



# South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2023

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

## We Gather

**Prelude**                      *The Lord Is My Shepherd*                      Raymond Haan

**Welcome and Concerns of the Church**                      Dr. Whitney Bayer

**Moment for Mission**                      Bob Williamson

**Introit**                      *Vruechten*                      arr. James Clemens  
Ann Carney, recorder

**Call to Worship**                      Collin Cushman

One: Jesus, you are our Good Shepherd.

**Many: We are the sheep of your pasture.**

One: The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

**Many: It is by Christ's wounds that we are healed and called to follow.**

One: Even though the road ahead is uncertain, our Good Shepherd promises to lead us and guide us.

**Many: Good Shepherd, help us see the way we should go and the way we should live. Help us hear your voice calling our name.**

**ALL: Enliven this time of worship, that we may experience new life as we join with others, praising your name and sharing your love for all people. Amen!**

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple  
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -  
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its  
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our  
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in  
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.  
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

**Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

Dr. Bayer

Savior God, you beckon us, but we do not heed your call. You gather us, but we wander away losing ourselves in false and superficial comforts. You speak truth, but we fail to hear and respond. Holy One, do not give up on us. Redeem us. Restore us. Resurrect us for life in Christ. 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. Today could perhaps be called "Good Shepherd Sunday," even though that isn't a real name. Both of our scripture passages talk

about God as a shepherd. Do some research to find out what a shepherd really does, both now and in Bible times.

2. Look at this [piece of art](#), which is widely regarded as the very first picture of Jesus we have. It was painted in the ceiling of the catacombs where the first Christians hid to worship God because they were in danger because of their faith. Why do you think the artist chose to paint Jesus as a strong shepherd? When are some times you might need a strong shepherd? Draw your own picture of Jesus as a shepherd.
3. In the passage from 1 Peter, we are reminded that Jesus chose restoration over revenge, and that we are invited to make this same choice. He chose to fix a relationship instead of getting even. In the book *Boundless Grace*, Grace also chooses forgiveness. [Listen to a readaloud](#) of the story and consider what it means to choose restoration.
4. Journal, considering the following:
  - a. What does it mean to think of Jesus as both a shepherd and a lamb?
  - b. How can we choose restoration over revenge?
  - c. When do you need God to be a strong shepherd for you?

## **Sacrament of Baptism**

**Luke William Schelhammer**

Son of Laura and Karl Schelhammer, brother of Helen and Lyla

Representing the Session: Collin Cushman

Representing the children: Owen Bickett

## **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**

*We Shall Walk Through the Valley*

Chancel Choir arr. Undine Smith Moore

*We shall walk through the valley in peace.*

*We shall walk through the valley in peace.*

*If Jesus Himself shall be our Leader,*

*We shall walk through the valley in peace.*

*There will be no trials there.*

*There will be no trials there.*

*If Jesus Himself shall be our Leader,*

*We shall walk through the valley in peace.*

## **Prayer for Illumination**

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

**Reading from the Old Testament:**

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

**Reading from the New Testament:**

1 Peter 2:18-25

Slaves, accept the authority of your masters with all deference, not only those who are kind and gentle but also those who are harsh. For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Dark Valleys, Healing Trust

Dr. Brown

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

*The Confession of 1967: 9.24-26*

Dr. Bayer

**The new life finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death. The teaching of apostles and prophets guides men and women in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips them for their ministries. The members of the church are emissaries of peace and seek the good of all in cooperation with powers and authorities in politics, culture, and economics. But they have to fight against pretensions and injustices when these same powers endanger human welfare. Their strength is in their confidence that God's purpose rather than human schemes will finally prevail. Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that**

**God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.**

**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.**

**Offertory** *Lord of the Dance* arr. Joel Raney  
Blythe Kinsey, piano; Zach Bowyer, organ

*As an alternative to the traditional offering plate, you may support the ministry of SMPC by giving online at [www.smpchome.org/give](http://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** Owen Bickett  
**Good Shepherd, you have opened the door to new life for us through your dedication and your sacrifice. May our offerings give voice to your work for justice and peace within our world today. May we grow more mindful of you through our giving and our ways of living. Amen.**

## **We Go Out to Serve**

**Hymn** *You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd* No. 274



1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep-herd. You, Lord, are both  
 2 Clothed in light up - on the moun-tain, stripped of might up -  
 3 You, who walk each day be - side us, sit in pow - er  
 4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus! Wor - thy is our

(Dm) (G) (C) (F) (Em) (Dm) (Am)  
 Gm C F B<sup>b</sup> Am Gm Dm



prince and slave. You, peace-mak - er and sword-bring - er  
 on the cross, shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,  
 at God's side. You, who preach a way that's nar - row,  
 cos - mic Christ! Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - tory;

(B<sup>b</sup>) (F) (E) (A/C#) (Dm)  
 E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> A D/F# Gm



of the way you took and gave. You, the ev - er - last - ing  
 beg-gared by a sol - dier's toss, you, the ev - er - last - ing  
 have a love that reach - es wide. You, the ev - er - last - ing  
 wor - thy still your peace and strife. You, the ev - er - last - ing

(Am) (G) (Am) (Dm) (Em) (Am)  
 Dm C Dm Gm Am Dm



in - stant; you, whom we both scorn and crave.  
 in - stant; you who are both gift and cost.  
 in - stant; you, who are our pil - grim guide.  
 in - stant; you, who are our death and life.

