

Order of Worship

**All who are able please stand*

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

FOR REFLECTION

Sacred refers to that which helps take us out of our little selves into the whole mountains-and-rivers mandala universe.

--Gary Snyder

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Praying

Mary Oliver

It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch
a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway
into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.

*HYMN

Come! Live in the Light!

#749

*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.

ANTHEM

Bell Choir

READING

Jeremiah 31:27-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the Lord. In those days they shall no longer say:

*'The parents have eaten sour grapes,
and the children's teeth are set on edge.'
But all shall die for their own sins;
the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

READING

Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, "Grant me justice against my opponent." For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, "Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming." ' And the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'

SERMON

Persistence

John Shuck

***HYMN**

O God, Who Gives Us Life

#53

***AFFIRMATION OF LIFE**

Qur'an 2:153

O you who believe!

Seek help in patience and prayer.

Truly God is with the patient.

TIME FOR MEDITATION AND NAMING

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").

CORPORATE PRAYER

Lord's Prayer

New Zealand Prayerbook

Eternal Spirit,

Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom

sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trial too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,

now and forever. Amen.

A TIME FOR OFFERING

INVITATION TO GIVE

MUSIC FOR OFFERING

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**

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

#757

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**