



**South
Mecklenburg
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**A Service of Worship
Easter Sunday**

April 17, 2022, 10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Live Streamed

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Resurrection
Chancel Ringers

Lloyd Larson

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH Rebecca Guzman

INTROIT

Easter Alleluias
Children's Choirs; Youth Choir; Chancel Choir;
Chancel Ringers; Blythe Kinsey, piano

arr. Bailey and Mayo

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Natalie Guy

One: Run from fear and gloom! Hope is on the move!

Many: **Run to tell the world, Christ is risen!**

One: Do not be afraid. Jesus has overcome death!

Many: **We can declare with great confidence that God's love rules.**

One: Christ is risen!

Many: **CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!**

ALL: **AMEN!**

***HYMN**

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

No. 232

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day,
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured,
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove,

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day,
 un - to Christ, our heav - en - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured.
 praise e - ter - nal as God's love.

who did once up - on the cross,
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Now a - bove the sky he's King,
 Praise our God, ye heav - en - ly host,

suf - fer to re - deem our loss.
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing.
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Lindsey Odom

You sent your son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise to new life in order that sin and death might be defeated, and we might live a new life in Jesus Christ. Yet we confess that at instead. Forgive us for not sharing in the Good News. Fill our hearts and minds with your resurrection promise of life that we might turn from our sins and be renewed and tell everyone the good news that Christ is risen! This we pray in the name of your Risen Son, Jesus Christ. (*silence*)

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

*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. One of the best books about Easter morning is *Twas the Morning of Easter* by Glenys Nellist. If you are worshipping from home, you can click [here](#) to listen to her read the story aloud. What do you think it was like to be Mary on Easter morning?
2. Go look outside! What do you see that shows you new life? Do you see any butterflies? Blooming flowers? Baby bunnies?
3. No matter where you are worshipping, see if you can count the number of times we say, "Alleluia!" in worship today. Alleluia means "praise God!" Every Sunday is kind of like a little Easter, because we set aside time to praise God together, but on Easter Sunday, we remember especially that love always wins, and that makes us want to have a huge celebration!
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. Who is referred to as "they" in Verse 1?
 - b. Who are the "two men in dazzling clothes?" What was the message they had for the women?
 - c. Who did the women go tell? What was the response of those who heard the women's account of what had happened?
 - d. Who did risk finding out if they were right? What did he find?
 - e. What did you notice in this Bible passage that you have not noticed before?

*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

To the Lamb on the Throne
Chancel Choir; Festival Brass

Dan Forrest

*Worthy the Lamb! Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
And publish abroad His wonderful name;
The name all victorious of Jesus extol;
His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.*

*Worthy the Lamb! "Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!"
Let all cry aloud, and honor the Son;
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
Fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.*

*Worthy the Lamb! God rules in the height, almighty to save;
Though hid from our sight, His presence we have, The great congregation His triumph shall sing,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.*

*Worthy the Lamb! Then let us adore and give Him His right,
All glory and pow'r all wisdom and might;
All honor and blessing with angels above,
And thanks never ceasing and infinite love.*

Worthy the Lamb!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 25: 7-9

And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Luke 24: 1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Shroud Shredder

Dr. Brown

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

(unison)

Dr. Whitney 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.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

How may our hope of resurrection be translated into love for our neighbors?

OFFERTORY

Set Free Your Alleluia!

Joseph Martin

Children's Choirs; Youth Choir; Chancel Choir;
Chancel Ringers; Festival Brass

*Set free your alleluia! Release your songs of praise!
The radiant Christ commands it, And even death obeys.
The tomb has been defeated. The garden is restored.
A song of life is rising, To greet the living Lord!*

*Set free your glad hosanna! Creation, find your voice.
The morning breaks with music. Arise, redeemed! Rejoice!
The silence has surrendered. The shadows shout and sing!
A song of life is rising, To praise the King of Kings!
Set free your life eternal! Receive the risen Son!
Embrace this new beginning, And all that God has done.
For all things now are hopeful. God made us all to soar!
Unchained, we reach for Heaven, And glory evermore!
Set free your alleluia. Proclaim the risen Lord!*

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**

Caroline Guy

To Thee, we lift our hearts in praise, Risen Lord. The shroud has been lifted, so that we may live in faith rather than die in fear. Teach us, Living God, to live and love each day as a form of service to you, responding to your grace with graciousness to all. May Christ be honored and glorified in every moment, movement, and mention. Amen.

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

***HYMN**

Christ Is Alive!

