



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship
Youth Sunday
February 12, 2023
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *Adoration* Florence Price

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Lindsey Odom

***Call to Worship** Alec White

One: What does the Lord require of you?

Many: To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

One: What does God command of us?

**Many: To love God with all our heart, and all our soul, and all our mind, and all our strength,
and to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

One: For God calls us out of our comfort zones to do...

**Many: the right things, the helpful things, and the loving things towards our neighbors and all
those who are suffering or struggling so that we may create God's kingdom here on
earth.**

One: Remind us that we are people of the covenant, called to care for one another without
exception.

**Many: Help us O God to love, serve, and give our hearts, mind, and body to the worship of
God.**

One: Inspire courage and compassion within us and help us go beyond our own fear and
privilege to do your work of justice within our world today.

Many: Make bold our faith. Make bold our witness. Make bold our hearts.

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

One: And now, let us worship the God who believes in us, trusts in us, and abides in us always.

Many: **Let us worship the God who will ask much of us, but promises to be with us every step of the way.**

All: **O God, guide us in doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with our God.**

***Hymn Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples** No. 757

Prayer of Confession (*unison*) Lexi Bower

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart, mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have also not done the work of justice through our words and actions. In your mercy forgive what we have been and fix the wrongs that we have done every day. Guide us to your chosen path. Inspire courage and compassion and move us beyond the boundaries that come with fear and privilege. Make bold our faith. Make bold our witness. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace Lexi Bower

***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 Lilly McAnally

1. In the passage from Micah, the people have been tempted to try to impress God with big, amazing gifts: burnt offerings, calves, rivers of oil, and more! But what the Lord really wants from the people is simple: do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. In the book [The Gift of Nothing](#), Mooch is looking for a gift for his friend Earl. Finally, Mooch realizes that what Earl needs is simply friendship. We may also be tempted to try to impress God with things that don't really matter, when what God wants is a relationship with us and for us to do God's will.
2. Print this [coloring page](#) of the art piece that the youth created for today. As you color it in, consider what it means to follow Micah 6:8.
3. Play a game! One person will be blindfolded, and the other one will lead the blindfolded person around. Then switch! What is it like to lead and to be led? How is having someone lead you around like walking with God?
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. What do you think it means to do justice? How are we to treat others?
 - b. I wonder what it means to love kindness? What would the world look like if we were kind to everyone?
 - c. What do you think it looks like to walk humbly with God? How is this possible?
 - d. The Golden Rule tells us to treat others as we would like to be treated. What do you think this means? How would our relationships be if we each lived like this?

Children's Liturgy Lilly McAnally

As the children four years old through third grade gather for Children's Worship, the congregation is invited to sing (hymn no. 19):

God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,

God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things belong, Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.

Congregation: God be with you there.

Children: God be with you here.

The children will return to join their families following the Youth meditations.

Anthem *For Everyone Born* arr. Tom Trenney

Youth Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano; Jill Deanne Fung, cello

*For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead.*

*And God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!*

*For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong.*

*For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free.*

Prayer for Illumination Graeme Mitchell

Reading from the Old Testament Micah 6:1-8

Pew Bible p. 866; Spark Bible p. 1017

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Meditations Joanna Alford
Adam Bartholomew
Caitlyn Cornell
Nate Gravender
Connor Sheeler
Nicholas White
Sydney Wilcox

***The Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) Ben Bickett

We believe in an inviting God, who invites all God's people into God's loving arms. God invites the sinners and the saints, the rich and the poor, the knowledgeable and the ignorant, the young and the old to be a part of God's family. We also believe that God invites us to love all people as God's beloved children. For we are invited this day and always to

create a place for all to belong at the table of faith, a world that is just, and a love that embraces all. We believe this invitation exists for all people. We believe this invitation exists for us. For that invitation, thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer Kyle Royster

Please get out your phones and go to www.menti.com and use the code listed on the screen to submit your prayer request.

... (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 *A Joyful Ring* Barbara Kinyon
Youth Ringers

As an alternative to the traditional offering plate, you may support the ministry of SMPC by giving online at 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** Ben Bickett

Gracious God, we give you our lives, symbolized in these gifts, these tithes, and these offerings. Receive them with your love, bless them with your grace, and use them according to your will. Strengthen our hearts, minds, bodies, and spirit to do your work of justice, to create peace, and to walk humbly with you. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn** *Live into Hope* No. 772

Alec White, organ

***Charge and Benediction** Sydney Wilcox

***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 *Toccata Brevis* Daniel Gawthrop

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Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Lindsey Odom, Director of Youth Ministry

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist

Senior Speakers: Joanna Alford, Adam Bartholomew, Caitlyn Cornell, Nate Gravender,

Connor Sheeler, Nicholas White, Sydney Wilcox

Liturgists: Alec White, Lexi Bower, Lilly McAnally, Graeme Mitchell, Ben Bickett, Kyle Royster
Youth Choir
Youth Ringers
Blythe Kinsey, piano
Jill Deanne Fung, cello
Alec White, organ

Youth Art Team: Caroline Guy, Lilly McAnally, Elizabeth Glover, Katie Gravender, Lacey Cook

Acolyte: Miles Ullman

A/V Team: Chris Wilcox, Joe Wilcox

Ushers: Olivia Smith, Whitney Buford, Kyle Royster, Brynn Holder, William Glover, Logan Soderlund, Owen Conerly

Welcome Team: Collin Lee, Ben Bickett, Camdyn Sheeler, Connor Sheeler, Jackson Carpenter, Grayson Carpenter, Katie Gravender, Aaron Eberhardt, Shay Soderlund

The flowers in worship today are given by Steve and Mary Lou Gebhardt to the glory of God and in memory of their parents, Raymond and Catherine Young and Edward and Evelyn Gebhardt. We light a candle in worship today celebrating the birth of Grant Thomas Gwyn on February 2. Congratulations to parents Dan and Kayleen Gwyn and siblings Landon and Charlotte!

