



GATHERING

American Folk Hymn

Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

God rekindles the gift of faith in us.

God transforms enemies into sisters and brothers.

God prepares a feast for us.

***Hymn No. 301**

“Let Us Build a House”

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain:

all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: (Refrain)

3 Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: (Refrain)

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: (Refrain)

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: (Refrain)

WORD

Prayer for Illumination

The Rev. Dr. Jay Wilkins

Reading from Scripture

Deuteronomy 6:1-8 (OT, page 163)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine” Franny Crosby & Phoebe Palmer Knapp

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine: O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God; born of the Spirit, washed in his blood. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Reading from Scripture

2 Timothy 1:1-14 (NT, page 211)

Confession and Pardon

God of grace, in Jesus Christ you have broken down our divisions, accomplished our unity, and given us in love to one another.

In humility, we confess our reluctance to welcome your gifts, to let go of our differences and accept each other.

In every way, we are creatures of earth, fearful of change, even as we yearn for the new things you are doing among us.

Forgive us, gracious God, and set us free to embrace each other in your love.

We acknowledge that we are also your children who hope in your promise and trust in your love. In confidence, we confess our hope that your love can transform us, that the gifts you give us are for our good, that the bonds you forge among us will free us for strong and joyful service.

In all things, loving God, grant us your grace, that we may live fully into the gift of our baptism, and welcome the new life you bring to birth in us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Declaration of Merger and Passing of the Peace

Pat Goodman

The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley has declared that the congregations of Shades Valley and Southminster are now united into one new congregation, to be known as Southminster Presbyterian Church (USA).

Thanks be to God!

Live as one people in the love of Christ, breaking bread together at his table, and offering a single witness to the world in his name.

We will, with God's help.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. For to this peace we are called as members of a single body. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

***Hymn No. 733**

“We Are All One in Mission”

1 We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission compels us from above
to plan and work together that all may know Christ’s love.

2 We all are called for service to witness in God’s name.
Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others by God’s surprising grace,
so every folk and nation may feel God’s warm embrace.

3 Now let us be united and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel for God’s redeeming word.
We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

***Profession of Faith**

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Installation of Elders

Do we, the members of the church, accept these elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation, to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

We do.

EUCCHARIST

Communion Song

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Ben Acton

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Sharing of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

SENDING

*** Hymn No. 308**

"O God in Whom All Life Begins"

1 O God in whom all life begins, who births the seed to fruit,
bestow your blessing on our lives; here let your love find root.
Bring forth in us the Spirit's gifts of patience, joy, and peace;
deliver us from numbing fear, and grant our faith increase.

2 Unite in mutual ministry our minds and hands and hearts
that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace imparts.
So let our varied gifts combine to glorify your Name
that in all things by word and deed we may your love proclaim.

3 Through tears and laughter, grief and joy, enlarge our trust and care;
so bind us in community that we may risk and dare.
Be with us when we gather here to worship, sing, and pray;
then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.

*** Benediction**

***Postlude**

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Georg Kaufman

*** Those who are able are invited to stand.**