



South Mecklenburg PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship
4th Sunday after Epiphany
January 29, 2023, 10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

WE GATHER

PRELUDE *The Beatitudes* Roberta Rowland-Raybold
VI. Blessed Are the Pure in Heart

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH Dr. Whitney Bayer

INTROIT *Sing, Praise, and Bless the Lord* Jacques Berthier

*CALL TO WORSHIP Nate Gravender

One: When we hunger and thirst for God,

Many: God satisfies us.

One: When we are weak or brokenhearted,

Many: God comforts us and heals us.

One: When we seek to be peacemakers and do the work of justice,

Many: God empowers us.

One: We have been blessed to be a blessing!

Many: So, may we be the blessing that we are being called into becoming.

ALL: Amen.

*HYMN *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* No. 804
(stanza 1: all; stanza 2: high voices; stanza 3: low voices; stanzas 4 & 5: all)

1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!
 2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
 3 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as ye go,
 4 At last the march shall end; the wea - ried ones shall rest;
 5 Then on, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

Your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
 send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
 from youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe:
 the pil - grims find their home at last, Je - ru - sa - lem the blest.
 Your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!
 Re - joice! Re - joice!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Dr. Bayer

God, we have not done what is blameless and right, nor spoken truth from the heart with love. We do not keep your word, and when we participate in gossip, our words and deeds cause us pain. Forgive us by the power of your mercy, that we might stand in the goodness of Christ and walk in the light of his love. 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. Our final Sunday of worship exploration is all about the postlude! The PC(USA) order of worship guide says it like this: "We exit through the curtain of music in which we came. Like God's omnipresent Spirit, the music that draws us into God's presence and undergirds the worship experience also goes with us as a morale booster and a spring of joy as we depart to

blend the work of our individual lives with that of the chorus of praise continually offered up to the ruler of all creation.” So today, pay special attention to the postlude!

2. The Gospel scripture today is about the Sermon on the Mount. In this part of the sermon on the mount, which is much longer than any sermon preached at SMPC, Jesus talks about the Beatitudes. We could call these life attitudes. And the sermon on the mount could be called the sermon of surprises, because everything Jesus says is surprising! The beatitudes turn everything upside down. Try your hand at writing your own beatitudes. Here’s an example: In our world, we think “It’s good for the smart. They get straight A’s, get to go to college, and get good jobs.” But Jesus turns it upside down! In his kingdom, “It’s good for those who know they do not know everything. They belong in God’s world.”
3. Listen to [this readaloud](#) of *The Catawampus Cat* by Jason Carter Eaton. How is Jesus like the catawampus cat? Check out [this explanation](#), which includes this wisdom: “Like the catawampus cat here, he tended to avoid answering direct questions and offered a new perspective on many topics such as outsiders, status, worry, and even the Law.” Do you see any connections?
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. Go through each of the beatitudes and examine them closely. What do they mean?
 - b. What would be the opposite of “poor in spirit”?
 - c. Could it be that choosing mercy for another creates a larger place in ourselves to receive mercy?
 - d. What are some differences between “rejoice and be glad” and the world’s understanding of “happy”?

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Lucas Owen Flora

Brooks William Flora

Bennett Crispin Flora

Children of Laura and Matt Flora

Representing the Session: Mary Katheryne Zagora

Representing the children: Hannah Angerer

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

Lead Me, Lord

arr. Mark Hayes

Chancel Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano; Laura Schelhammer, flute

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, longing for their Lord,
for God's coming kingdom shall be theirs.*

*Blessed are the sorrowing, for they shall be consoled,
and the meek shall come to rule the world.*

*Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth
to seek and to find the narrow way.*

*Be my way; be my truth;
be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, today.*

*Blessed are the merciful, for mercy shall be theirs,
and the pure in heart shall see their God.
Blest are they whose hunger only holiness can fill,
for I say they shall be satisfied.*

*Blest are they who through their lifetimes sow the seeds of peace;
all will call them children of the Lord.*