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. To receive our emails, sent on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection, 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).

A note to parents: We are so delighted that you and your children are here! Children are an integral part of our faith community, and we strive to support parents during worship. Here are some helpful things to know:

- Children are welcome in worship. We understand that means wiggles!
- We provide blue worship totes in the Narthex to help children engage in worship. Please return the totes after the service.
- There is a nursery located in the Palmer Building with dedicated staff who are happy to keep your infant – three-year-old safe.
- Children's Worship is provided for children ages 4 through 3rd grade. The children gather after the Church Family Moment and return after the sermon.
- A glider and changing table are available in Room 302 for mothers who wish to have privacy while nursing.
- During worship, the service is broadcast to the parlor, where there is more space to move around if your little one becomes restless.

Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church? Our Session will gather to welcome new members on Sunday, February 26 at 11:30 a.m. To learn more, contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection, nancy@smpchome.org or 980-265-2839.

Congregational Notes (as of February 9, 2023)

Remember in Prayer

- Lori and Tom Schellin and family, as Lori's father, Domenic Pavese, entered the Church triumphant on January 19.
- All those affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.
- 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.



South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

8601 Bryant Farms Road, Charlotte, NC 28277, 704-544-0404

PO Box 79321, Charlotte, NC 28271

smpchome.org

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

monday
FEB. 13
10:00 a.m.
-11:00 a.m.

Adult Bible Study
McQueen Room or Zoom

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

tuesday
FEB. 14
10:00 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.

tuesday
FEB. 14
10:30 a.m.
-12:30 p.m.

Lunch Bunch Valentine's Day Gathering
Sanctuary and Narthex

Zach Bowyer and Rebecca Guzman will lead us in "Love Abounds," a celebration of hymns, scripture, poetry and art. Stay for lunch catered by Phil's Deli! Cost is \$7 per person. Register on Realm by today, February 12. Contact: Ruth Ann Engle, raengle22@gmail.com.

tuesday
FEB. 14
1:00 p.m.
-2:30 p.m.

A Caregiver's Journey
McQueen Room

Finding meaning and purpose as you care for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. Facilitated by Kathy Garner (SMPC Faith Ambassador through the Alzheimer's Association). Contact: Dr. Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org

wednesday
FEB. 15
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.

thursday
FEB. 16
12:30 p.m.

Food for Thought Book Group
McQueen Room

We are reading *Raising a Rare Girl* by Heather Lanier. All are welcome! Contact: Kathy Paquette: khesspaquette@aol.com.

thursday
FEB. 16
6:00 p.m.

International Dining Group
Ilios Noche, 11508 Providence Road

Join us as we enjoy Greek cuisine! All are welcome! RSVP by Monday, February 13 to Alice Tyler, rrt1317@aol.com.



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friday
FEB. 17
7:30 a.m.
-8:30 a.m.

Friday Morning Men's Group
Chapel 206
 This group meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month and would love to have new folks join. We are reading *The Way I Heard It* by Mike Rowe. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com

sunday
FEB. 19
8:45 a.m.
-9:45 a.m.

JOY Class
Room 301 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.

sunday
FEB. 19
9:00 a.m.
-10:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Study
McQueen Room 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

SMPC Youth Service Project at Legacy Heights Retirement Community
Sunday, February 19, 5:00 p.m.-6:15 p.m.

Middle and High Schoolers, 11230 Ballantyne Trace Ct, Charlotte
 Please join us for playing board games and creating door hangers with the elderly community at Legacy Heights. Drop off and pick up at Legacy Heights. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

BAM! (Bible and Music)
Sunday, February 19, 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m., ages kindergarten-5th Grade, Narthex

Children sing, engage with Bible stories, and explore various instruments in peer age groups. Pizza will be served. Please register on Realm each Sunday. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Tuesday, February 21, 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall

Join us for a pancake feast! Food donations will be collected to support our Loaves & Fishes pantry ministry: syrup, pancake mix, and grits. Cost: \$5/person; \$20/max family. Register in Realm. Contact: Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org.

Room in the Inn
February 22, March 12 and March 22, Sardis Presbyterian Church

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

Join the 'All Church Reads'



All Church Reads

THE COLORFUL IMAGE OF GOD

A WHITE CHRISTIAN'S GUIDE TO DOING BETTER

By SMPC Member Katherine Martin

Discussion Groups

Groups meet for an hour. Sign up on Realm under "Groups" or email Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org. Books are available after Sunday worship in the narthex or in the church office for \$15.

<p>Every Sunday beginning 2/26: 8:45 a.m. (JOY class) 7 sessions</p>	<p>Sundays 11:15 a.m., McQueen Room 2/26 - Part 1: Know Better 3/12 - Part 2: Do Better 3/26 - Part 3: Repeat</p>	<p>Mondays 10:00 a.m., McQueen Room 12:00 p.m., Zoom 6:00 p.m., McQueen Room 2/27 - Part 1: Know Better 3/13 - Part 2: Do Better 3/27 - Part 3: Repeat</p>
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"An Evening with Katherine Martin"

Sunday, April 23, 5:00 p.m., Meck Hall