



A Service of Worship
Confirmation Sunday

May 14, 2023

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *Partita on "Italian Hymn"* Alfred V. Fedak

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Dr. Matthew S. Brown

Introit *Spirit of the Living God* Daniel Iverson

***Call to Worship** Oliver Bayer

One: Live in God's love!

Many: Let that love be poured out for all God's people!

One: Bring hope and peace to all whom you meet.

Many: We are called to be God's witnesses.

One: Celebrate and rejoice!

ALL: Praise be to God who has given us the gift of the spirit and called us to a ministry of faith, hope, and love. Amen!

***Hymn** *Come, Thou Almighty King* No. 2

1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy
 2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, mer - ci - ful,
 3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred
 4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal

name to sing; help us to praise:
 might - y Lord, our prayer at - tend.
 wit - ness bear in this glad hour.
 prais - es be, hence ev - er - more!

Fa - ther, all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
 Come, and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy word suc - cess;
 Thou who al - might - y art, now rule in ev - ery heart,
 Thy sov - ereign maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,

come, and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend.
 and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of power.
 and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dr. Whitney Bayer

Holy God, we are quick to criticize, quick to judge, quick to blame. We fail to offer others the same grace we receive from you. We hold ourselves up as superior and fail to address the patterns we perpetuate. Forgive us. Help us seek understanding and compassion. Help us accept the love you offer us and share your love with others. 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. In the gospel passage from today, Jesus gives the disciples one commandment: to love one another as Jesus has loved them. At lunchtime, go around the table. Each person should share one way that they have seen each other person showing love to another. This week, try to point out when you notice a family member or friend showing love!
2. Listen to [this readaloud](#) of *Maybe I Can Love My Neighbor Too* by Jennifer Grant. What ways did the people in the book show love for each other? How are they like you? How are they different from you?
3. Go outside and blow some bubbles! How is the Holy Spirit like bubbles? Like air? Like wind? Like fire?
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. What does the commandment from Jesus mean?
 - b. Who does Jesus say will come to help them? What is an advocate? By what other names do we know this advocate? How do you experience the Holy Spirit?
 - c. What makes it hard to follow the commandment to love others?
 - d. Make a list of all the promises Jesus makes in verses 18-21.

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. 19):

***God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,
God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things belong,
Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.***

Congregation: God be with you there.

Children: God be with you here.

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

Anthem

If You Love Me

Joel Raney

Chancel Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano

*My peace I give you, my peace I leave with you,
And I will comfort you in times of trouble.
And if you love me keep my commands.
Though I may leave you, I will return for you,
I'll go prepare for you a place beside me.
And if you love me keep my commands.
Because I live, you too, shall live.
I bring you peace that the world cannot give.*

Prayer for Illumination

Dr. Brown

Reading from the Old Testament:

Psalms 115:1-13

Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness. Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Our God is in the heavens; he does whatever he

pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; they make no sound in their throats. Those who make them are like them; so are all who trust in them. O Israel, trust in the Lord! He is their help and their shield. O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord! He is their help and their shield. You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord! He is their help and their shield. The Lord has been mindful of us; he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron; he will bless those who fear the Lord, both small and great.

Reading from the Gospels:

John 14:15-21

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Separation Anxiety

Dr. Brown

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

Come Celebrate
Chancel Ringers

Cynthia Dobrinski

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**

Katie Gravender

Loving God, we are grateful for the many gifts you bestow upon us and for the gift of your Spirit. Help us use these offerings to create a

community of love and a place of belonging for all people. We ask that you use our gifts presented this day to help people know the blessings of being your beloved children. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

Presentation of Confirmands

Lindsey Odom

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 2:9

Dr. Brown

Profession of Faith

Dr. Bayer and Dr. Brown

Recognizing that all are sinners, dependent on the mercy of God, do you profess your faith in Jesus Christ as Lord of all and Savior of sinners, and do you confess your dependence upon Christ for your salvation?

Do you now resolve and promise, depending on the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will seek to live as a follower of Christ?

Do you declare your intention to participate actively and responsibly in the worship and mission of the church?

Questions to the Congregation

Collin Cushman

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

The Apostles' Creed

Collin Cushman

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.

***Hymn**

Come Down, O Love Divine

No. 282

1 Come down, O Love Di - vine; seek out this soul of mine,
 2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn
 3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with your own ar - dor glow - ing.
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing.
 shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing.

O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear,
 And let your glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
 For none can guess God's grace, till Love cre - ates a place

and kin - dle it, your ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

Prayer of Confirmation and Laying on of Hands

Lindsey Odom

Welcome to Discipleship

Leisa Lackey

One: By publicly professing their faith, the students of the Confirmation Class of 2023 have expressed their intention to continue in the covenant God made with them in their baptism. Let us welcome them as they join with us in the worship and mission of the church.

All: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in Christ.

