

Order of Worship

**All who are able please stand*

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

FOR REFLECTION

The divine purpose, thus revealed, is to overcome evil by bringing about a Reign of Divine Values (traditionally called the Kingdom of God) on Earth, in which the present subjugation of life to demonic values—lies, ugliness, greed, destructiveness, injustice, hate, and indifference—will be replaced by a mode of life based on divine values—truth, love, beauty, goodness, justice, and compassion.

--David Ray Griffin, The Christian Gospel for Americans, p. 4

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

**God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.**

**The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.**

**The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

**'Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.'**

**The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

***HYMN**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

#275

***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

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

READING

The Christian Gospel for Americans

David Ray Griffin

The Christian Community should base itself, all of its activities, on the Christian Community's mission. Its basic mission is to lead the way in God's battle against demonic power on Earth. The church is meant to serve as a counterforce to the demonic dimension of the symbolic structure in which human beings live. God's incarnational activity in Jesus should be understood as a divine offensive against the power of the demonic.

*The Christian Community should, of course, engage in ethical and political activity as usually understood. But this activity should be carried out in the context of a **spiritual** offensive, in which the power of prayer is used to reinforce the divine influence upon the individuals and institutions involved. Praying for those who are especially enslaved to demonic power, and who are incarnating it in especially destructive ways, will not*

only serve to remind us that they are essentially good creatures who are loved by God, but also that our battle is not with them but with the demonic power to which they are enslaved.

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

READING

Luke 23:33-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

SERMON

The Reign of Divine Values

John Shuck

***HYMN**

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

#274

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.

COMMUNION

Invitation

David Ray Griffin

Central to worship is Communion (the Lord's Supper, the Eucharist), in which we remember that Jesus remained faithful in his opposition to the empire, which led to his

death on a Roman cross.

PC(USA) Brief Statement of Faith

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**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.**

We trust in Jesus Christ,
Fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.

We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit
who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

**With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Song

Jesus, Remember Me #227 (repeat four times)
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Words of Institution

Didache

Concerning the cup:

We thank you, Holy One, for the holy vine of David Your servant, which You made known to us through Jesus Your Servant; to You be the glory forever.

Concerning the broken bread:

We thank You, Holy One, for the life and knowledge which You made known to us through Jesus Your Servant; to Thee be the glory forever.

Even as this broken bread was scattered over the hills, and was gathered together and became one, so let Your Church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into Your kingdom; for Yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever.

(Take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and partake in the bread and cup. Join the circle around the sanctuary for our closing song).

CLOSING SONG

Ubi Caritas

(sing four times)

*Ubi caritas**Et amor**Ubi caritas**Deus ibi est*

(Where there is grace and love there is God)

BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE**