



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship
Palm/Passion Sunday

April 2, 2023

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *The Palms* Jean-Baptiste Faure
Kyle Gavagan, trumpet

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Dr. Whitney Bayer

Moment for Mission Clayton Rascoe
Executive Director, Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center

Introit *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*
Frederick William Faber

***Call to Worship** Dr. Bayer

One: Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Many: Hosanna! Rejoice for the Lord is in our midst.

One: He comes with joy and hope.

Many: He comes to set us free from fear.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna! Glory to God in the Highest Heaven!

***Hymn** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* No. 197

1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the joy - ful an - them rang,
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud;
 for Christ is our Re - deem - er; the Lord of heaven, our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,
 the Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
 O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.
 and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dr. Bayer

Holy God, sure of your faithfulness even in your dying, comforted by your compassion toward your people in every age, we beg your mercy for our imperfect gratitude. We have looked to you for paltry favors when you have given everything. We have withheld from your people, our neighbors, the care and tending they deserve. Forgive our failings. Heal what we have broken, nurture what we have neglected, and lead us to your vision, so that we may know the peace of wholeness in you; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Dr. Bayer

***Affirmation of Mercy**

No. 447

*We are forgiven, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.*

We Hear and Respond to the Word

Church Family Moment

Rebecca Guzman

1. It's Palm Sunday! In recent years, many churches have begun to call today Palm/Passion Sunday. Palm/Passion Sunday begins Holy Week, a time in the church year when we remember how Christ gave his life in love for the world. As this service opens, the crowd waves palm branches, wanting to crown Jesus as king. But as the story of the passion unfolds, their shouts of praise turn to demands for his crucifixion; he receives a crown of thorns as he is handed over to be arrested and killed. As you came in, you received a palm branch. Don't be afraid to wave it!
2. If you are worshiping from home, you might enjoy this [Palm Coloring Page](#). Cut it out and join with us in waving our palms! You could also make a simple palm branch from green construction paper or draw and cut out your own palm branch. All this week, consider reading passages from the [Gospel of Matthew](#).
3. Check out this [Palm Sunday video](#). What do you notice in the video? After you watch the video, act out the story of Palm Sunday.
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. What does it mean to you that Jesus is the Good Shepherd?
 - b. How do you feel when you think about Jesus laying down his life for you?
 - c. How can you help the world experience the unity or "oneness" that Jesus talks about in John?

Children's Liturgy

Rebecca Guzman

*As the children four years old through third grade gather for
Children's Worship, the congregation is invited to sing (hymn no. 399):*

***God welcomes all, strangers and friends; God's love is strong and it
never ends. God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.***

Congregation: God be with you there.

Children: God be with you here.

The children will return to join their families following the sermon.

Anthem

All Glory, Laud, and Honor arr. Cynthia Dobrinski
Youth Ringers

Prayer for Illumination

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

Reading from the Old Testament

Isaiah 53:4-6

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was

wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Reading from the Gospels

John 10:11-16

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Noble Shepherd

Dr. Brown

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

Nicene Creed

Dr. Bayer

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offertory

And Can It Be?

Dan Forrest

Chancel Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano

And can it be that I should gain, an interest in the Savior's blood?

Died He for me, who caused His pain—

For me, who Him to death pursued?

Amazing love! How can it be, that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

*He left His Father's throne above, so free, so infinite His grace—
Emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for O my God, it found out me!*

*No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.*

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.***

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Dr. Brown

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer Dr. Bayer

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise . . .

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.

The Words of Institution

The Bread and the Cup

You are invited to come to the servers (see diagram), take the elements, and return to your seats. If you are not able to come forward, you will be served at your seat.

Communion of the People

The Prayer after Communion

Dr. Brown

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn**

What Wondrous Love Is This

No. 215

1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing
 3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing

soul, what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What
 down, when I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to
 on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of
 I was sink - ing down be - neath God's right - eous
 God and to the Lamb who is the great I
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful

bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my
 frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my
 AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will
 be, and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing

soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!
 soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!
 sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
 on; and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on.

***Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Brown

***Congregational Response**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

No. 435

(stanza 2)

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.

And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

***If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,
 and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.***

Postlude

Passion Chorale

harm. J. S. Bach

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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
Youth Ringers
Kyle Gavagan, trumpet
Blythe Kinsey, piano

A/V Team: Chris Wilcox, Joe Wilcox

Deacon/Elder of the Day: Adrienne Jaquith, Amy Zagora

Ushers: Andrew Brown, Charlie Metzler, Donna Podgorny, Carol Watkins, Bob Williamson, David Wooley

Welcome Team: Jason, Tonya, Addison, and Cameron Fraser

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, April 23 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 March 29, 2023)

Remember in Prayer

- 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

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smpchome.org

SMPC WEEKLY

APRIL 2, 2023

WELCOME!

After worship, we hope you'll join us for coffee (served inside at Coffee Grounds) and lemonade and cookies (served outside). 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 Holy Week, please consider donating to One Great Hour of Sharing

The three programs supported by this collection, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Scan the QR code to donate.



Holy Week at SMPC



Good Friday
Tenebrae
Service
April 7, 7:30 p.m.
Sanctuary &
Livestream



Maundy Thursday
Supper & Communion
April 6, 6:00 p.m.
Mecklenburg Hall
Register on Realm



Easter Worship
April 9, 9:00 a.m.
& 11:00 a.m.
Sanctuary &
Livestream

THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today
APR. 2
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. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

today
APR. 2
5:00 p.m.
-6:15 p.m.

BYG (Big Youth Group)
Middle and High Schoolers, Mecklenburg Hall
BYG provides an opportunity for youth to grow in faith and love through bible study, small group time, good food, fun games, and amazing company. The theme for BYG that we will focus on is "Proclaiming the Resurrected One." Pizza will be served! Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

tuesday
APR. 4
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
APR. 5
9:30 a.m. &
6:30 p.m.

Conversations with Dr. Matt Brown
Zoom or Chapel 206 (9:30 a.m. only)
Join us as we discuss the scripture for the coming week's sermon. We welcome new participants. Hybrid option for 9:30 a.m. class only. Contact for the Zoom ID#: Dr. Matt Brown, matt@smpchome.org.

thursday
APR. 6
6:00 p.m. -
7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Supper and Communion
Mecklenburg Hall
We will share supper and communion and remember our Lord's gathering with his disciples on the night of his arrest when they broke bread together. Our supper will include meats, cheeses, fruit and bread. Register on Realm. Contact: Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org.

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

Friday Morning Men's Group
Mecklenburg Hall

We are reading a new book starting this meeting: *Searching for Happiness* by Martin Thielen, author and retired Methodist minister. All are welcome! Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

Looking Ahead

A Caregiver's Journey

Tuesday, April 11, 1:00-2:30 p.m., 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.

New! Book of Revelation Study Group

Sunday, April 16, 9:00 a.m., McQueen Room

What's the first thought that comes to mind when you hear the word "Revelation?" Do you think of the end of the world? Do you just feel confused and overwhelmed at the idea of tackling this misunderstood and intimidating book of the Bible? Great! This study is just for you! Join Director of Spiritual Formation Rebecca Guzman and Melissa White for a six-week study of Revelation. No expertise necessary—we'll be learning together! No books or materials to purchase. Contact Rebecca to sign up, rebecca@smpchome.org.

Ramadan Iftar Dinner with our Divan Center Friends

Tuesday, April 18, 7:00 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall

During the celebration of Ramadan, the Muslim community breaks their daily fast with a meal, referred to as an Iftar. Join us for an opportunity to come together for an interfaith Iftar family dinner with our Muslim neighbors from Divan Center, a local Turkish Islamic community. The Divan Center is providing traditional food for our dinner. We will all celebrate diversity and pray for unity. Free to attend but please register on Realm. Contact: Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org.

BAM! Bible and Music

Sunday, April 23, 5:00-6:30 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 by Friday, April 21. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

SMPC Youth High Seas Miniature Golf

Sunday, April 23, 5:00-6:15 p.m., High Seas Miniature Golf, 10001 Charlotte Hwy, Fort Mill, SC 29707

Come join us for mini golf at High Seas Miniature Golf! Drop off and pick up at High Seas. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

An Evening with Katherine Martin

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

SMPC member Katherine Martin, author of the *All Church Reads'* book, *The Colorful Image of God: A White Christian's Guide to Doing Better*, will give insights into what inspired her to write the book and will offer ideas for doing better. There will also be time for Q&A and discussion. Participation in the All Church Reads discussion groups is not required – we encourage everyone to come and join the conversation! Contact: Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.

New! Men's Evening Study Group

Beginning Tuesday, April 25, 7:30 p.m., Chapel 206

This new group will meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. All are welcome. Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.



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