



**South  
Mecklenburg  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**A Service of Worship  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  
January 15, 2023, 10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed**

**WE GATHER**

**PRELUDE** *Meditation on "Aberystwyth"* Phil Lehenbauer

**WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH** Dr. Whitney Bayer

**INTROIT** *God Is Calling through the Whisper*  
Mary Louise Bringle

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Hank Jacobus

**One:** Worthy is Christ, the Lamb of God, who was slain.

**Many:** **Worthy is the Lamb to receive all honor, glory, and majesty.**

**One:** We give you thanks, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come.

**Many:** **You alone are holy.**

**One:** All the earth will come and worship before you, for your righteous deeds have been revealed for all to see.

**Many:** **Blessing and honor be to the One seated on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever!**

**ALL:** **Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

*Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice*

No. 163

1 Wild and lone the proph-et's voice ech-oes through the des - ert still,  
 2 "Bear the fruit re - pen-tance sows: lives of jus - tice, truth, and love.  
 3 With such preach-ing, stark and bold, John pro-claimed sal - va - tion near,

call - ing us to make a choice, bid - ding us to do God's will:  
 Trust no oth - er claim than those; set your heart on things a - bove.  
 and his time-less warn-ings hold words of hope to all who hear.

"Turn from sin and be bap-tized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.  
 Soon the Lord will come in power, burn-ing clean the thresh-ing floor:  
 So we dare to jour - ney on, led by faith through ways un - trod,

Quit-ting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's con - trol.  
 then will flames the chaff de - vour; wheat a - lone shall fill God's store."  
 till we come at last like John to be - hold the Lamb of God.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

Dr. Bayer

God, our Deliverer, we confess that we are too reluctant to speak and to live according to your truth. We find it easier to pluck up and pull down, to destroy and overthrow, than to build and to plant. Forgive us, O God, for being timid disciples. Empty us of fear and shame, and fill us with love that is humble and patient and kind. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE**

Dr. Bayer

**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

***Gloria Patri***

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Amen. Amen.***

## WE HEAR AND RESPOND TO THE WORD

### CHURCH FAMILY MOMENT

Rebecca Guzman

1. We are nearing the end of our exploration of worship. Last Sunday, we talked about the offertory. Right after the offertory, we sing the doxology and pray the prayer of dedication. As we offer our gifts for God's service, we praise God for letting us have use of all the resources the Lord has provided for us, and we praise God for the opportunity to serve on God's behalf. The Doxology is an ancient chorus of praise with a vision of joining all the created beings of all times and places who forever sing praise to God. (Imagine joining the grand chorus of praise ringing through all of creation.) Then, we say a prayer to dedicate our offering to the work of God in the world.
2. In our Gospel reading, John the Baptist uses his voice to share with people who Jesus is and what he has done. Tomorrow is the day we celebrate and remember the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. MLK used his voice to change the world. In his book, *Say Something*, Peter Reynolds encourages each of us to use our voices, too. [Listen to the book](#), and then use [the activity sheets](#) to say something!
3. Look at the Gospel reading. How many names is Jesus given? What are they? How about Peter? Ask someone in your family about your name. Where did it come from? Why did your parents choose it for you? What do the names of Jesus in the passage mean to you? Make a poster with your name on it!
4. Journal, considering the following:
  - a. I wonder why John the Baptist referred to Jesus as The Lamb of God...
  - b. I wonder how John might have explained what happened at the Baptism of Jesus to a reporter who was trying to understand...
  - c. I wonder why Jesus gave Simon the name Cephas...
  - d. What name would you give Jesus?

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

#### Memphis Brooks Garvey

Son of Kaylin and Chase Garvey, brother of Brayden, grandson of Lori and Tom Schellin

Representing the Session: Kay Dano

Representing the children: Hannah Heath

### BAPTISMAL RESPONSE

***Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,  
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.***

***Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.  
Back to God we humbly give you: live as one who bears Christ's name.***

*The children will return to join their families following the Sermon.*

### ANTHEM

*Just As I Am, I Come*

Victor Johnson

Chancel Choir; Ann Carney, piano; Avery Gray, clarinet

*Just as I am, without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,  
Oh, Lamb of God, I come, I come, just as I am.*

*Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot;  
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come, just as I am.*

*Just as I am, tho' tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt;  
Struggles within, and fears without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, Thou will receive, will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, just as I am.*

*Just as I am, Thy love unknown hath broken every barrier down;  
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come, just as I am.*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

**READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT**

Psalm 40: 1-7

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord. Happy are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods. You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted. Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. Then I said, "Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

**READING FROM THE GOSPELS**

John 1: 29-42

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God." The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

One: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

"Here..."

