



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 18, 2023

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *Sing Praise to God* arr. Edward Broughton

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Lindsey Odom

Introit

Call to Worship Elizabeth Glover

One: We come today to worship God because God is near, and God listens to us.

Many: **Because of God's nearness to us, we come to praise and honor God.**

One: We come today to praise God because the Holy God is a liberating God.

Many: **Because God is our liberating and saving God, we come to celebrate.**

One: We come today with confidence because no matter what we do, the Lord always hears our prayers and supplications.

Many: **How should we repay the Lord for all that we have been given?**

All: **We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord always! Amen!**

Hymn *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* No. 645

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all
 2 What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -
 3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief
 4 Thus all my toil - some way a - long I sing a - loud

cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,
 cy - keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
 dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,
 thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song

the God of our sal - va - tion. With
 God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -
 our peace and joy and bless - ing, as
 my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be

heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less
 in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,

mur - mur stilled:
 all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 cho - sen band:
 take your part:

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Lindsey Odom

One: Gracious God, when we remember the journey of our faith, the story that we live with you and one another, we recall all the

ways we have missed the mark. We are afraid to take a truthful look at ourselves, yet you see us as we really are.

Many: Open our eyes, O God.

One: Even when we will not listen to you, you hear us when we call your name.

Many: Open our ears, O God.

One: We keep the light of your Word hidden to ourselves, though you command us to share it with others and live it out daily.

Many: Open our mouths and our hearts, O God.

One: In so many ways, big and small, our lives have failed to demonstrate the extent of your love that is revealed in and through Christ.

ALL: Forgive us, O God, and help us to know and serve the One who calls us to see, hear, and act upon your Word in a compassionate and liberating manner.

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. Listen to a readaloud of [The Napping House](#). Everyone is welcome in the napping house! Abraham and Sarah welcomed their visitors. Think of a time when you have welcomed a visitor.
2. In today's story about Abraham and Sarah, she laughs when she hears that she is going to have a baby in her old age. Sit across from someone and take turns trying to make the other person laugh. Or look up funny jokes for all ages. Laughter is a gift from God, and it's good for us! Make some time to laugh today.
3. Try a [word search](#), [coloring page](#), or [crossword](#) about today's story.
4. Journal questions:
 - a. What does it mean to really welcome someone? What kinds of things do you do? How about if they show up unannounced?
 - b. What makes you laugh? What brings you joy?
 - c. Think about this phrase: "Nothing is impossible for God." What does that mean to you? Do you ever have trouble believing that God will keep promises? Why or why not?

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.

Prayer for Illumination

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

Reading from the New Testament

Romans 5:1-8

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Reading from the Old Testament

Psalms 116

I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, save my life!" Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful. The Lord protects the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me. Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you. For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. I walk before the Lord in the land of the living. I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted"; I said in my consternation, "Everyone is a liar." What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones. O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds. I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Uber God

Dr. Brown

The Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) from A Brief Statement of Faith
Lindsey Odom

God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

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 *Oceans* Joel Houston
Laura Hancock, alto

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 Elizabeth Glover

Loving God, you take good care of us in more ways than we know. Your personal love is reflected in the way you came to save us and through the gracious gifts you bless us with. We ask that you help us to show your love to one another and our neighbors through practical deeds of mercy and through our gifts and offerings. Help us to discover joy in giving our time and money. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

Hymn *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy* No. 415

All or Leader

1 Come, ye sin - ners, poor and need - y, weak and wound-ed,
2 Come, ye thirst-y, come, and wel - come; God's free boun - ty
3 Come, ye wea - ry, heav - y lad - en, lost and ru - ined
4 Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with four numbered lines of text corresponding to the four lines of the hymn.

sick and sore; Je - sus read - y stands to save you,
 glo - ri - fy, true be - lief and true re - pen - tance,
 by the fall; if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter,
 fond - ly dream; all the fit - ness he re - quir - eth

Refrain
All

full of pit - y, love, and power.
 ev - ery grace that brings you nigh. I will a - rise and
 you will nev - er come at all.
 is to feel your need of him.

go to Je - sus; he will em-brace me in his arms. In the

arms of my dear Sav - ior, O there are ten thou-sand charms.

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

Toccata Brevis

Daniel Gawthrop

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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

Elizabeth Glover, liturgist

Sumner Martin Summer Organ Sidekick

Acolyte: Grayson Myers

A/V Team: Kari Case, Xander Case

Deacon/Elder of the Day: Laura Hancock

Ushers: Curtis Guy, Kara Guy, Jon Myers, Linda Nagle Hanson, Gwen Volker, Jim Williams

The flowers in worship this morning are given to the glory of God and in honor of Lillian's Sweet 16th birthday and all the amazing fathers in our congregation by Brent and Sheila McAnally.

