



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 9, 2023

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *Softly and Tenderly* arr. Marianne Kim

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

Introit *O God Beyond All Praising* arr. Robert Powell
Ann Carney, recorder

***Call to Worship** Jackson Carpenter

One: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

Many: **One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.**

One: They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

Many: **They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.**

One: The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

All: **The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings. Therefore, let us worship the Lord.**

***Hymn** *Here in This Place* No. 401

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,
 van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;
 brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.
 Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and
 blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,
 we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dr. Brown

Lord of mercy, you have prepared for us exquisite moments of wonder, yet we remain distracted with first world irritations and image obsessions. Forgive us, O God, for the spirit of self-involvement that shields our eyes and our hearts from the wonder that surrounds us: an infant's laugh, a bluebird's visitation, a neighbor's visit. Grant to us a spirit of attention, that we may seek the signs of your glory all around us and find our joy in praising you. Hear now, our silent offering of confession... Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Dr. Brown

***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 Catching Thoughts by Bonnie Clark. In the book, a girl learns how to deal with worrying thoughts that just won't go away. In our scripture passage today, Jesus shows us that he understands our worries and helps us to carry them. We never walk alone. How do you know that Jesus understands you?
2. Watch [this video](#) that explains how a yoke works and what Jesus means when he says to take his yoke upon us. What surprised you? What were you able to understand?
3. Find something very heavy. With adult supervision, try to pick it up. Now try doing it with someone else. What difference does it make when you have help? Is it easy for you to ask for help? If not, what makes it difficult?
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. What does Jesus mean when he says he will give us rest?
 - b. What is a burden? How does Jesus help us carry them?
 - c. Is it easy or difficult for you to give your burdens to Jesus? Why do you think that is?

Sacrament of Baptism

Zayn Alfredo Henriques

Son of Katie and Alfredo Henriques, brother of Ellie
grandson of Jane and Tom McElhaney
great-grandson of Carol Brundage

Representing the Session: Jane McElhaney

Representing the children: Oliver Bayer

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.

Prayer for Illumination

Dr. Whitney Bayer

Reading from the Old Testament

Psalms 108:1-6

My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make melody. Awake, my soul! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn. I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples, and I will sing praises to you among the nations. For your steadfast love is higher than the heavens, and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and let your glory be over all the earth. Give victory with your right hand, and answer me, so that those whom you love may be rescued.

Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rest

Dr. Bayer

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

The Apostles' Creed

Dr. Brown

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

Dr. Brown

. . . (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*Sonata I: Adagio and Largo*

Daniel Purcell

Ann Carney, recorder

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**

Oliver Bayer

As you have received each one of us, O Lord, receive also these gifts that we offer to you, that your love may be made known through ministries of peace, hope and justice. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

*Hymn

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

No. 39

1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.
날 마 다 자 비 를 베 푸 시 며

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
일 용 할 모 든 것 내 러 주 시 니

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!
오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

***Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Bayer

***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

Postlude on "Old Hundredth"

Fred Bock

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Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist
Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation
Ann Carney, recorder
Jackson Carpenter, Oliver Bayer, liturgist
Fiona Mitchell, summer organ sidekick

A/V Team: Kari Case, Xander Case

Deacon/Elder of the Day: Dick Engle

Ushers: Don Ayers, Mitchell Davis, Mary Elledge, Curtis Guy, Kara Guy, Judy Jones

Welcome Team: Donna Brown, Kathy Rasimas

The flowers in worship this morning are given by Kathleen Bearse to the glory of God and in memory of her son, Christopher Watson.

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, July 23 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 July 6, 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

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smpchome.org

SMPC WEEKLY

JULY 9, 2023

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.

PLEASE NOTE

Due to inclement weather, 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.

THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

tuesday
JULY 11
1:00 p.m. -
2:30 p.m.

A Caregiver's Journey **McQueen Room**

Finding meaning and purpose as you care for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. Facilitated by Kathy Garner (SMPC Faith Ambassador through the Alzheimer's Association).
Contact: Dr. Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.

tuesday
JULY 11
7:30 p.m.

Men's Evening Study Group **Chapel 206**

This new group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month. We are studying the book *Courage* by Tom Berlin. All are welcome.
Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

thursday
JULY 13
9:00 a.m.

Shelter Ministry **Mecklenburg Hall**

This ministry meets to fill empty medicine bottles with body wash for Roof Above. Empty Rx vials are always needed. Contact Carol Morgan, morgancc43@aol.com.

thursday
JULY 13
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
JULY 13
7:30 p.m.

Making Space Mom's Group **SMPC Fire Pit**

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

saturday
JULY 15

Center of Hope Breakfast

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

LOOKING AHEAD

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 now through 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

SMPC Youth's Mission Monday at the Church

Calling all generations! SMPC Youth's Mission Monday at the church is Monday, July 17, 5:30-7:00 p.m. in Mecklenburg Hall. We will do a variety of mission projects. Pizza and cookies will be provided so please sign up so we know how much to order. Please see the registration link on Realm for a list of school supplies needed for our partner school, Smithfield Elementary. Register on Realm or with QR code. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org



Mission

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 Kyle Royster!

Name: Kyle Royster

Family: My dad, Derek, my mom, Leanne and my two brothers, Derek, Jr. and Jake; My paternal grandparents, Ralph and Barbara Royster and maternal grandmother, Joyce Highsmith, are also members of SMPC.

School : I graduated from Ardrey Kell High School this year (class of 2023) and will attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the fall.

Years at SMPC: More than 18 years (since I was born). Dr. Brown baptized me in the summer of 2005 when I was 2 months old.



How has being involved with SMPC Youth shaped your teenage experience?

Being involved with the youth program, especially as a youth leader and on the youth committee, really shaped my teenage experience because through all the youth events and get-togethers we had, I was able to connect closer with God and find other people my age that have similar beliefs as me. This really helped me form new relationships with other members of the youth group. I especially enjoyed the overnight retreats like Montreat and the high school fall retreats because they helped strengthen my relationship with God and others. I always look forward to the meaningful discussions we have about God and Jesus with people my age.



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