Dr. Brown

**\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**  
(unison)

The Apostles' Creed  
Dr. Bayer

**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 Ghost, 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.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Dr. Bayer

**. . . (unison) 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**OFFERTORY**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*  
Avery Gray, clarinet

arr. Garrett Breeze

*As an alternative to the traditional offering plate, you may support the ministry of SMPC by giving online at [www.smpchome.org/give](http://www.smpchome.org/give) or texting SMPC to 73256.*

**\*DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him,  
all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Hannah Heath

**Merciful God, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ – the Lamb of God, to take upon himself the sins of the world. Make our lives holy, O God, that we may bear witness to your purpose of reconciling all things in Christ, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. May our gifts, our tithes, and our offerings be directed towards the work of your Kingdom and manifest the gracious news of Christ's faithfulness, love, and sacrifice for all. In your name we pray, Amen.**

## **WE GO OUT TO SERVE**

**\*HYMN**

*Lead On, O King Eternal!*

No. 269

1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;  
 2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
 3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,

hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents shall be our home.  
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;  
 for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher-e'er your face ap - pears;

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong,  
 for not with swords' loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums;  
 your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light.

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.  
 with deeds of love and mer - cy the heav-en-ly king-dom comes.  
 The crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

CLOSING PRAYER

Leisa Lackey

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,  
 I can feel his mighty power and his grace.  
 I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face.  
 Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.*

POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Lancashire"

Jason D. Payne

## WORSHIP SERVICE NOTES

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

Dr. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor  
Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist  
Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation  
Hank Jacobus, liturgist  
Hannah Heath, liturgist  
Chancel Choir  
Ann Carney, piano; Avery Gray, clarinet

**Acolyte:** Miles Ullman

**A/V Team:** Logan Graham, Nicholas White

**Deacon/Elder of the Day:** Leisa Lackey

**Ushers:** Andy Burke, Bob Cushman, Dick Engle, Curt Ireland, Tom Klecker  
Linda Nagle Hanson

**Welcome Team:** Heather, Rich, Jackson, and Grayson Carpenter

Today we light a candle celebrating the birth of Max Michael Rhodes on January 9. Congratulations to parents Daniela and Jon Rhodes, siblings Ariana and Connor, and grandparents Miranda and Doug Rhodes.

Welcome to South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church! If you are joining us in person or online, are a first-time visitor, a long-term member, or anything in between, we are glad that you are worshiping with us and we want to stay connected with you. If you don't receive our emails, sent on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection, [nancy@smpchome.org](mailto:nancy@smpchome.org). These emails contain a weekly devotion and information about upcoming worship services and church activities. Also, find us on Facebook: [@southmecklenburgpresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian) and Instagram: [@southmeckpres](https://www.instagram.com/southmeckpres).

**Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church?** Our Session will gather to welcome new members on Sunday, January 22 at 11:30 a.m. To learn more, contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection, [nancy@smpchome.org](mailto:nancy@smpchome.org) or 980-265-2839.

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## CONGREGATIONAL NOTES (as of January 12, 2023)

### Remember in Prayer

- Dave and Meghan Bartholomew and their family as Dave's father, Paul Bartholomew, entered the Church triumphant on January 5.
- Cathy Janney, as she recovers from surgery.
- Ella Foard, as she is hospitalized with Covid.
- All those affected by the conflict in Ukraine.
- Our mission partners in Bayonnais, Haiti.

To join the prayer chain or send a prayer request: [prayer@SMPChome.org](mailto:prayer@SMPChome.org).



**South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church**

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## WELCOME!

After worship, we hope you'll join us for coffee, lemonade and cookies (served inside at Coffee Grounds). Come meet friends old and new!

Registry pads are located on your pew. Please sign and pass to your neighbor and perhaps speak to someone you haven't met! If you would like more information about SMPC or have prayer concerns, please complete a Welcome Card located in the pew rack.

### THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today

**JAN. 15**

5:00 p.m. -  
6:15 p.m.

#### Youth Mission Night

##### Mecklenburg Hall

We will make 60 hygiene kits for students at Smithfield Elementary. Contact: Lindsey Odom, [lindsey@smpchome.org](mailto:lindsey@smpchome.org).

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tuesday

**JAN. 17**

10:00 a.m. -  
11:30 a.m.

#### Handiworkers Group

##### Palmer Building 104

All knitters, needlepointers, quilters, cross-stitchers and crocheters (beginners, experts, and anything in between) are invited. Contact: Nancy Metzler, [nancy@smpchome.org](mailto:nancy@smpchome.org).

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wednesday

**JAN. 18**

9:30 a.m. &  
6:30 p.m.