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 June 15, 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.

Instagram: **[@southmeckpres](https://www.instagram.com/southmeckpres)**.



South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

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

PO Box 79321, Charlotte, NC 28271

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
JUNE 19
6:00 p.m.
- 7:00 p.m.

Youth Message and Macarons
Amelie's, 7715 Pineville-Matthews Rd
SMPC middle and high schoolers are invited to join us for a short devotion, sweet treats and fellowship! All are welcome, and we encourage you to bring a friend! No signups required. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

monday
JUNE 19
7:15 p.m.

Men's Softball
SMPC Softball Field
The SMPC softball team plays every Monday and Friday night right here at our home field. We are always looking for players. If you are interested, please contact Ron Stephany, 704-579-1606.

wednesday
JUNE 21
9:30 a.m.

Conversations with Dr. Matt Brown
Zoom or Chapel 206
Join us as we discuss the scripture for the coming week's sermon. We welcome new participants. The 6:30 p.m. study is taking a break for the summer. Contact for the Zoom ID#: Dr. Matt Brown, matt@smpchome.org.

wednesday
JUNE 21
1:00 p.m.
- 3:00 p.m.

Youth Serving at Crisis Assistance Ministry
Middle and High Schoolers, 500-A Spratt Street,
Charlotte, NC 28206
Please join us as we serve in the warehouse at Crisis Assistance Ministry. Pickup and drop-off will be at Crisis Assistance. High schoolers can drive and meet us there if their parent is okay with it. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

thursday
JUNE 22
9:30 a.m.

Men's Breakfast Group
Big View Diner, 6637 Lancaster Hwy.
This group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month to enjoy breakfast and conversation. All are welcome. Contact: Bob Tyler, Btyler@unitedskates.com.

thursday
JUNE 22
10:00 a.m.

Beginning to Ring
Sanctuary
Learn how to play the handbells while having tons of fun. Ages high school and up are welcome. Contact Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.

thursday
June 22
12:00 p.m.

SMPC Golf Tournament
Carolina Lakes Golf Club
For all levels, men, women and youth! Cost to play: \$50 per person, includes range balls & prizes. Register on Realm or scan QR code. Please register by June 20! Contact: Ron Morgan, rbmorgan943@aol.com.



Golf

Looking Ahead

Making Space Mom's Group

The Making Space Mom's Group is taking a break in June and will meet again on Thursday, July 13 for conversation and fellowship at the SMPC fire pit. Contact: Allison Reeves, allison.tarwater@gmail.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)

Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

Calling all children for the Summer Organ Sidekick (S.O.S.)!

Children ages rising 2nd grade to rising 6th grade are invited to sit next to Director of Music and Organist Zach Bowyer at the organ during Sunday worship to experience the organ and what it's like to lead congregational song!



SOS

Summer Service Opportunities

The Freedom School Program

Various opportunities from June 20-July 26, volunteer times vary, Druid Hills Elementary, 2801 Lucena Street, Charlotte, NC 28206

The Freedom School program promotes the long-term success of children in grades K-8 with limited means through a six-week summer camp focused on reading skills, character enrichment and community. All ages are welcome - please see SignUpGenius for volunteer age guidelines. Scan QR code to sign up. Contact: Doris Boyd, dorisboydcarolin@bellsouth.net.



Freedom School

Center of Hope Breakfast Food Donations

We are serving breakfast to guests at the Center of Hope on Saturday, July 15, and we are in need of food donations and servers!

Food donations are due on Thursday, July 13. Scan the QR code to sign up. Contact: Bob Williamson, bobwill31@hotmail.com.



Breakfast

Faces of Faith

This summer we're launching a weekly series called "Faces of Faith" where we spotlight SMPC members and learn about how their faith and involvement in the church have impacted their lives. First up is Allison Reeves!

Name: Allison Reeves

Family: Chad and Zac (4)

Years at SMPC: 1.5 years

How has SMPC allowed you to connect

with others? We LOVE SMPC. When we prayed about a church we wanted to hear the Word of God and be known by the congregation. We have connected with so

many through the Ringing of the Bells (thank you, Zach), Saturday Chrismon Group (thank you, Donna), Making Space Mom's Group, Hops Around Town, Vacation Bible School, Zac's baptism and participation in Children's Worship (Rebecca, you are amazing), the new Tuesday Night Men's Group, and serving on the Welcome Team. We love the way that we engage with the congregation in both celebration and in service. We could not be happier to have found our church home!



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