

and who continues to empower us to do your work in this world. In the name of our risen Savior, Jesus the Christ, we pray. *(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

Lindsey Odom

*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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Abram Jacob Johan Prinsloo

son of Pieter-Jan and Liana Prinsloo, sister of Jolena

Isabella Susanna Aletta Francescon

daughter of Mark & Susanna Francescon

Donald McCoy Jones

Aletta Margaretha Jones

children of Steven & Martha Jones

Representing the Session: Michael Zagora

CHURCH FAMILY MOMENT

Rebecca Guzman

1. Are you the kind of person who asks a lot of questions! If so, today's scripture is Good News for you. Thomas asks Jesus a lot of questions, and Jesus does not get frustrated or tell him to stop. Jesus answers his questions! If you could ask Jesus anything, what would it be?
2. You are on a peace mission today! Jesus tells the disciples, "Peace be with you," in our passage for today. If you are worshiping in person, I challenge you to tell at least 3 people, "Peace be with you" before you leave today. If you are worship from home, you can text, email, or comment on the facebook stream!
3. Listen to a [readaloud](#) of *Truman* by Jean Reidy & Lucy Ruth Cummins. Just like Truman, "the disciples are afraid. Into this fearful setting, Jesus comes. He offers his disciples his peace and the gift of the Spirit to be with them and his presence in front of Thomas moves Thomas to faith. While many of us are not physically unsafe as a result of our following Jesus, we know what it is like to hide our faith in the face of the powers of governments, of greed, of selfishness, of despair. To the disciples then and now, Jesus offers peace and life and the gift of the Spirit. Just like Truman understood that Sarah was not leaving him for good, disciples then and now have Christ's presence with us and are called to follow him in faith." (Virginia C. Thomas and Ann Thomas Knox on the storypath website)
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. How were the disciples feeling at the beginning of the passage?
 - b. Why do you think the disciples don't immediately recognize Jesus?
 - c. Why do you think Jesus said: "Peace be with you?"
 - d. Why do you think Jesus breathed on them?

e. How would you have reacted if you were one of 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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dr. Whitney Bayer

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Psalms 118: 19-29

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

John 20: 19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Faith and Doubt

Dr. Bayer

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Brief Statement of Faith

(unison)

Lindsey Odom

We trust in Jesus Christ, Fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lindsey Odom

... (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

OFFERTORY

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Ernst Pepping

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

In our songs and in our words, we give praise to you, Lord. In our worship, study, and service, we bless you. Loving God, you breathe life into our mortal bodies; you complete us and fill our every need. For all that you have done; for all that you have given to us, we worship you. Beautiful savior, with all that we are, and with all that we have, we offer you our thanks and praise. Amen.

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN

Thine Is the Glory

No. 238

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Dr. Bayer

*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

Chorale Prelude on
Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing! Healey Willan

WORSHIP SERVICE NOTES

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor (say something about sabbatical?)

Dr. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor
Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist
Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation
Lindsey Odom, Director of Youth Ministry
Hannah Angerer, Liturgist
Hank Jacobus, Liturgist
Ann Carney, organist

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

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.

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. During this time, they will explore the story interactively and engage with their peers.
- 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 today 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 21, 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
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 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 mkgagora@smpchome.org

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South
Mecklenburg
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship
2nd Sunday of Easter
April 24, 2022

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Live Streamed

WE GATHER

PRELUDE *Partita on O Sons and Daughters* Wilbur Held

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH Lindsey Odom

INTROIT *This Joyful Eastertide* Paul Bouman

*CALL TO WORSHIP Hank Jacobus

One: As an Easter people, let us celebrate the risen Christ.

Many: **As an Easter people, we come for renewal and restoration.**

One: The joy of the resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ is with us.

Many: **We rejoice in the blessing of peace, which God has poured into our lives.**

One: Even though we hear words of doubt, we are called to believe.

Many: **We come in the knowledge that the living Christ stands among us today.**

All: **Let us celebrate the presence of Christ with trust and faith.**

*HYMN *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright* No. 254

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*) Lindsey Odom

Wondrous God, we confess that at times our doubts and fears override our hope and faith. Forgive us when we lose sight of the joy of your love and instead fall into despair. Lift up our spirits, Lord, and help us to remember the promise of new life here and now, not just the hope of resurrection for the future. We give thanks for Your Son, Jesus Christ, who continues to offer us new life

*Please rise in body or in spirit.