



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship
Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday
February 19, 2023, 10:10 a.m.
Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *Exultation on "Neander"* Phil Lehenbauer

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Dr. Whitney Bayer

Introit *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies* Charles Wesley

***Call to Worship** Ben Bickett

One: Family of faith, let's go up the mountain,

Many: **to be covered in God's presence.**

One: On mountaintops, God reveals the light of God's love to us.

Many: **We are called to proclaim God's brilliance, for the Lord is clothed with light!**

One: The mountain top reminds us why we worship you,

Many: **to witness to the light of Christ's love with our words and actions.**

One: As we prepare for worship, bring us to the mountain top, O God,

Many: **so that we may be inspired to do your work in the valley below.**

ALL: **Amen.**

***Hymn** *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding* No. 191



1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and
 2 Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows; splen - dor bathes the
 3 Strength - ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our



ho - ly place, where we wait with hope and long - ing
 flesh - joined Word; Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel
 faith de - cline, we like Pe - ter find it tempt - ing



for some to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray for new as -
 as the heaven - ly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with
 to re - main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us



sur - ance that our faith is not in vain, search - ing like those
 won - der how the law and proph - ets meet: Christ, with gar - ments
 cour - age to pro - claim what we pro - fess, that our dai - ly



first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.
 drenched in bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com - plete.
 lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dr. Bayer

Though we want to walk with Moses and see God's holy radiance, we hide in the mist of our own desires, unable to perceive the presence of God's grace. While we want a world of justice and peace, we walk in clouds of selfishness, unable to share God's loving-kindness. Though we want to follow Jesus up the mountain, we cower in fear, unable to bear the light of God. Forgive us, O God, and mend what is broken within us, that we may be one with you. 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. The Oxford Learner's Dictionary defines transfiguration as, "a complete change of form or appearance into something more beautiful or spiritual." The passage today tells the story of the

transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain. Will Willimon, a theologian, suggests that this story is best experienced by just listening to the passage with your eyes closed and imagining what happened. So, in a little bit, whether you are worshiping online, in the sanctuary, or in the chapel for Children's Worship, listen to the story with your eyes closed. What do you see?

2. Transfiguration Sunday always comes right before the first Sunday in Lent. We have two important days this week! First, we celebrate Shrove Tuesday. The name Shrove comes from the old word "shrive" which means to confess. In the Middle Ages, people would confess their sins on Shrove Tuesday to begin the penitent Lenten season with a clean slate! Shrove Tuesday is a day of celebration as well as repentance. Lent is historically a time of giving things up, so Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge. Then we have Ash Wednesday! On Ash Wednesday, we mark ourselves with ashes as a reminder that we are dust and to dust we shall return. We hope to see you on Tuesday and Wednesday!
3. Check out a [coloring page](#), [word search](#), or [crossword](#). Maybe you will draw your own picture of the transfiguration.
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. The disciples saw Jesus begin to shine like the sun. I wonder how you picture Jesus.
 - b. I wonder what you think God looks like.
 - c. I wonder why Peter wanted to stay and build an altar there.
 - d. I wonder if we see God in other people like Jesus saw God in Elijah and Moses.

Sacrament of Baptism

Benjamin James Connolly

Son of Jill and Mike Connolly, brother of Christopher

Representing the Session: Emily Brown

Representing the children: Clara Guzman

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

Siyahamba

arr. Ruth Morris Gray

Chancel Choir

Siyahamba kukah nyeni kwen khos!

We are marching in the light of God!

Prayer for Illumination

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

Reading from the Old Testament

Psalm 99

The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he! Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he! Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the Lord, and he answered them. He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them. O Lord our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings. Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy.

Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Transfiguration – Transformation

Dr. Brown

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

The Apostles' Creed

Dr. Bayer

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

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

Hope Renewed

William Kay

Kyle Gavagan, trumpet

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**

Owen Bickett

Gracious God, as the transfigured Christ revealed an alternative vision, a way of life offered to all God's people, receive our gifts, our tithes, and our offerings given this day to help meet the needs of the world. Transform us, O God to live with hope, courage, conviction, and love, reflecting the life of Jesus Christ, through whom your glory shines. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn**

Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain
(stanzas 1-4)

No. 193

1 Je - sus, take us to the moun-tain, where, with Pe - ter,
 2 What do you want us to see there, that your close com -
 3 What do you want us to hear there, that your dear dis -
 4 Take us to that oth - er moun-tain where we see you
 5 We who have be - held your glo - ry, ris - en and as -

James, and John, we are daz - zled by your glo - ry,
 pan - ions saw? Your di - vin - i - ty re - vealed there
 ci - ples heard? Once a - gain the voice from heav - en
 glo - ri - fied, where you shout - ed "It is fin - ished!"
 cend - ed Lord, can - not help but tell the sto - ry,

light as blind - ing as the sun. There pre - pare us
 fills us with the self - same awe. Clothed in flesh like
 says of the In - car - nate Word, "Lis - ten, lis - ten,
 where for all the world you died. Hear the stunned cen -
 all that we have seen and heard; say with Pe - ter,

for the night by the vi - sion of that sight.
 ours you go, matched to meet our dead - liest foe.
 ev - ery - one: this is my be - lov - ed Son."
 tur - i - on: "Tru - ly this was God's own Son!"
 James, and John: "You are God's be - lov - ed Son!"

***Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Brown

***Congregational Response**

(Stanza 5 of Hymn No. 193)

*We who have beheld your glory, risen and ascended Lord,
 cannot help but tell the story, all that we have seen and heard;
 say with Peter, James, and John: "You are God's beloved Son!"*

Postlude

Fantasia on "King of Kings"

Ralph Simpson

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE
 LICENSE, License #A-735003. All rights reserved.*

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
Ben Bickett, Owen Bickett, liturgists
Chancel Choir
Kyle Gavagan, trumpet

Acolyte: Grayson Myers

A/V Team: Kari Case, Xander Case

Deacon/Elder of the Day: Rich Fuller

Ushers: Andrew Brown, Andy Burke, Phil Eatherton, Judy Jones, Jon Myers, Carol Watkins

Welcome Team: Kathy Rasimas

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).

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 16, 2023)

Remember in Prayer

- Lindsey Odom and family as Lindsey's grandmother, Betty Burris, joined the Church triumphant on February 11.
- Miranda Rhodes, as she recovers from surgery.
- 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

today
FEB. 19
5:00 p.m.
-6:15 p.m.

SMPC Youth Service Project at Legacy Heights Middle and High Schoolers, 11230 Ballantyne Trace Ct
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.

today
FEB. 19
5:00 p.m.
-6:30 p.m.

BAM! (Bible and Music)
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.

tuesday
FEB. 21
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. 21
5:30 p.m.
-7:00 p.m.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
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.

Ash Wednesday at SMPC



Drive-Through Ashes
February 22, 7:30-9:15 a.m.
Church Parking Lot



Ash Wednesday Worship Service
February 22, 7:00 p.m.
Sanctuary & Livestream

wednesday
FEB. 22
9:30 a.m.

Conversations with Dr. Matt Brown
Zoom
Note no evening session due to Ash Wednesday. 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. 23
7:30 p.m.
-9:00 p.m.

Making Space Mom's Group
Chapel 206
Moms of all ages are invited to join us for study, service and fellowship. Contact: Allison Reeves, allison.tarwater@gmail.com.



@southmecklenburgpresbyterian



@southmeckpres

sunday
FEB. 26
8:45 a.m.
-9:45 a.m.

JOY Class
Room 301 or Zoom

This group is participating in the *All Church Reads!* We will read and discuss *The Colorful Image of God* by Katherine Martin. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

sunday
FEB. 26
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

You are Invited to Celebrate (Twice!)

Reception for Rebecca Guzman, Sunday, February 26 after 10:10 a.m. Worship, Coffee Grounds - Join us after worship as we celebrate Rebecca becoming a certified Christian educator!

Rebecca has served as our director of spiritual formation since 2015. She is responsible for developing and implementing our faith formation programs for adults and children. Among Rebecca's many gifts is her ability to make complex scriptural concepts understandable and relatable to all. She is truly a gift to our church family! She and her husband, Rafael, have a ten-year-old daughter, Clara, and are active members of SMPC. Rebecca received a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of South Carolina and a Master of Arts in Christian education from Union Presbyterian Seminary.

Ordination service for Sarah Ruth Godbey, Sunday, February 26, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary and livestream. Reception to follow in Mecklenburg Hall - Sarah Ruth Godbey is truly a child of our church – she was one of our first worshippers 31 years ago when she was just a baby! SMPC is delighted to share in this momentous day in Sarah's life. Come help us celebrate Sarah's ordination to minister of word and sacrament in the PC(USA).

Sarah graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a bachelor's degree in Sociology. She received her Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Practical Theology with a concentration in Pastoral Care from Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. Sarah is currently employed as a chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital in Richmond, Virginia.

The *All Church Reads* Discussion Groups Meet Next Week!

Groups will meet beginning Sunday, February 26 to discuss Part I of *The Colorful Image of God* (JOY Class began today)! Come one, come all! We hope you'll join in on the discussion!



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.

Every Sunday
beginning 2/19:
8:45 a.m.
(JOY class)
7 sessions

Sundays
11:15 a.m., McQueen Room
2/26 - Part I: Know Better
3/12 - Part 2: Do Better
3/26 - Part 3: Repeat

Mondays
10:00 a.m., McQueen Room
12:00 p.m., Zoom
6:00 p.m., McQueen Room
2/27 - Part I: Know Better
3/13 - Part 2: Do Better
3/27 - Part 3: Repeat

"An Evening with Katherine Martin"
Sunday, April 23, 5:00 p.m., Meck Hall