*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

Italian Hymn

arr. Albert L. Travis

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
Lindsey Odom, Director of Youth Ministry
Oliver Bayer, Katie Gravender, liturgists
Collin Cushman, Leisa Lackey, representing the session
Chancel Choir
Chancel Ringers
Blythe Kinsey, piano

Acolyte: Miles Ullman

A/V Team: Brad Alford, Logan Graham

Ushers: Andrew Brown, Richard Franseen, Frank Graham, Curt Ireland
Craig Parrish, Nancy Parrish

Welcome Team: Donna Brown, Jennifer Hurlburt, Kasia Hurlburt,
Michiko Nielson

The flowers in worship this morning are given by Meghan Stenvall to the glory of God and in honor of her mother, Debra Stenvall, and in memory of her grandmother, Juanita Stangl.

We light a candle in worship today celebrating the birth of Max Daniel Jacobs on May 4. Congratulations to his mother, Stefanie Jacobs, and big sister, Elizabeth!

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, May 21 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 May 10, 2023)

Remember in Prayer

- Donna Wilcox and Chris, Denise, Sydney and Joe Wilcox, as Donna's husband and Chris' father, John Wilcox, entered the Church triumphant on May 6.
- Jon, Jennifer, Chloe, Andrew, and Julia Nancarrow, as Jon's father, Jim Nancarrow, entered the Church triumphant on April 20.
- Janet Dunlap, as she prepares for surgery.
- Cindy Fisher, as she recovers from surgery.
- 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.

SMPC Confirmation Class of 2023

<u>Confirmand</u>	<u>Mentor</u>
Ben Bickett	Curtis Guy
Lexi Bower	Kari Case
Whitney Buford	Amy Zagora
Grayson Carpenter	Brian Glover
Owen Conerly	Frank Graham
Will Glover	Rich Carpenter
Parker Graham	Bob Williamson
Brynn Holder	Jeni Jacobus
Graeme Mitchell	Dean Elledge
Camdyn Sheeler	Leanne Royster
Olivia Smith	Shelby Ullman
Maddy Vechnak	Kathy Graham
Alec White	Zach Bowyer



South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

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

PO Box 79321, Charlotte, NC 28271

smpchome.org

SMPC WEEKLY

MAY 14, 2023

WELCOME!

After worship, we hope you'll join us in the narthex for cake to celebrate our confirmands!

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

tuesday
MAY 16
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
MAY 17
9:30 a.m. &
6:30 p.m.

Conversations with Dr. Matt Brown

Zoom (9:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.) 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. Contact for the Zoom ID#: Dr. Matt Brown, matt@smpchome.org.

thursday
MAY 18
12:30 p.m.

Food for Thought Book Group **McQueen Room**

We are reading *The Searcher* by Tana French. All are welcome! Contact: Kathy Paquette, khespaquette@aol.com.

friday
MAY 19
7:30 a.m.
- 8:30 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.

saturday
MAY 20

Center of Hope Breakfast (Food Donations and Servers):

Spots are still open! 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.



Breakfast

sunday
MAY 21
9:00 a.m.

Book of Revelation Study Group **McQueen Room**

Last session of this study! No books or materials to purchase. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

sunday
MAY 21
11:10 a.m.

Reception for SMPC Preschool's Carol Watkins & Mary Lynn Rawls **Narthex**

After worship on Sunday, help us celebrate Carol's and Mary Lynn's exceptional careers with our preschool and wish them well in retirement!

sunday
MAY. 21
5:00 p.m.
-6:30 p.m.

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

Let's celebrate a fun year of BAM! Children sing, engage with Bible stories, and explore various instruments in peer age groups. Pizza will be served. Please register on Realm by Friday, May 19. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

sunday
MAY 21
5:00 p.m.
-6:15 p.m.

Youth Summer Kickoff Event at the Bartholomew's Middle and High Schoolers, 402 Marvin Road, Waxhaw

Join us for fun and fellowship! A devotion, swimming, sand volleyball, basketball, a trampoline, corn hole and other outdoor games - you don't want to miss it! We'll have pizza for dinner and a special dessert treat. Please bring a lawn chair and a bathing suit and a towel if you plan to swim. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

Looking Ahead

Men's Breakfast Group

Thursday, May 25, Big View Diner, 6637 Lancaster Hwy, Charlotte, NC 28277

This group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month to enjoy breakfast and conversation. All are welcome. Contact: Bob Tyler, Btyler@unitedskates.com.

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.

SMPC Golf Tournament

Thursday, June 22, 1:00 p.m., Carolina Lakes Golf Club

For all levels, men, women & youth. Captain's Choice Scramble at Carolina Lakes-Sun City with a shotgun start at 2 PM. Range balls provided starting at 1 PM with door prizes & prizes for team/individual accomplishments. Pick your own 4-person team (register all together if you can) or we can place you on a team. Mulligans available (max 2 per player for \$10), proceeds going to Missions-Outreach. Cost to play: \$50 per person, includes range balls & prizes. Register on Realm. Contact: Ron Morgan, rbmorgan943@aol.com.

Vacation Bible School

Monday, July 24 - Thursday, July 27, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Ages 3-Rising 6th grade (Rising 5th and 6th graders participate in a concurrent program, Mission Possible)

Ready for some fun with the ultimate hero team? Hero Hotline VBS invites children to answer the call to serve God together. There will be an extended day option this year. Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

Missions & Outreach Opportunity 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, terryg@carolina.rr.com.



Welcome Home Baskets

Center of Hope Breakfast (Food Donations and Servers):

Spots are still open! 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



@southmecklenburgpresbyterian



@southmeckpres