



South Mecklenburg PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship
7th Sunday after Epiphany
February 20, 2022, 10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Live Streamed

WE GATHER

PRELUDE	<i>Adoration</i>	Florence Price
WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH		Rev. Whitney Bayer
INTROIT	<i>Come and Fill Our Hearts</i>	Jacques Berthier
*CALL TO WORSHIP		Rev. Bayer
One:	Take delight in the Lord, who satisfies the desires of your heart.	
Many:	Commit your way to the Lord and trust in God's actions.	
One:	Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for God.	
Many:	The Lord is our salvation and our refuge in times of trouble.	
All:	Let us worship the God of mercy and grace.	
*HYMN	<i>Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!</i>	No. 305

1 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
 2 Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns su - preme,
 3 Let cour - age be our friend; let wis - dom be our guide,
 4 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has led us through the a - ges long!
 em - power - ing us to catch the vi - sion, dream the dream!
 as we in mis - sion mag - ni - fy the Cru - ci - fied!
 For Christ the Lord has tri - umphed o'er the a - ges long!

In bold ac - cord, come cel - e - brate the jour - ney now and praise the Lord!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Rev. Bayer

Merciful God, we confess that we have not followed your ways or trusted your promises. We love only those who love us; we show kindness only to those who are kind to us; we give only when we expect to receive. Forgive us, Lord. Fill our hearts with your selfless love. Change our lives by your matchless grace. These things we pray through Jesus Christ our Savior. (*silence*)

One: Trusting your mercy, we lift these prayers to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Rev. 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. Check out the [readaloud](#) of *The Forgiveness Garden* by Lauren Thompson. In it, a girl named Sama teaches us about what forgiveness really looks like. What can this book help us understand about what Jesus is asking us to do?
2. Make a bookmark to remind you to love your enemies. [Here](#) is a printable sheet of four.
3. Love is stronger than hate. This is one of the things Jesus wants us to understand in our reading today. Love spreads! Take a coffee filter and color a heart on it with a marker, then use a spray bottle to watch the love “spread out” and take over the rest of the filter! Let it dry and hang it somewhere to remind that you that we can choose whether we spread love or anger—and Jesus wants us to choose love.
4. Journal
 - a. I wonder what stands out for you in this reading...
 - b. I wonder what questions you have...
 - c. I wonder if you have ever heard any of these things before...
 - d. How can Jesus’ words be useful for us today?
 - e. Looking at the teachings of Jesus in this passage all together, what do you think the main message is for the disciples?

Children four years old through third grade may recess to the back of the sanctuary for Children’s Worship. The children will return to join their families following the Sermon.

ANTHEM

Hymn of Promise

arr. Tom Fettle

Chancel Choir; Ann Carney, piano

*In the bulb, there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
 In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
 In the cold and snow of winter, there’s a spring that waits to be,
 Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
 There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
 There’s a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
 From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
 Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
 In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
 In our doubt, there is believing, in our life, eternity.
 In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
 Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 37: 1-11, 39-40

Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers, for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb. Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday. Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices. Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil. For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land. Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there. But the meek shall inherit the land, and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; he is their refuge in the time of trouble. The Lord helps them and rescues them; he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Luke 6: 27-38

"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Path of ~~Least~~ Resistance

Dr. Brown

SPECIAL MUSIC

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
Joanna Alford and Lori Schellin, sopranos

arr. J. Holstein

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Confession of 1967 - 9.23

(unison)

Rev. Bayer

The new life does not release people from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, and fear. They still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as they mature in love and faithfulness in their life with Christ, they live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. 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.**

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

***HYMN**

Be Still My Soul

No. 819

1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
 2 Be still, my soul: thy God doth un - der - take
 3 Be still, my soul: the hour is has - tening on

Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain.
 to guide the fu - ture sure - ly as the past.
 when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord;

Leave to thy God to or - der and pro - vide,
 Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;
 when dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,

who through all chang - es faith - ful will re - main.
 all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.
 sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.

Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heaven - ly Friend
 Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
 Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past

through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
 his voice who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.
 all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

*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

Recessional in C

John Dixon

Having been nurtured in the Word of the Lord, let us respond by offering ourselves to God furthering God's ministry in this community and in the world. Please prayerfully consider placing your offering in the offering boxes as you leave, texting SMPC to 73256, or giving online at:

<https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=138679>.

WORSHIP SERVICE NOTES

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor
Rev. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor
Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist
Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation
Chancel Choir
Joanna Alford and Lori Schellin, soloists
Ann Carney, accompanist

A/V Team: Logan Graham, Nicholas White

Ushers: Andy Burke, Jenny Gates, Gwen Volker, Carol Watkins, Jim Williams

Welcome to South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church! Whether you are joining us in person or online, whether you are a first-time visitor, a long-term member, or anything in between, we are glad that you are worshipping with us and we want to stay connected with you. If you don't receive our weekly email, sent out on Thursday mornings, contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection, nancy@smpchome.org. This email contains information about upcoming worship services and church activities. Also, check us out on Facebook and Instagram:

www.facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian; @southmeckpres.

Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church? Our Session will gather February 27 at 11:30 a.m. to welcome new members. To learn more, contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection, nancy@smpchome.org or 980-265-2839.

Music for the organ has historically been written primarily by composers of European descent. However, many composers of African American heritage have made their mark on the world of the organ, but their music is not widely performed. In celebration of Black History Month, an organ composition by an African American composer will be played in worship each Sunday in February.

Congregational Notes (as of February 16, 2022)

Remember in Prayer

- Kay Dano, as she recovers from surgery.
- Our mission partners in Bayonnais, Haiti.

- All those in our congregation and community managing COVID-19.
- Our church, our community, our country, and the world as we face this world-wide pandemic.

To join the prayer chain or send a prayer request:

prayer@SMPChome.org.



South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

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*Please remit all giving and financial correspondence to:
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