

## **Order of Worship**

*\*All who are able please stand*

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

### **FOR REFLECTION**

*Our problem is civil obedience.*

*Our problem is the numbers of people all over the world who have obeyed the dictates of the leaders of their government and have gone to war, and millions have been killed because of this obedience. And our problem is that scene in All Quiet on the Western Front where the schoolboys march off dutifully in a line to war.*

*Our problem is that people are obedient all over the world, in the face of poverty and starvation and stupidity, and war and cruelty. Our problem is that people are obedient while the jails are full of petty thieves, and all the while the grand thieves are running the country.*

*That's our problem.*

*--Howard Zinn*

### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **MINUTE FOR MISSION:**

Southminster Foundation

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Brief Statement of Faith

**In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God,  
the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.**

### **\*HYMN**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

#12

### **\*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.**

## CELEBRATION OF OUR GRADUATES

### READING

If It Be Your Will

Leonard Cohen

*If it be your will, that I speak no more  
And my voice be still, as it was before  
I will speak no more, I shall abide until  
I am spoken for, if it be your will*

*If it be your will, that a voice be true  
From this broken hill, I will sing to you  
From this broken hill  
All your praises they shall ring  
If it be your will, to let me sing*

*If it be your will, if there is a choice  
Let the rivers fill, let the hills rejoice  
Let your mercy spill  
On all these burning hearts in Hell  
If it be your will, to make us well*

*And draw us near and bind us tight  
All your children here, in their rags of light  
In our rags of light, all dressed to kill  
And end this night, if it be your will*

### ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

### READING

Acts 16:16-40

*While we were on the way to the place of prayer, a slave woman with a prophetic spirit who made plenty of money for her owners by issuing oracles encountered us. As she trailed along behind Paul and us, she kept on shouting: "These people are slaves of the Most High God! They commend to you a means of deliverance." She kept this up day after day until Paul became so irritated that he turned around and addressed her spirit, "I hereby command you in the name of Jesus Christ to leave her." It left her right away.*

*Her owners realized that their expectation of income had also left. They apprehended Paul and Silas and hauled them to the authorities in the city center. When they had*

*brought them before the chief magistrates, they said, "These fellows are convulsing the city! They are Jews and commend practices that we Romans can neither accept or follow." The crowd pitched in against them, so the chief magistrates tore off the clothes of the accused and ordered a flogging. After many blows with the rod, the officials tossed them in jail, directing the jailer to secure them carefully. In obedience to these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and shackled their feet in stocks.*

*Sometime in the middle of the night, as Paul and Silas were praying and praising God in song while the other prisoners listened to them, there was suddenly an earthquake so powerful that the foundations of the prison were rocked. All the doors popped open, and the chains of all the prisoners came loose. The jailer awakened, saw the doors of the prison wide open, and, presuming that the inmates had escaped, pulled out his sword with the intention of killing himself. But Paul shouted very loudly: "Don't harm yourself. We're all here!" The jailer called for illumination, rushed in, and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. After bringing them out, he asked, "Milords, what must I do to be saved?"*

*"Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, together with your household." They thereupon told the jailer and all in his home the message about the Lord. Late as it was the jailer took them where he could cleanse their wounds. He and all of his people were then baptized without delay. He then escorted them to his own home, where a meal was set before them. The household was ebullient because each all had come to faith in God.*

*The next morning the chief magistrates sent their police escort with the message, "Let these people go. The jailer gave Paul the word: The chief magistrates have sent orders that you two are to be released. All right, then, come on out and be happily on your way!"*

*"They give us," said Paul, "a public beating, us, Roman citizens convicted of no crime, then toss us into jail, and now they want to kick us out of town secretly? Not a chance! Let them come in person and remove us from jail."*

*The police reported this to the chief magistrates who were terrified to learn that their victims were Roman citizens. The magistrates came with reassuring words, took them out of jail, and requested that they leave town. After their release Paul and Silas went to see Lydia. They provided the believers with spiritual nurture and then left Phiippi.*

**SERMON**

Paul and Silas

John Shuck

**\*HYMN**

Sometimes A Light Surprises

#800

**\*AFFIRMATION OF LIFE**

Qur'an 94:5-6

**Verily with every difficulty there is ease,**

**(Again) verily with every difficulty there is ease.**

**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**

**\*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**

Live Into Hope

#772

**\*BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH**

**\*POSTLUDE**