#### Conversations with Dr. Matt Brown

##### Zoom

Join us as we discuss the scripture for the coming week's sermon. We welcome new participants. Contact for the Zoom ID#: Dr. Matt Brown, [matt@smpchome.org](mailto:matt@smpchome.org).

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thursday

**JAN. 19**

6:00 p.m.

#### International Dining Group

##### Grace O'Malley's Irish Public House, 157 N. Trade Street, Matthews

All are welcome to join us. RSVP by Monday, January 16 to Alice Tyler, [rrt1317@aol.com](mailto:rrt1317@aol.com).

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thursday

**JAN. 19**

9:30 a.m.-  
9:45 a.m.

#### Food for Thought Book Group

##### McQueen Room

We are celebrating new beginnings with the book *Secret of the Snow* by Viola Shipman. All are welcome. Contact: Kathy Paquette, [khesspaquette@aol.com](mailto:khesspaquette@aol.com).

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friday

**JAN. 20**

7:30 a.m. -  
8:30 a.m.

#### Friday Morning Men's Group

##### Chapel 204

This group meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month and would love to have new folks join. We are starting a new book this month: *The Way I Heard It* by Mike Rowe. The book has 35 short mysteries. We'll try to finish the book in five sessions, so please read the first seven before this meeting. Contact: Curt Ireland, [irelandcurtis00@gmail.com](mailto:irelandcurtis00@gmail.com).

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sunday

**JAN. 22**

8:45 a.m. -  
9:45 a.m.

#### JOY Class

##### Chapel 204 or Zoom

This group is studying *The God of the How and When* by Kathie Lee Gifford and Rabbi Jason Sobel. Come to one session or all. All are welcome. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, [rebecca@smpchome.org](mailto:rebecca@smpchome.org).



**sunday**  
**JAN. 22**  
**9:00 a.m.-**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday Morning Study**  
**Chapel 206 or Zoom**

This group will meet weekly until April 2 to study *Invitation to the New Testament*. Come to one session or all. Everyone is welcome.  
Contact: Melissa White, melissawhite1018@yahoo.com.

## LOOKING AHEAD

**2023 Adult Bible Study**

**Monday, January 23, 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., McQueen Room**

This study will be based on *Teaching The Way of Jesus: Educating Christians for Faithful Living* by Jack Seymour. All are welcome. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

**BAM! (Bible and Music)**

**Sunday, January 22, 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.**

**Children Ages Kindergarten through 5th grade**

Children sing, creatively engage with Bible stories, and explore various instruments in peer age groups. Pizza will be served. Please make sure your child has a participation form on file AND you register on Realm each Sunday. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

**Beginner Chrismon Ornament Class**

**Saturday, February 4, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Chapel 206**

**Ages 4th Grade and Older**

If you enjoyed our Chrismon tree and are interested in learning how to make ornaments, please join us for this beginner's class. It just takes a little patience and nimble fingers! All supplies will be provided to make a dragonfly, which typically can be completed by the end of the class. Contact: Donna Brown, donnamatt89@gmail.com.

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**

**Tuesday, February 21, 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall**

Bring your family and friends for a pancake feast! We will enjoy fellowship time as we prepare to journey through the Lenten season together. Food donations will be collected to support our Loaves & Fishes pantry ministry: syrup, pancake mix, and grits. Cost: \$5/person; \$20/max family. Contact: Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org.



Register for  
Pancake Supper

**Room in the Inn**

**February 22, March 12 and March 22, Sardis Presbyterian Church**

We are partnering with Sardis Presbyterian Church and Trinity Presbyterian Church for this missions and outreach opportunity. Volunteers will help with dinner, overnight stays or breakfast and cleanup. Scan QR code to sign up. Contact: Amy Matthews, amymatthews1117@gmail.com.



Sign up for Room  
in the Inn

## Thank you for your support in our missions & outreach efforts during Advent!

A few highlights:

- **SMPC's Salvation Army kettle bell ringing donations totaled \$1,655.90.** Our volunteers ranged in age from 5 to 85, and many of our volunteers worked in the rain!
- The total contribution for the **Alternative Gift Market was \$23,380** and benefitted Ballantyne Families Helping Families in Need, Camp Grier, CareRing, Community Culinary School, Crisis Assistance Ministry, Habitat for Humanity, Hospice, Loaves and Fishes, Project 2 Heal, Promising Pages, Roof Above, Salvation Army Center of Hope, Friends Empowering Haiti, World of God OFCB Sponsorship and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.
- The **2022 Christmas Eve offering was \$4,648** and benefitted OFCB Haiti and Salvation Army Center of Hope.



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