**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. Amen.***

**Postlude**

*God of Grace*

Paul Manz

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-735003. All rights reserved.*

## **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

Owen Bickett, Collin Cushman, liturgists

Chancel Choir

Ann Carney, recorder

Blythe Kinsey, piano

**Acolyte:** Ryan Wooley

**A/V Team:** Nicholas White, Logan Graham

**Deacon/Elder of the Day:** Kari Wooley

**Ushers:** Mary Elledge, Curtis Guy, Judy Jones, Jon Myers, Linda Nagle Hanson, Michael Zagora

**Welcome Team:** Donna Brown, Evan Williams, 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. To receive our emails, sent on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection, [nancy@smpchome.org](mailto: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, May 28 at 11:30 a.m. To learn more, contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection, [nancy@smpchome.org](mailto:nancy@smpchome.org) or 980-265-2839.

### **Congregational Notes** (as of April 26, 2023)

A Congregational Meeting will be held after the 10:10 a.m. worship service on May 7 for steps required in pursuit of Lindsey Odom's ordination.

#### **Remember in Prayer**

- Karen and Gordon Malmut and family as Karen's father, David Shearon, entered the Church triumphant on April 22.

- Nancy and Charlie Metzler and family as Nancy's mother, Ann Long, is receiving hospice care.
- 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](mailto:prayer@SMPChome.org).



## South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

8601 Bryant Farms Road, Charlotte, NC 28277, 704-544-0404

PO Box 79321, Charlotte, NC 28271

[smpchome.org](http://smpchome.org)



# SMPC WEEKLY

APRIL 30, 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 WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today  
**APR. 30**  
5:00 p.m.  
-6:15 p.m.

#### **Youth Board Game & S'mores Night** **Mecklenburg Hall**

Join us for board games, S'mores and snacks. Bring your favorite board game to share with the group! Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, [lindsey@smpchome.org](mailto:lindsey@smpchome.org).

tuesday  
**MAY 2**  
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](mailto:nancy@smpchome.org).

wednesday  
**MAY 3**  
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](mailto:matt@smpchome.org).

friday  
**MAY 5**  
7:30 a.m.

#### **Friday Morning Men's Group** **Chapel 206**

This group meets on the first and third Fridays of each month and would love to have new folks join. We are reading *Searching for Happiness* by Martin Thielen, author and retired methodist minister. Contact: Curt Ireland, [irelandcurtis00@gmail.com](mailto:irelandcurtis00@gmail.com).

saturday  
**MAY 6**  
8:00 a.m.  
-12:30 p.m.

#### **American Red Cross Blood Drive** **Palmer Building**

Please remember to bring your American Red Cross donor card or photo I.D. Register by scanning QR code. Contact: Tierra Sandeen, [tierrad@hotmail.com](mailto:tierrad@hotmail.com).



sunday  
**MAY 7**  
9:00 a.m.

#### **Book of Revelation Study Group** **McQueen Room**

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](mailto:rebecca@smpchome.org).

sunday  
**MAY 7**  
5:00 p.m.  
-6:30 p.m.

#### **BAM! Bible and Music** **Ages Kindergarten-5th Grade, Narthex**

Please note 5th graders are invited to May BYG on May 7 (more details on back page)! Children sing, engage with Bible stories, and explore various instruments in peer age groups. Pizza will be served. Please register on Realm by May 5. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, [rebecca@smpchome.org](mailto:rebecca@smpchome.org).

**sunday**  
**MAY 7**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**-6:15 p.m.**

**May BYG (Big Youth Group)**  
**Mecklenburg Hall, Middle and High Schoolers AND 5th graders**

Fifth graders are invited to this month's BYG! The theme for BYG that we will focus on is "Calling people to the banquet table." Pizza will be served! Please register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

## Looking Ahead

**May Lunch Bunch Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 9, 11:30 a.m., Firebirds Restaurant, Stonecrest**  
All are invited! Please RSVP to Ruth Ann Engle by Saturday, May 6, raengle22@gmail.com.

**Men's Evening Study Group**

**Tuesday, May 9, 7:30 p.m., Chapel 206**  
All are welcome. Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

**Men's Breakfast Group**

**Thursday, May 11, 7:30 a.m., Big View Diner, 6637 Lancaster Hwy, Charlotte**  
All are welcome. Contact: Bob Tyler, Btyler@unitedskates.com.

**Shelter Ministry**

**Thursday, May 11, 9:00 a.m., Mecklenburg Hall**  
This group fills empty Rx bottles with body wash for our neighbors in need at Roof Above. Contact: Carol Morgan, morganc43@aol.com.

**Confirmation Sunday**

**Sunday, May 14, During 10:10 a.m. Worship**

**Beginning to Ring!**

Learn how to play the handbells while having tons of fun. Ages high school and up are welcome. We are organizing the schedule now. Please contact Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.

### Missions & Outreach Opportunities for Center of Hope

**Center of Hope Welcome Home Baskets:** As women and children move out of the shelter and into permanent housing, we celebrate this transition with the gift of a laundry basket filled with critical items needed to establish a new home. During the month of May, as we honor all mothers, we will collect new kitchen items and cleaning supplies and fill 12 Welcome Home Baskets. Find more information (including a shopping list) and sign up via the QR code. Contact: Terry Gaines, terry@carolina.rr.com.



Welcome Home Baskets

**Center of Hope Breakfast (Food Donations and Servers):** After a break because of COVID, we are once again serving breakfast at Center of Hope on the third Saturday of every month beginning Saturday, May 20! Food donations are due on Thursday, May 18. Sign up to donate food or serve breakfast via the QR code. Contact: Bob Williamson, bobwill31@hotmail.com.



Center of Hope Breakfast

**Center of Hope Desserts:** On the second Sunday of each month, we provide sweet treats for the women and children who temporarily call Center of Hope home. Sign up via the QR code. Contact: Terry Gaines, terry@carolina.rr.com.



Center of Hope Desserts



@southmecklenburgpresbyterian



@southmeckpres