

Southminster Presbyterian Church

1124 Montgomery Highway
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
(205) 822-1124
southminsterpcusa.org

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

10:30 AM

PRELUDE

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

Lynn Petersen

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

PRAYER

CHORAL INTROIT

"What Wondrous Love Is This"
Bekah Anderson, Kimberly Green, Daniel Moore, Rick Reed

WONDROUS LOVE

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Betsy Murphy

One: We come, so God might open our eyes,
All: **that we may discover the wonders surrounding us;
that we may embrace the joy deep within us.**
One: We gather, so Christ might widen our hearts,
All: **that we may hear the sounds of brokenness around us;
that we may sing the melodies of hope.**
One: We are here, so the Spirit might teach us the ways of humility,
All: **that we may walk the way of enduring love;
that we may wait in faithfulness.**

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Cleansing Fountain"

Edward Broughton

CALL TO REPENTANCE

Betsy Murphy

PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

We admit that we are hesitant to walk to Jerusalem and beyond with you, God of Glory. In a world where we worry about tomorrow before enjoying today, we race by your moments of silence, of learning. In that flood of worries which can overwhelm us, we may miss that assurance that you have not cut us off from your grace. In the deserts of our desires, we may ignore that feast of hope, of joy, of life you offer to us. Forgive us and have mercy on us, Gentle Guardian of our souls. In humility, may we offer our lives to others. In love, may we share your grace with everyone we meet. In hope, may we wait for you all our days, as you come to us in the life and joy of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

SILENT CONFESSION

THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

Pastor: ... the peace of Christ be with you.
All: **And also with you.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Betsy Murphy

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

ANTHEM

"Lonesome Valley"

Gilbert M. Martin

Bekah Anderson, Kimberly Green, Daniel Moore, Rick Reed

*Jesus walked his lonesome valley, he had to walk it for himself;
nobody else could walk it for him, he had to walk it for himself.
Jesus went to stand his trial. He had to stand it for himself;
nobody else could stand it for him, he had to stand it for himself, for himself.
I must walk my lonesome valley, I have to walk it by myself;
nobody else can walk it for me, I have to walk it for myself.*

SERMON

"Wilderness"

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

All join the Pastor in saying, "+ Amen."

POSTLUDE

"Prelude in D Minor"

J. S. Bach

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      Natalie Reed, Assistant Clerk of Session

# PRAYER CONCERNS

- Shirley Martin asks prayers for the people of Texas and other areas affected by the recent winter storms
- Anna and Russell Murphy's friends, Jamey and Macie Clements, and 2-year-old son Easton, for Easton's recovery from recent surgery
- Chris and Sara Brown's cousins, Molly and Alex Ferreiro and newborn daughter Violet. Violet is recovering from recent surgery for a blockage.
- Bob and Sonnie Wise's daughter, Karen Nelson, in her diagnosis and treatment of Macular Degeneration
- Betsy Murphy asks prayers for friend, Tracy Thrasher, at home for recovery from knee replacement surgery
- **Sonnie Wise**, for recovery from a fall due to a hurt ankle. She is recovering with rest and care.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us for Sunday School and Coffee Time via Zoom. Classes begin at 9:00 and our Coffee Hour will take place at 9:45. The link for both is below:

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

Confirmation class meets today at 2:45 under the covered drive of Grace Hall. Birmingham Youth Group will meet at 4:00 on the Back Door blacktop. All will need to wear masks and bring a lawn chair.

Reservations for in-person worship are now being taken. The link to register is

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1mVG9-YiA9nXmNDrjnEK\\_5G2UHRTY6eX0eQwp5byJVgE/edit?gxids=7628](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1mVG9-YiA9nXmNDrjnEK_5G2UHRTY6eX0eQwp5byJVgE/edit?gxids=7628)

Reservations will be taken on a first-come/first-serve basis and will be limited.

Be on the lookout for a weekly video reflection on Lent that will be available on our website each Wednesday beginning February 24<sup>th</sup> through Holy Week. These videos will be available to view at noon on our website, [southminsterpcusa.org](http://southminsterpcusa.org).