



SOUTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 24, 2023

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

TODAY

Advent #4: Showing Up



DATES TO REMEMBER

- Christmas Eve Services
TODAY at 5 pm and 11 pm

- Grief Support Group Wednesday, December 27 CANCELLED

- Christmas Trains December 27 and 29
from 1 - 3 pm

- The office will be closed between Christmas and New Years. Staff email will be checked periodically.

- Adult Ed Sunday, January 7 after service.
Dr. Eka Tupamahu speaking



STAFF

Senior Pastor: Rev. Scott Dalgarno

Associate Pastor: Rev. Don Ludwig

Office Coordinator: Rayin Brown

Choir Director: Steven Schaefer

Pianist: Kenn Willson

Handbell Choir Director: Dan Anajovich

Technical Director: Moses Ram

Family Life Coordinators:

Children's Ministry: Rev. C. Bunny Oliver

Events & Nursery: Judith Foster

Middle School: Kathy Ludwig

HOW TO REACH US

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**The most
precious gift we
can offer others
is our presence.
When
mindfulness
embraces those
we love, they will
bloom like
flowers.
~ Thich Nhat Hanh**



PRELUDE

What Child is This, arr. by Lloyd Larson

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Christmas Eve Services TODAY at 5 pm and 11 pm
- Grief Support Group Wednesday, December 27 CANCELLED
- Christmas Trains December 27 and 29
- Adult Ed Sunday, January 7 after service. Dr. Eka Tupamahu speaking
- Lay Reader: Lizzy Hormann
- Advent Wreath Lighting: The Roberts Family

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

“When you show up everyday even when you don't feel like, you are well on the path of healing.” ~ Hiral Nagda

PROCESSION OF THE CRECHE

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and set lights in the sky — sun and moon and stars.

By these stars, our ancestors charted their journeys.

By these stars, they knew God was with them.

Today we light four candles to bring the fire of the stars down from heaven to earth, to nestle among the greens.

We name this candle Hope.

(Light the first candle.)

We name this candle Peace.

(Light the second candle.)

We name this candle Joy.

(Light the third candle.)

We name this candle Love.

(Light the fourth candle.)

We too are on a journey, and we do not always know the way.

But we chart our path by the star of love. Even when sharp words rattle in our ears, and our hearts sit cold and numb,

we set our face steadily towards the light.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us offer signs of Christ's peace to one another.

SPECIAL MUSIC

One Small Child, arr. Lloyd Larson
Southminster Choirs

CHILDREN'S TIME

Celebrating Judith Foster
Children and youth are dismissed.

OPENING HYMN

#133 O Come, All Ye Faithful

GREEK TESTAMENT READING

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

THEME READING

"Showing up begins long before you stand at the start. Prove yourself an exception in a world where people talk more than act. Intent without follow-through is hollow. Disappoint yourself enough times and empty is how you feel. Make yourself proud. Fill yourself up. Show up." ~ Gina Greenlee

SPECIAL MUSIC

I Saw Three Ships
Music by John Frederick Hudson
Southminster Chancel Choir
Kenn Willson, piano
Steven Schaefer, conductor

SERMON

Advent #4: Showing Up
Rev. Scott Dalgarno

RESPONSIVE HYMN

#144 In The Bleak Midwinter

CORPORATE PRAYER

by Fred F. Keip
Indwelling God,
infused throughout all existence,
we honor you with many names.
Your realm 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.

OFFERTORY

Still, Still, Still, arr. by Sandra Eithun
Southminster Handbell 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.

CLOSING HYMN

#119 Hark The Herald Angels Sing

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

We Wish You a Merry Christmas,
traditional English Carol

FELLOWSHIP

