



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Pentecost Sunday

May 28, 2023

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *Tongues of Fire (Pentecost Dance)* Alfred V. Fedak

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

Introit *On Pentecost They Gathered* Jane Parker Huber

Call to Worship Emery Hicks

One: With tongues of flame, the Holy Spirit descends to burn in our hearts anew.

Many: Unite us, Holy Spirit!

One: Like the rush of wind, we sense God's presence blowing among us and throughout the world.

Many: Unite us, Holy Spirit!

One: Across barriers that falsely divide us from one another, Christ's message of love and justice is heard.

Many: Unite us, Holy Spirit!

One: Gracious God, we seek your guidance as we search for your Spirit, full of Wisdom and Truth.

Many: Ignite within us, Holy Spirit, your kindling blaze.

One: May we feel your kindling blaze within us, urging us to do your greater good.

All: By your Spirit, make us wholly present to experience a new birth and awaken possibilities within us to share your love in the world. Amen!

Hymn *Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us* No. 280

1 Come, O Spir - it, dwell a - mong us; come with
 2 We would raise our al - le - lu - ias for the
 3 Come, O Spir - it, dwell a - mong us; give us

Pen - te - cos - tal power; give the church a
 grace of yes - ter - years; for to - mor - row's
 words of fire and flame. Help our fee - ble

strong - er vi - sion; help us face each cru - cial hour.
 un - known path - way, hear, O Lord, our hum - ble prayers.
 lips to praise you, glo - ri - fy your ho - ly name.

Built up - on a firm foun - da - tion, Je - sus Christ, the
 In the church - 's pil - grim jour - ney you have led us
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Three in One: what

Cor - ner - stone, still the church is called to
all the way; still in pres - ence move be -
mys - ter - y! We would sing our loud ho -

mis - sion that God's love shall be made known.
fore us, fire by night and cloud by day.
san - nas now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Lindsey Odom

God of fire and wind, we confess that we have missed the movement of your Spirit in our lives and in your world. We have not lived Spirit-led lives. We are slow to serve you and reluctant to spread the good news of your love. We ask that you have mercy on us, O' God. Forgive our divisions and by your Spirit, draw us together. Create in us a desire to do your will and be your faithful people. 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

Church Family Moment

Rebecca Guzman

1. Today is Pentecost! [Listen to a readaloud](#) of *The Day When God Made Church* by Rebekah Hutto. There are lots of ways we can celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the church, like...
2. Celebrate the church's birthday. Sometimes, since this is the day when God made church, we have birthday cake and sing happy birthday to the church!
3. Consider the Holy Spirit. Maybe you will fly a kite or hang a windsock and think about how the Holy Spirit is like wind. Maybe you and your family will light a candle or have a fire and think about how the Holy Spirit is like fire. Maybe you will [make an origami dove](#) and think about how the Holy Spirit is like a dove.

4. Learn how to say “I love you” in a new language. In the story, the people were speaking different languages, but they were able to understand each other! [This video](#) teaches you how to say, “I love you!” in 60 languages.
5. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. I wonder what it was like to be a disciple that day.
 - b. I wonder what it would have been like to be able to speak another language all of the sudden.
 - c. If this happened today, I wonder what our reaction would be?
 - d. How do we hear God speak to us today?
 - e. How do we see God acting through the Holy Spirit today?

Sacrament of Baptism

Thomas Duke Klecker

Son of Julianne and Jack Klecker, grandson of Jane and Tom Klecker

Representing the Session: Brett Thompson

Representing the children: Clara Guzman

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

Fill-a Me Up

Pepper Choplin

Chancel Choir; David Kinsey, soloist

*Fill-a me up, come-a Holy Spirit,
fill-a me up to the top-a my soul.*

*Fill-a me up, come-a Holy Spirit,
fill-a me up now and take control.*

Fill-a me up, come-a Spirit, come.

Fill-a me up, Holy Spirit, O Come.

So many things try to fill me up.

