

Southminster Presbyterian Church

1124 Montgomery Highway; Vestavia Hills, AL 35216

(205) 822-1124

southminsterpcusa.org

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020 TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 10:30 AM

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

CHORAL INTROIT

"The God of Abraham Praise"

Bekah Anderson, Heather Benoit, Ginny Ezekiel, Kimberly Green, Anna Murphy

*The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
the Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love!*

*The Lord, the Great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed,
we bow before your holy name, forever blest.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jordan Howard

**The God of starry nights and sunny days invites you today.
The God of Covenant and Promised lands calls you to discipleship today.
The God of faithfulness and righteousness calls you to worship today.**

MUSICAL OFFERING

"How Great Thou Art"

David Renaker

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Jordan Howard

We could have mercy, Compassion's heart, but we judge others by those standards we cannot even meet. We could welcome all around us as sisters and brothers but hold them at contempt's length away from us. In your forgiveness, Tender God, you wipe the board clean of all our poor accounting. You gather up all our foolishness and hurl it beyond the edge of the universe, so the healing you intend for us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, will take place.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jordan Howard

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lisa Howard

FIRST READING

Genesis 15:1-6

Lisa Howard

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"Lift Thine Eyes to the Mountains"

Felix Mendelssohn

Bekah Anderson, Kimberly Green, Daniel Moore, Rick Reed

*Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes to the mountains,
Whence cometh, whence cometh, whence cometh help.
Thy help cometh from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.
He hath said, thy foot shall not be moved.
Thy Keeper will never slumber, never, will never slumber, never slumber.
Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes to the mountains,
Whence cometh, whence cometh help, when cometh, whence cometh help.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kent Howard

SERMON

"Abraham's Faith"

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

SILENT REFLECTION

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

HYMN

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

David Renaker

Bekah Anderson, Kimberly Green, Rick Reed, George Van Kirk
All are invited to sing along!

*Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.*

*Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.*

*When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Brief Statement of Faith

Patricia Howard

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.

THE BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

POSTLUDE

"Go Forth in Faith"

David Renaker

THE CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson
Robert Newman
Dr. Larry E. Hardin
David Renaker
Jeanie Covin
Betsy Murphy
Dereck Stewart

Pastor
Program Director
Director of Music Ministry
Organist
Director of Day School
Church Administrator
Sexton

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Rick, Reed, Treasurer

Mark Ezekiel, Clerk of the Session

## PRAYER CONCERNS

- Margaret Dormon asks prayers for **Kyle, Leann and Ashley Bryan**, who were involved in a horrible car accident in Mississippi. Pray for their recovery from injuries sustained in the accident and for peace and comfort at the loss of their 3-year-old daughter and sister, **Lucy**.
- Mary Creekmore's brother-in-law, **Timothy Byrne**, in his diagnosis of Stage 4 pancreatic cancer
- **Thomas Creekmore**, for continued improvement. He has now finished his treatments.
- **Mary Cummings**, mother of Jeanie Covin, hospitalized in Mississippi, for peace and comfort
- Anna Murphy's cousin and wife, **Joe and Carol Glover**, as Carol is at UAB Hospital for recovery from a pancreas and kidney transplant.
- Cal and June Hyer's daughter, **Stephanie Hyer**, as she receives chemo and radiation treatments for her cancer
- Russell Murphy asks prayers for **Natashah Prude and family** who were involved in a terrible car accident in Hoover; one of her sons is in critical condition and her daughter passed away in the accident. Pray for healing, peace and comfort for this family.
- **Beverly Rives**, hospitalized. Pray for improved health.
- Tim and Kathy Busby ask prayers for **Joann and family at the loss of her mother, Mary Opal Strevel**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us this morning at 9:00 AM on Zoom for our Rally Day Celebration! We will hear about all the different Church School opportunities being offered beginning next Sunday. Our Zoom link is:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/919202336?pwd=VTJHSUZtdDdRQ0g1aC95aytKT1I3Zz09>

Our Vesper Services resume this evening at 6:00 PM. This will be followed by a Congregational Meeting to elect our newest Elders. We hope to see all of you tonight!! Bring a lawn chair or blanket and sit, socially distanced, on the lawn or by your car or, if you choose, you can remain in your car. Please wear your masks!