



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 25, 2023

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *Aria on a Chaconne* Joel Martinson

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Rebecca Guzman

Introit *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* Harold Friedell

Call to Worship Tuuli Ritchie

One: Welcome! This is a time to celebrate and worship God who loves us!

Many: **We are grateful and thankful for all God's blessings in our lives.**

One: We gather to remember that Christ gave his life for us.

Many: **We humbly praise God for such a gift!**

One: Come, friends! Come and worship the God of love and hope.

All: **Praise be to God at all times and in all places! Amen.**

Hymn *Let All Things Now Living* No. 37

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks-giv - ing
 2 By law God en - forc - es, the stars in their cours - es,

G C G D G
 to God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise;
 the sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

G D G Am D
 who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us,
 the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains,

G C G D G
 by guid - ing us on to the end of our days.
 the depths of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

Harmony G E Am D
 God's ban - ners are o'er us; pure light goes be - fore us,
 We too should be voic - ing our love and re - joic - ing;

G Em D A7 D
 a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night:
 with glad ad - o - ra - tion, a song let us raise,

G C G D G
 till shad - ows have van - ished, all fear - ful - ness ban - ished,
 till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing:

G C G D G
 as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
 to God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rebecca Guzman

Lord Jesus Christ, we call you Lord, yet it is too easy for us to worship other things. Other activities, other relationships, other gods. You tell us we cannot serve two masters, yet we spend more time focusing our energies elsewhere, diverting our time, our energy, our money, our

attention away from you. Forgive us, gracious Savior, when our hearts are led astray, when we serve other gods and worship them. We turn away from our distractions and sin. Strengthen us to set our faces toward your will, to take up our cross and follow you. We pray this, counting on your grace. (silent prayer of personal confession) Amen

Assurance of God's Grace

Rebecca Guzman

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

Patty Stevenson

1. In the Gospel passage from today, we are reminded that God asks us to do difficult things. Sometimes, following in the way of Jesus means that people will not like us. We get our strength to continue to follow God, even in difficult times, from knowing that we are beloved children of God. In the book [A Love Letter from God](#) by P.K. Hallinan, we are reminded just how much God cherishes us.
2. In verse 30 of our Gospel passage from Matthew, Jesus says that God knows the number of hairs on our heads! Sit down with someone in your house, and see how many hairs you can count on their head in 60 seconds. What does this tell you about how well God knows you?
3. I wonder what the kind of world in our Gospel passage would look like. What would it look like for people to be equal, for us to not be fearful, for things to be out in the open, and for us to put God first? Create a drawing of what this world would be like.
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. I wonder what it was like for those listening to Jesus' words for the first time. What do you think their response may have been?
 - b. I wonder why these words are difficult to hear.
 - c. I wonder how these words might make us feel free?

Sacrament of Baptism

Wyatt Thomas Day

Son of Jordan and Jackie Day, brother of JJ

Representing the Session: Tim Morgan

Representing the children: Tuuli Ritchie

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.

Reading from the Old Testament

Psalm 69:7-13

It is for your sake that I have borne reproach, that shame has covered my face. I have become a stranger to my kindred, an alien to my mother's children. It is zeal for your house that has consumed me; the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me. When I humbled my soul with fasting, they insulted me for doing so. When I made sackcloth my clothing, I became a byword to them. I am the subject of gossip for those who sit in the gate, and the drunkards make songs about me. But as for me, my prayer is to you, O Lord. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me.

Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 10:24-39

A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Family Tradition

Dr. Brown

The Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

The Apostles' Creed

Rebecca Guzman

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.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer Rebecca Guzman
... *(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 *Sicilienne* Maria Theresia von Paradis

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 Caitlyn Cornell
Loving God, you have given us all that we need to reach out in love and care for all of our neighbors. Help us to go into your world bringing the good news of redemption, hope, peace, and justice for all. Take our gifts, our tithes, and our offerings, and use them for work in your kingdom. Bless the gifts and the givers of all gifts. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

Hymn *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples* No. 757

1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing

Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till

plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
 proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
 store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
 we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who

poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.
 spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.
 was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.
 calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

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

Processional in C

Hal H. Hopson

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Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Ann Carney, organist

Patty Stevenson, Children's Vision and Planning Committee

Tuuli Ritchie, liturgist

Caitlyn Cornell, liturgist

A/V Team: Nicholas White, Logan Graham

Deacon/Elder of the Day: Kathy Graham

Ushers: Andy Burke, Bob Cushman, Alice Tyler, Bob Tyler, Jim Williams, Donna Podgorny

Welcome Team: Donna Brown, 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. 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 22, 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

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- | | |
|---|---|
| monday
JUNE 26
7:15 p.m. | Men's Softball
SMPC Softball Field
This is the last game of the season! Come out and support the team! Contact: Ron Stephany, 704-579-1606. |
| tuesday
JUNE 27
7:30 p.m. | Men's Evening Study Group
Chapel 206
This group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month. We are studying the book <i>Courage</i> by Tom Berlin. All are welcome. Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com. |
| wednesday
JUNE 28
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. This is the last session before we break for summer. Contact for the Zoom ID#: Dr. Matt Brown, matt@smpchome.org. |
| thursday
JUNE 29
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. |
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Take Note

Due to inclement weather last week, the SMPC Golf Tournament was rescheduled for Thursday, August 10 with practice at 12:00 p.m. at Carolina Lakes. If you are now able to join us with the new date, we'd love to have you! Registration is back open on Realm. Contact: Ron Morgan: rbmorgan943@aol.com.

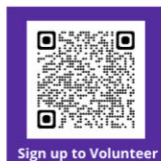
VBS Volunteers Needed

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)

VBS is quickly approaching, and we still have quite a few vital volunteer roles to fill. Almost all of these roles are "shepherds." This is an easy and FUN role at VBS! There is no planning, and you get to see every part of VBS. We hope you can join us! Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.



Sign up to Volunteer



Register for VBS



@southmecklenburgpresbyterian



@southmeckpres

Looking Ahead

Friday Morning Men's Group

Friday, July 7, 7:30-8:30 a.m., Chapel 206

We are reading *Searching for Happiness* by Martin Thielen, author and retired methodist minister. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

Making Space Mom's Group

Thursday, July 13, 7:30 p.m., SMPC Fire Pit

Join us for fellowship and friendship! Contact: Allison Reeves, allison.tarwater@gmail.com.

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!



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.



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.



Faces of Faith

This summer we've launched 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. This week is Libby Egan!

Name: Libby Egan

Family: I have two amazing kids: Molly, who is 13, and Grant, who is 10

Years at SMPC: I started coming to SMPC in 2007 with a coworker and immediately knew it was a special place.

Why is serving with Vacation Bible School important to you? I was asked to become

the volunteer coordinator for VBS after being a shepherd (volunteer) one year. It has allowed me to meet and get to know other members of our church community. I love watching the kids move from one place to another with smiles on their faces. Everyone pulls together to create such a memorable and enjoyable experience.



How can others get involved? We can always use volunteers to help make VBS a success whether it's all four days or just one. Shepherds help guide groups of children from one activity to the next where the activity leader then takes the reins. For those that are unavailable during our VBS week, we also need people in advance to cut out things, get all the materials organized and to decorate the church.