every insight
if I had all the confidence in the world
to move mountains
but lacked love*

I'd be nothing

*if I parted with all that I owned
if I offered my body to the sacrificial flames
but lacked love
it would do me no good*

*love takes its time
makes itself good and useful
love doesn't envy
it doesn't boast
it doesn't bluster*

*it doesn't make a scene
it doesn't look after its own interests
it doesn't throw fits
it doesn't dwell on the negative
it takes no pleasure in injustice
but is delighted by the truth*

*love upholds everything
trusts in everything
hopes for everything
endures everything*

*love never falls way
though oracles will cease
tongues will fall silent
insight will fall short*

*we know bits and pieces
in bits and pieces we deliver oracles*

*but when the whole picture emerges
the bits and pieces will disappear*

*when I was very young
I talked like a child
thought like a child
reasoned like a child
when I grew up
I put an end to childish ways*

now we look at a reflection quite obscure

*then we'll gaze face to face
now I know only bits and pieces
then I shall know as I am known*

*so then confidence hope love
these three endure
but the greatest of these is
love*

SERMON

A Free Mind, Love, and Good Tunes

John Shuck

***HYMN**

Come, Live in the Light!

#749

***AFFIRMATION OF LIFE**

John Philip Newell^{iv}

**Peace where there is war
healing where there is hurt
memory where we have forgotten the other.
Vision where there is violence
light where there is madness
sight where we have blinded each other.
Comfort where there is sorrow
tears where there is hardness
laughter where we have missed life's joy
laughter when we remember the joy**

SUNG PRAYER

"Ubi Caritas" – (sing four times)

Ubi caritas

Et amore

Ubi caritas

Deus ibi est

("Where there is love and kindness, there is God").

MEDITATION AND NAMING

COMMUNAL PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer Revised^v

**Indwelling God, who art infused throughout all existence,
we hallow thee with many names.
Thy Kingdom is within the human heart.
We accept life for all that it can be,
on Earth as throughout all creation.
May we continue to draw sustenance from this earth,
and may we receive forgiveness equal to our own.**

**May we ever move from separation toward union,
to live in grace, with love in our hearts, forever and ever. Amen**

**A TIME FOR OFFERING
INVITATION TO GIVE
MUSIC FOR OFFERING**

***DOXOLOGY**

**Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering
When we are giving, or when receiving,
We belong to God.
We belong to God.
We belong to God.
We belong to God.**

***PRAYER OF THANKS**

***HYMN** God Be With You Till We Meet Again #542

***BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH**

***MUSIC FOR LEAVING**

ⁱ Joyce Rupp, *Prayers to Sophia* (Notre Dame: Ave Maria Press, 2004), p. 100.

ⁱⁱ Daniel Ladinsky, trans., *The Subject Tonight Is Love: 60 Wild and Sweet Poems of Hafiz* (New York: Penguin, 2003), p. 45.

ⁱⁱⁱ Arthur Dewey et al, *The Authentic Letters of Paul: A New Reading of Paul's Rhetoric and Meaning* (Salem: Polebridge, 2010), pp. 98-9.

^{iv} John Philip Newell, *Praying With the Earth: A Prayerbook for Peace* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011), p. 44.

^v <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/meditation/5589.shtml>