No. 246

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing, The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Dr. Brown

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Hallelujah Chorus

G. F. Handel

Chancel Choir and Friends; Festival Brass; Ann Carney, organ

POSTLUDE

"Toccata" from Symphony No. 5

C. M. Widor

WORSHIP SERVICE NOTES

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

Dr. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Lindsey Odom, Director of Youth Ministry

Caroline Guy and Natalie Guy, Liturgists

Chancel Choir, Chancel Ringers, Youth Choir, Children's Choirs

Festival Brass: Kyle Gavagan, trumpet; Andrew Sokolowski, trumpet; Andrew Hicks, horn; Justin

Austenfeld, trombone; Austin Vogelsang, bass trombone; Charles Smith, timpani
Blythe Kinsey, piano; Ann Carney, organ
A/V Team: Nicholas White, Sydney Wilcox
Deacon/Elder of the Day: Dean Elledge
Ushers: Andy Burke, Dick Engle, Craig Parrish, Alice Tyler, Bob Tyler, Sr., David Wooley
Welcome Team: Terry Gaines, Kathy Rasimas, Karen Williams, Evan Williams
Parking Lot Greeters: Chad Cook, Dean Elledge, Michael Zagora

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 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.

We light a candle today in worship celebrating the birth of Hannah Elizabeth Stenvall, daughter of Meghan Stenvall, on April 9.

Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church? Our Session will gather to welcome new members on Sunday, April 24 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 April 14, 2022)

Remember in Prayer

- All those affected by the conflict in Ukraine.
 - Our mission partners in Bayonnais, Haiti.
 - 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.

Church Office Hours:	Mon. – Thurs., 9:00 – 5:00; Friday, closed
Church office: 704-544-0404	Preschool office: 704-544-9831
Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor	matt@smpchome.org
Dr. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor	whitney@smpchome.org
Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist	zach@smpchome.org
Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation	rebecca@smpchome.org
Nancy Metzler, Dir. of Hospitality & Connection	nancy@smpchome.org
Lindsey Odom, Director of Youth Ministry	lindsey@smpchome.org
Steve Stevenson, Property Administrator	steve@smpchome.org
Carol Watkins, Director of SMPC Preschool	carol.watkins@smpchome.org
Mary Katheryne Zagora, Business Administrator	mkzagora@smpchome.org

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SMPC Weekly

South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

Sunday, April 17, 2022

HAPPY EASTER! HE IS RISEN!

Welcome! What a blessing that we're worshipping together today!

After worship, we hope you'll join us for coffee (served inside at Coffee Grounds) and lemonade and cookies (served outside in the circle). These are wonderful opportunities to catch up with old friends and meet someone new!

Let us know you're here!

Registry pads are located on your pew. Please sign in and pass to your neighbor. If you would like more information about SMPC or have prayer concerns, please complete a Welcome Card located in the pew rack.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Today's One Great Hour of Sharing offering supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People, all of which 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. This offering is the single largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

UPCOMING CLASSES & EVENTS

Acts of the Apostles Study

McQueen Room or Zoom

Sundays, April 24-June 5, 8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Mondays, April 25-June 6, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Jesus ascended into heaven...but then what? Join Rebecca Guzman in person or online to explore what happened in the book of Acts. Email rebecca@smpchome.org for the zoom link.

Youth & Children Joint Mission Project

Hygiene Kit Assembly for Smithfield Elementary School

Sunday, April 24, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Mecklenburg Hall

For 4th through 12th graders. Sign up on ChurchLife and bring a boxed lunch!

Introduction to Group Leadership Training

Tuesday, April 26, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Zoom

This class is for anyone who may be interested in starting a new group or anyone who is currently leading a group. Join Nancy and Rebecca as we discuss group facilitation, navigating ChurchLife and the church calendar, how to be invitational, and more! Sign up on ChurchLife. Questions? Contact Nancy Metzler, Nancy@smpchome.org.

Friday Morning Men's Group

Friday, April 29, 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Chapel Building Room 206

After a pandemic pause, our Friday Morning Men's Group is back! This group meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month and would love to have new folks join. Questions? Contact Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com, 980-254-7776.



SAVE THE DATES!

Hops Around Town—Saturday, May 14, 4:00 p.m.

Questions? Contact Daniel Bayer, danielbayer05@gmail.com

International Dining Group—Thursday, May 19, 6:00 p.m.

Questions? Contact Alice Tyler, rt1317@aol.com

MISSIONS-OUTREACH MINISTRY

Assistance for Ukraine via PDA

Donations may be made to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) to support emergency relief for those fleeing Ukraine. Make checks payable to SMPC with PDA on the memo line. Donate online to fund "Other" with "PDA" in the memo box.

CHILDREN'S SPIRITUAL FORMATION: REGISTER NOW!



Vacation Bible School 2022

Theme: Food Truck Party!

July 25—28, 9:30 a.m.— 12:30 p.m.

Ages 3-rising 6th grade

Register on ChurchLife or email

Rebecca@smpchome.org for a registration link.



REGISTER NOW

Grandparent Camp

June 20—22, 9:15 a.m.— 12:15 p.m.

For grandchildren and their grandparents, ages 3 and up (Camp grandparents are available for adoption! Let Rebecca know if you need a local grandparent.)

Register on ChurchLife or email

Rebecca@smpchome.org for a registration link.

DR. BROWN'S SABBATICAL

Dr. Matt Brown will be taking a well-deserved sabbatical from April 18 through June 30. Matt and Donna have plans to travel through several parts of the country, with stops along the way to visit family. Matt's Wednesday morning and evening bible studies will take a break in his absence. We wish the Browns a restful time away, and we already look forward to their return!