



SOUTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 18, 2022

AN INCLUSIVE, WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF CHRISTIAN FAITH.
OUR MISSION IS TO MANIFEST CHRIST'S LOVE IN THE WORLD.

When Doing “the Right Thing” Isn’t Enough

When 5-year-old Josiah Duncan first noticed a man outside a restaurant, he was curious about his appearance and the bag of a few belongings he was carrying. He asked his mom some tough questions: "Where is his house? Where is his family? Where does he keep his groceries?"

When the man sat down at the restaurant, nobody waited on him. Not satisfied with that, Josiah jumped up and asked him if he needed a menu because he couldn't order without one. Before long, the man was dining with Josiah and his mom, and his mom was footing the bill.

At first, the man insisted on getting something cheap. Josiah's mom wanted to set an example for her son, so she encouraged the man to order what he really wanted. "Well can I have bacon?" the man asked. Such a simple request.

When the meal came, Josiah had yet another question: "May I say the blessing?" The other patrons listened in as Josiah loudly sang his prayers. That man cried, and everybody else at the restaurant was crying. Josiah seized the chance to do something good and blessed many people that day. He wasn't satisfied with the "right" thing, to include the man at the meal. He served and blessed the man, and many others that day.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Today
11:15am Southmin 101

Today
3:30pm Christmas Concert

December 20
1-3pm Christmas Trains

December 24
5pm Family Service followed by
Christmas Trains

December 24
11pm Candlelight Service

December 27
1-3pm Christmas Trains

December 29
1-3pm Christmas Trains

January 1
Christmas Trains after services

STAFF

Senior Pastor: Rev. Scott Dalgarno
Associate Pastor: Rev. Don Ludwig
Choir Director: Steven Schaefer
Pianist: Kenn Willson
Handbell Choir Director: Dan Anajovich
Middle School Coord: Kathy Ludwig
Children's Life Coord: Judith Foster
Children's Ministry Coord: Bunny Oliver
Technical Director: Moses Ram

HOW TO REACH US

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PRELUDE

Joy to the World
arr. Bethany Smith

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please sign and date friendship pads
- Christmas Trains - spread the word
- Christmas Concert TODAY at 3:30pm
- Family Life Activities
- Southmin 101 concludes today

CENTERING & LIGHTING CANDLES

Lay Reader: Kathy Ayers
Candle Lighting: Roberts Family
Choir Director: Steven Schaefer
Pianist: Kenn Willson
Technical Director: Moses Ram

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

G.K. Chesterton

Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We are nearing the Solstice,

The death of darkness

For months light has been slipping away but now the Solstice says:

“Arise, shine for your light has come.”

The promise of light frees itself from long nights

The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The advent promise has chased away the darkness and made room for the light.

Alleluia!

We now light the fourth candle of Advent.

OPENING HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
#119 all verses

SPECIAL MUSIC

Southminster Bell Choir

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children and Youth are dismissed.

GREEK TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

THEME READING

Garrison Keillor

A lovely thing about Christmas is that it's compulsory, like a thunderstorm, and we all go through it together.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Carol of the Bells
by M. Leontovich
arr. Peter J. Wilhousky

SERMON

The Story of Joseph or When Doing “the Right Thing” Isn't Enough
Rev. Scott Dalgarno

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Angels We Have Heard On High
#113 all verses

CORPORATE PRAYER

from the New Zealand Book of Prayer

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:
May 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.

OFFERTORY

Breath of Heaven
arr Kevin Olson

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.

CLOSING HYMN

Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child
#126 all verses

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The First Nowell
arr. Matt Hyzer

FELLOWSHIP

