

Order of Worship

**All who are able please stand*

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

FOR REFLECTION

"...we can...think of the end of our present life not as the end of our journey with God but simply as the beginning of its next phase. If so, we can conceive that divine grace, working entirely through the attractive power of love, might sanctify us all. There would be no need for the divine violence of casting sinners into hell. God would, instead, love the hell out of us."

--David Ray Griffinⁱ

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Abundant Catch

Czeslaw Miloszⁱⁱ

On the shore

fish toss in the stretched nets
of Simon, James, and John.

High above, swallows.

Wings of butterflies.

Cathedrals.

*HYMN

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

#721

*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

Autobiography of Charles Darwinⁱⁱⁱ

A man who has no assured and ever present belief in the existence of a personal God or of a future existence with retribution and reward, can have for his rule of life, as far as I can see, only to follow those impulses and instincts which are the strongest or which seem to him the best ones. A dog acts in this manner, but he does so blindly. A

man, on the other hand, looks forwards and backwards, and compares his various feelings, desires and recollections. He then finds, in accordance with the verdict of all the wisest men that the highest satisfaction is derived from following certain impulses, namely the social instincts. If he acts for the good of others, he will receive the approbation of his fellow men and gain the love of those with whom he lives; and this latter gain undoubtedly is the highest pleasure on this earth. By degrees it will become intolerable to him to obey his sensuous passions rather than his higher impulses, which when rendered habitual may be almost called instincts. His reason may occasionally tell him to act in opposition to the opinion of others, whose approbation he will then not receive; but he will still have the solid satisfaction of knowing that he has followed his innermost guide or conscience.—As for myself I believe that I have acted rightly in steadily following and devoting my life to science. I feel no remorse from having committed any great sin, but have often and often regretted that I have not done more direct good to my fellow creatures. My sole and poor excuse is much ill-health and my mental constitution, which makes it extremely difficult for me to turn from one subject or occupation to another. I can imagine with high satisfaction giving up my whole time to philanthropy, but not a portion of it; though this would have been a far better line of conduct.

ANTHEM

READING

Luke 5:1-11 (Scholars' Version)

It came to pass, when the crowd pressed him to hear the word of God, that he was standing by Lake Gennesaret. He noticed two boats moored there at the shore; the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and began to teach the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch."

But Simon replied, "Master, we've been hard at it all night and haven't caught a thing. But if you insist, I'll lower the nets."

So they did and netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear apart. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and lend a hand. They came and loaded both boats until they nearly sank.

At the sight of this, Simon Peter fell to his knees in front of Jesus and said, "Get away from me Master; I'm a sinful man."

(You see, he and his companions were stunned at the catch of fish they had taken, as were James and John, sons of Zebedee and partners of Simon).

Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you'll be catching people." They then brought their boats to shore, abandoned everything, and followed him.

SERMON

Loving the Hell Out of Us

John Shuck

***HYMN**

From the Nets of Our Labor

#751

***AFFIRMATION OF LIFE**

blessing the boats

lucille clifton

**may the tide
that is entering even now
the lip of our understanding
carry you out
beyond the face of fear
may you kiss
the wind then turn from it
certain that it will
love your back may you
open your eyes to water
water waving forever
and may you in your innocence
sail through this to that**

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^{iv}

**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 of the Sparrow

#22

***BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH**

***MUSIC FOR LEAVING**

ⁱ David Ray Griffin, *Two Great Truths: A New Synthesis of Scientific Naturalism and Christian Faith* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2004), p. 113.

ⁱⁱ David Curzon, ed., *The Gospels in Our Image: An Anthology of Twentieth-Century Poetry based on Biblical Texts* (New York: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1995), p. 73.

ⁱⁱⁱ https://www.age-of-the-sage.org/philosophy/Charles_Darwin_quotes.html

^{iv} <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/meditation/5589.shtml>