

Order of Worship

**All who are able please stand*

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

FOR REFLECTION

"God's ultimate victory over evil will come about through love not coercive power."

*--David Ray Griffin, *The Christian Gospel For Americans.**

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

African-American Spiritual

Oh Freedom! Oh Freedom!

Oh Freedom, I love thee!

And before I'll be a slave,

I'll be buried in my grave,

And go home to my Lord and be free.

*HYMN

My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less

#353

*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

Isaiah 65:17-25

For I am about to create new heavens

and a new earth;

the former things shall not be remembered

or come to mind.

But be glad and rejoice for ever

in what I am creating;

for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,

and its people as a delight.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem,

*and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.
No more shall there be in it
an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.
They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
They shall not labor in vain,
or bear children for calamity;
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—
and their descendants as well.
Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
says the Lord.*

READING Peak of Eloquence, Sermon 203 Imam Ali Ibn Abu Talib
May Allah have mercy on you! Provide yourselves for the journey because the call for departure has been announced. Regard your stay in the world as very short, and return to Allah with the best provision that is with you, because surely, in front of you lies a valley, difficult to climb, and places of stay full of fear and dangers. You have to reach there and stay in them. And know that the eyes of death are approaching towards you. It is as though you are already in its talons and it has struck itself against you. Difficult affairs and distressing dangers have crushed you into it. You should therefore cut away all the attachments of this world and assist yourselves with the provision of Allah's fear.

ANTHEM Moon Over the Ruined Castle Bell Choir

READING Luke 21:5-19
When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.'

They asked him, 'Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?' And he said, 'Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and, "The time is near!" Do not go after them.

'When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

SERMON

To Gain Your Soul

John Shuck

***HYMN**

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

#738

***AFFIRMATION OF LIFE**

Howard Thurman

The spirit in [woman or] man is not easily vanquished. It is fragile and tough. You may fail again and again and yet something will not let you give up. Something keeps you from accepting "no" as a final answer. It is this quality that makes for the survival of values when the circumstances of one's life are most against, decency, goodness, and right. Men [and women] tend to hold on when there seems to be no point in holding on, because they find that they must. It is often at such a point that the spirit in [a person] and the spirit of God blend into one creative illumination. This is the great miracle.

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**

From Everlasting to Everlasting

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**

My Life Flows On

#821

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**