*Blest are you, though persecuted in your holy life,
for in heaven, great is your reward.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Micah 6: 6-8

"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Matthew 5: 1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Not self-evident but still true

Dr. Brown

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

(unison)

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.**

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

Hannah Angerer

Gracious God, you are a God of blessing. You bless us in so many areas of our lives. So, today, we give out of that blessedness, dedicating ourselves to lives of love, justice, and peace, giving all that we are and all that we have. Through our gifts, our tithes, our offerings, help us to be the blessing that we are called into becoming and bring about your beloved community here and now. In your name we pray, Amen.

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN

When the Lord Redeems the Very Least

No. 852

1 When the Lord re - deems the ver - y least,
2 When the Lord re - stores the sick and weak, we will re -
3 When the Lord re - vives the world from death, we will re-joyce, will re -
4 When the Lord re - turns in vic - to - ry,

joyce. When the hun - gry gath - er for the feast,
When the earth is giv - en to the meek,
joyce, will re-joyce. When the word of God fills ev - ery breath,
When we live in glo - rious lib - er - ty,

Refrain
we will re-joyce. We will re-joyce, will re-joyce, will re-joyce.
we will re-joyce, will re-joyce, will re-joyce. We will re-joyce, will re-joyce, will re-joyce, will re-joyce.

joyce with glad-ness. We will re-joyce.
 joyce with glad-ness. We will re-joyce, will re-joyce with glad-ness. All our
 days we'll sing to God in praise. We will re-joyce, will re-joyce, will re-joyce!
 We will re-joyce!

*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

Trumpet Voluntary

John Stanley

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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
 Chancel Choir
 Blythe Kinsey, piano
 Laura Schelhammer, flute
 Nate Gravender, Hannah Angerer, liturgists

A/V Team: Brad Alford, Mary Katheryne Zagora

Ushers: Andrew Brown, Dan DeChant, Gena DeChant, Craig Parrish, Carol Watkins, Michael Zagora

Welcome Team: Donna Brown, Kathy Galati, Karen Williams

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).

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 January 26, 2023)

Remember in Prayer

- Claudia Wallace 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

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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. 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.

today
JAN. 29
5:00 p.m. -
6:15 p.m.

**Youth Mental Health & Anxiety Session
Sanctuary & Livestream**
Led by Trent Morrow (LCSW) from L & B Counseling and his team of therapists. Open to 4th graders through high school students and their parents. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

monday
JAN. 30
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
JAN. 31
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
FEB. 1
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.

saturday
FEB. 4
10:00 a.m. -
12:00 p.m.

**Beginner Chrismon Ornament Class
Ages 4th Grade and Older, Chapel 206**
If you enjoyed our Chrismon tree and are interested in learning how to make ornaments, please join us for this beginner's class. All supplies will be provided to make a dragonfly ornament. Contact: Donna Brown, donnamatt89@gmail.com.

sunday
FEB. 5
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. 5
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
FEB. 5
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.

LOOKING AHEAD

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. Mandatory rehearsals are on February 11. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



Sign up for Youth Sunday

Lunch Bunch Valentine's Day Gathering

Tuesday, February 14, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sanctuary and Narthex

Come take part in a morning of hymns and a delicious catered lunch! Zach Bowyer and Rebecca Guzman will lead us in "Love Abounds," a celebration of hymns, scripture, poetry and art. We will focus on love as we listen to and sing hymns of our faith together. After, stay for lunch that will be catered by Phil's Deli! Cost is \$7 per person. Register on Realm by Sunday, February 12. Contact: Ruth Ann Engle, raengle22@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! 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

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!* We will read *The Colorful Image of God: A White Christian's Guide to Doing Better*, written by SMPC member Katherine Martin and participate in weekly discussion groups.

Books are available today in the Narthex for \$15 each. (The copies are signed!) High school youth are also encouraged to participate in reading the book and/or joining a discussion 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 one of these groups 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