



South Mecklenburg PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship
3rd Sunday after Epiphany
January 22, 2023, 10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

WE GATHER

PRELUDE *Partita on "Gather Us In"*
I. Peal, II. Chant, III. Dance Charles Lenz

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH Dr. Matthew S. Brown

INTROIT *Jesus Calls Us* William Jude

*CALL TO WORSHIP Clara Guzman

One: Jesus called Simon and Andrew and with no questions, they dropped their nets and followed Jesus. In the same way, Jesus calls us to follow.

Many: **We will follow, unafraid, where God and Jesus Christ lead us.**

One: Jesus also called James and John to leave their boats and join in God's work.

Many: **We will commit to doing God's work of healing, justice, love, and reconciliation for all.**

One: As Jesus' disciples, we are called to follow Jesus into the places of greatest need and opportunity and offer Jesus' teachings, good news, and unconditional love to all we encounter.

Many: **We will go forth and join Jesus in his mission, wherever he leads us.**

All: **Amen.**

*HYMN

Here in This Place

No. 401

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,
 van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;
 brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.
 Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and
 blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,
 we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Dr. Whitney Bayer

Holy God, you see into each of us and know us fully as creatures in need of your constant care. We confess that we have neither heard your word nor followed your will. We have ignored your calling on our lives or found ourselves much too busy to listen. We have failed our neighbors, families, friends, and ourselves. Give us ears to hear your wisdom. Lead us to honesty and faith so that we may begin again with renewed strength; in Jesus' name. 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. As we wrap up our exploration of worship, today we will explore the Charge and Benediction. This comes after the last hymn. The preacher of the day generally gives the charge and benediction—the charge is our call to go into the world and put what we’ve heard and experienced into practice. Then, the preacher raises their hands as a symbol of blessing us. The charge reminds us what we are to do, and the benediction reminds us that we do not go alone. God always goes before and with and behind us.
2. Today, the Gospel story is all about fishing! 
Draw a simple picture of a fish, like this:
Because of this story, the disciples used this symbol as a secret sign during the Roman persecution of Christians to show each other where to go to meet. Decorate your fish drawing and think about what it means to go fishing for people.
3. This is a great story to act out! Take turns being Jesus and the disciples. Use your imagination to figure out what could be a boat. A blanket? A couch? If you don’t have enough people at home, you can always recruit some stuffed animals, dolls, or action figures to be the disciples.
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. What does this passage tell us Jesus was considering?
 - b. What does this passage tell us is the conclusion that Jesus came to?
 - c. I wonder what “the kingdom of heaven” means...
 - d. What do the disciples do?

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Hannah Elizabeth Conway

Daughter of Andy and Kristen Conway, sister of Holden and Hunter

Representing the Session: Leisa Lackey

Representing the children: Hunter Conway

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

Keep God's Light
Chancel Choir

Mark Patterson

*Keep God's light before you; keep God's truth beside you;
Keep God's hope to guide you everywhere you go.
Keep God's peace within you; feel God's strength defend you;
Let God's love begin to fill your thirsty soul.
Hold on in times of sorrow; hold on through days of despair;
Even in the darkest valley, God will always be there.
Look now to days of gladness: God's light still shines the way.
Never fading, never failing, teaching us as we pray, Lord, we pray.
Hold on, hold on; God will show you the way.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dr. Brown

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 9: 1-4

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Matthew 4: 12-23

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"by the sea"

Dr. Brown

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

A Brief Statement of Faith, 11.4

(*unison*)

Dr. Bayer

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore
Sandra Carr, soprano; Collin Sinclair, tenor

Cesáreo Gabaráin

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

Davis Lee

Gracious God, in the fullness of time, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to show us the way, the truth, and the life. Jesus taught your ways, proclaimed the good news, and healed the sick. In Jesus we see the light of your love. We ask that you help us reflect your light and your love to the world around us. Enable our gifts, our tithes, and our offerings given this day to help us answer your call and follow without fear so that we can join in God's work of healing, justice, love, and reconciliation for all. In your name we pray, Amen.

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN

The Summons

No. 726



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus)(A)
Gm7 B^b Am7 B^b Csus C



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at-tract or scare?
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Dr. Brown

*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

*Partita on "Gather Us In"
V. Scherzo, VI. Finale*

Charles Lenz

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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
Sandra Carr, Collin Sinclair, soloists
Clara Guzman, Davis Lee, liturgists
Chancel Choir

A/V Team: Chris Wilcox, Joe Wilcox

Deacon/Elder of the Day: Dick Engle

Ushers: George Elledge, Mary Elledge, Jon Myers, Craig Parrish, Donna Podgorny, Bob Williamson

Welcome Team: Donna Brown, Jack Hess, Denise Wilcox, Sydney Wilcox

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. 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).

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES (as of January 19, 2023)

Remember in Prayer

- Pat Bryant, recovering from a recent hospitalization.
- Freda Smith, recovering from a recent hospitalization.
- 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

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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. 22

5:00 p.m. -
6:30 p.m.

BAM! Bible and Music

Ages kindergarten through 5th Grade, Narthex

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.

monday

JAN. 23

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

Adult Bible Study

McQueen Room

This four-week 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.

tuesday

JAN. 24

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.

wednesday

JAN. 25

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.

sunday

JAN. 29

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

JAN. 29

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.



sunday
JAN. 29
&
monday
JAN. 30

C.A.R.E. (Conversations Around Race Equity)
Sunday, Jan. 29, 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Chapel 206,
Monday, Jan. 30, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Zoom
Everyone is welcome to join the conversation. Contact: Whitney
Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.

LOOKING AHEAD

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.

Youth Sunday
Sunday, February 12, 10:10 a.m. Worship

Middle and high school students are invited to see the SignUp Genius for the many opportunities to participate in Youth Sunday. If there is a job that you are interested in, but all the slots are full, please contact Lindsey Odom. Or, if you have another talent that you think could be incorporated into the Youth Sunday service, please contact Lindsey. Mandatory rehearsals are on February 11. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



Sign up for Youth
Sunday

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. We are also looking for pancake "flippers!" 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

Join the 'All Church Reads'

The Conversations Around Race Equity (C.A.R.E.) group invites you to join an *All Church Reads* where we will read *The Colorful Image of God: A White Christian's Guide to Doing Better*, written by SMPC member Katherine Martin.

Books will be available beginning Monday, January 23 in the church office for \$15 each. (The copies will be signed!) Please note: High school youth are also encouraged to participate in reading the book and/or joining a small group!

All Church Reads

THE COLORFUL IMAGE OF GOD
A WHITE CHRISTIAN'S GUIDE TO DOING BETTER
By SMPC Member Katherine Martin

Discussion Groups Meet February 19-April 3
Sign up for a discussion group on Realm under "Groups"
or email Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

- Sundays, 8:45 a.m.
- Sundays, 11:15 a.m.
- Mondays, 10:00 a.m.
- Mondays, 12:00 p.m.
- Mondays, 6:00 p.m. (with soup!)

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