

Order of Worship

**All who are able please stand*

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

FOR REFLECTION

*Willingly, unwillingly,
We all melt into God.
--Rumi*

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

When you see that God acts through you at every moment,
in every movement of mind or body,
you attain true freedom.

The Upanishads

**When you realize the truth,
And cling to nothing in the world,
You enter eternal life.**

*HYMN

Praise Ye the Lord the Almighty

#35

*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

Luke 13:31-35 Scholars' Version

About that time some Pharisees approached and warned him, "Get out of here! Herod wants to kill you!"

He replied to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Look here, today and tomorrow I'll be driving out demons and healing people, and the third day I'll be finished. Still, today, and tomorrow and the day after, I have to move on, because it's impossible for a prophet to die outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you murder the prophets and stone those sent to you! How often I wanted to gather your children as a hen gathers her own chicks under her wings, but you wouldn't let me. Can't you see your house is being abandoned? I'm telling you, you certainly won't see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

READING

Raids on the Unspeakable, pp. 70-75

Thomas Merton

We live in the time of no room, which is the time of the end. The time when everyone is obsessed with lack of time, lack of space, with saving time, conquering space, projecting into time and space the anguish produced within them by the technological furies of size, volume, quantity, speed, number, price, power and acceleration....

The time of the end is the time of demons who occupy the heart (pretending to be gods) so that man himself finds no room for himself in himself. He finds no space to rest in his own heart, not because it is full, but because it is void. Yet if he knew that the void itself when hovered over by the Spirit, is an abyss of creativity....He cannot believe it. There is no room for belief....

Into this world, this demented inn, in which there is absolutely no room for Him at all, Christ has come uninvited. But because He cannot be at home in it, because He is out of place in it, and yet He must be in it, His place is with those others for whom there is no room. His place is with those who do not belong, who are rejected by power because they are regarded as weak, those who are discredited, who are denied the status of persons, tortured, exterminated. With those for whom there is no room, Christ is present in this world....

To say it is the time of the end is to answer all the questions, for if it is the time of the end, and of great tribulation, then it is certainly and above all the time of The Great Joy. It is the time to "lift up your heads for your redemption is at hand." It is the time when the promise will be manifestly fulfilled and no longer kept secret from anyone. It is the time for the joy that is given not as the world gives, and that no man can take away....

To leave the city of death and imprisonment is sure not bad news except to those who have so identified themselves with their captivity that they can conceive no other reality and no other condition. In such a case, there is nothing but tribulation: for while to stay in captivity is tragic, to break away from it is unthinkable—and so more tragic still.

What is needed then is the grace and courage to see that "The Great Tribulation" and "The Great Joy" are really inseparable, and that the "Tribulation" becomes "Joy" when it is seen as the Victory of Life over Death....

*For eschatology is not **finis** and punishment, the winding up of accounts and the closing of books: it is the final beginning, the definitive birth into a new creation. It is not the last gasp of exhausted possibilities but the first taste of all that is beyond conceiving as actual.*

But can we believe it?

ANTHEM Come Thou Font of Every Blessing, J. Wyeth, arr. K. McChesney Bell Choir

SERMON The Beginning Is Now John Shuck

***HYMN** Jesus, Lover of My Soul #440

***AFFIRMATION OF LIFE** The Blessings of Jesus John Philip Newell
Blessed are those who know their need
for theirs is the grace of heaven.

Blessed are those who weep
for their tears will be wiped away.

Blessed are the humble
for they are close to the sacred earth.

Blessed are those who hunger for earth's oneness
for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the forgiving
for they are free

Blessed are the clear in heart
for they see the Living Presence.

Blessed are the peacemakers
for they are born of God.

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

**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

Grazioso, by A. Sherman

Bell Choir

***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**

What Wondrous Love Is This

#215

***BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH**

***MUSIC FOR LEAVING**