

Order of Worship

**All who are able please stand*

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

FOR REFLECTION

*Strength of heart comes from knowing that the pain that we each must bear is part of the greater pain shared by all that lives. It is not just **our** pain but **the** pain, and realizing this awakens our universal compassion.*

--Jack Kornfield

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Take no Thought for Your Life Howard Thurman
Take no thought. This day I shall desert my anxieties. I shall forsake them—cut them off from the food supply of my spirit. Confident am I that if I do not feed them they cannot long survive.

I shall seek to limit my primary exposure to those who exploit my anxieties by their tendency to exaggeration and alarm. I shall seek to broaden my exposure to those whose lives give forth confidence and calmness.

God's hand do I yield myself this day, with all that it involves for me, with the faith that I can take complete refuge in the knowledge and the love of God. For me this will not be easy, nor do I lightly undertake it.

Take no thought for your life. What a strange thing it is, this injunction! Up to this period of my life I have seemed to survive by taking thought for my life. Upon deeper reflection, I begin to see that my life is not now, nor has it ever been, my own.

I did not create nor have sustained my life through the years. In so many ways, without my own plans and purposes hard places have been made soft and rough places smooth. It is a source of immeasurable satisfaction and comfort to me to know that God, who is the Source and Sustainer of life, can be trusted to see me all the way to the end and beyond.

Take no thought for your life—it is in God's hand and ever, when I am obeying the laws of life it is God who works through me.

Take no thought for your life.

*HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

#435

*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 13:1-9 Scholars' Version

Some who were there at the time told him about the Galileans, about how Pilate had mixed their own blood with their sacrifices. He answered them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were the worst sinners in Galilee because they suffered this? Hardly. However, let me tell you, if you don't have a change of heart, you'll all meet your doom in the same way. Or how about those eighteen in Siloam, who were killed when that tower fell on them—do you suppose that they were any guiltier than the whole population of Jerusalem? Hardly. However, let me tell you, if you don't have a change of heart, all of you will meet your doom in a similar fashion."

Then he told this parable:

A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard; he came looking for fruit on it but didn't find any. So he said to the vinekeeper, "See here, for three years in a row I've come looking for fruit on this tree, and haven't found any. Cut it down. Why should it suck the nutrients of the soil?"

In response he says to him, "Let it stand, sir, one more year, until I get a chance to dig around it and work in some manure. Maybe it will produce next year; but if it doesn't, we can go ahead and cut it down."

READING

Raids on the Unspeakable, pp. 159-160

Thomas Merton

Poetry is the flowering of ordinary possibilities. It is the fruit of ordinary and natural choice. This is its innocence and dignity.

Let us not be like those who wish to make the tree bear its fruit first and flower afterwards—a conjuring trick and an advertisement. We are content if the flower comes first and the fruit afterwards, in due time. Such is the poetic spirit.

Let us obey life, and the Spirit of Life that calls us to be poets, and we shall harvest many new fruits for which the world hungers—fruits of hope that have never been seen before. With these fruits we shall calm the resentments and the rage of man.

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

SERMON

Change of Heart

John Shuck

***HYMN**

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

#475

***AFFIRMATION OF LIFE**

When I Cried for Help

Mary Oliver

**Where are you, Angel of Mercy?
Outside in the dusk, among the flowers?
leaning against the window or the door?
Or waiting, half asleep, in the spare room?**

**I'm here, said the Angel of Mercy.
I'm everywhere—in the garden, in the house,
And everywhere else on earth—so much
Asking, so much to do. Hurry! I need you.**

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,**