So many things try to weigh me down.

*Fill-a my heart now until you stay
and chase the other things away.*

Now my heart is an open door.

Here your Spirit is welcome, Lord.

*Fill-a my heart now and let it grow
and change my lift so all will know.*

Reading from the New Testament

Acts 2:1-11

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue

rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

Reading from the Old Testament

Psalm 104:24-34

O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, great and wide; creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great. There go the ships and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it. These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit,^[a] they are created, and you renew the face of the ground. May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works— who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke. I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "When you send forth your spirit, they are created..."

Dr. Brown

The Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

from A Brief Statement of Faith

Lindsey Odom

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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.**

Offertory *Spirit Song* arr. Tom Fettke
Lori Schellin, soprano

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 Emery Hicks

O Holy One we offer this day tangible gifts. Thank you for calling us to be as generous with others as you are to us. These baskets overflow with the resources needed to begin life in a new home. We give you praise for those who will benefit from these baskets and ask your blessing upon their lives. As their time of homelessness ends and as they settle into their new homes, may they feel God's love through the presence of these gifts. Thank you for stirring in the hearts of those who helped fill these baskets. May you continue to stir in us, calling us to share what we have so that others far and wide might know your love and care. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

Hymn *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit* No. 408

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I
2 There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive till you

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are
know him in his full - ness and be - lieve; you're the

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I
one to prof - it when you say, "I am

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.
going to walk with Je - sus all the way."

Refrain

Sweet Ho-ly Spir-it, sweet heav-en-ly Dove, stay right here
with us, fill-ing us with your love; and for these bless-ings we
lift our hearts in praise; with-out a doubt we'll know that we have
been re-vived when we shall leave this place.

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

Partita on "Ebenezer": V. Toccata Benjamin M. Culli

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Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Lindsey Odom, Director of Youth Ministry

Clara Guzman, Emery Hicks, liturgists

Chancel Choir

David Kinsey, soloist

Lori Schellin, soloist

Deacon/Elder of the Day: Alice Tyler

Ushers: Don Ayers, Andy Burke, George Elledge, Mary Elledge, Linda Nagle Hanson, David Wooley

Welcome Team: Blair Choren, Michael Choren, Jack Hess, Kathy Rasimas

A Congregational Meeting will be held after the 10:10 a.m. worship service next Sunday, June 4, to hear a report from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

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).

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, June 25 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 25, 2023)

Remember in Prayer

- 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.



South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

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

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smpchome.org

WELCOME!

After worship, we hope you'll join us for lemonade and cookies outside between the sanctuary and chapel buildings. 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

tuesday
MAY 30
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 31
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.

friday
June 2
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.

Service Opportunity

Join the Welcome Team!

Be a part of this important ministry that makes all people feel welcome the minute they walk through our doors for Sunday worship! Scan the QR code to sign up. Contact: Karen Williams, karenewilliams99@gmail.com.



Looking Ahead

SMPC Youth Junior and Senior Pool Party

Sunday, June 4, 5:30-7:30 p.m., The Royster's House, 14927 Capricorn Ln, Charlotte, NC 28277

Please join us for the Junior and Senior Class Pool Party! We will be congratulating our high school seniors and all their accomplishments as we are so proud of them. Dinner will be provided, but please bring a side item or a dessert item. We cannot wait to see you there. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

Shelter Ministry

Thursday, June 8, 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, morgancc43@aol.com.

Men's Breakfast Group

Thursday, June 8, 9:30 a.m., Big View Diner, 6637 Lancaster Hwy.

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. Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. beginning June 1. Please contact Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.

SMPC Golf Tournament

Thursday, June 22, Carolina Lakes Golf Club

For all levels, men, women and youth! We'll warm up beginning at 12:00 p.m. and have a Captain's Choice Scramble with a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. Cost to play: \$50 per person, includes range balls & prizes. Register on Realm or scan QR code. 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.

Scan the QR code to view
this week's bulletin online.

