



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 2023

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *Trumpet Voluntary on 'Festal Song'* Daniel Berghout

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Dr. Whitney Bayer

Moment for Mission Lindsey Odom

Introit *Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire* Plainsong

***Call to Worship** Julia Greeson

One: We have gathered together in the presence of God to offer our praise and our prayers.

Many: **We come before God with confidence, knowing that even when we cannot find the words, God's Spirit is right here with us, praying in us and for us.**

One: God's Spirit gives shape to our wordless hopes and longings reminding us that...

Many: **Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

All: **So let us come with joy to offer our worship to God who knows and loves us all.**

***Hymn** *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name* No. 4

1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
 3 All a - pos - tles join the strain as your sa - cred
 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it:

bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim;
 above are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
 name they hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
 three we name you, while in es - sence on - ly one;

all in heaven a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
 in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heavens with
 and the bless - ed mar - tyrs fol - low, and from morn to
 un - di - vid - ed God we claim you, and a - dor - ing,

vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
 sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
 set of sun, through the church the song goes on.
 bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dr. Bayer

Holy God, we try to do what is right but too often we lose sight of your call upon our lives. We get distracted in a distracting world and withhold love from each other and from you. Have mercy on us, O God. In your compassion, cleanse and release us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. 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. [Listen to a read aloud](#) of *Stone Soup* by Marcia Brown. Each villager takes what she has and adds it to the soup! By working together, they made the best soup ever. This stone soup is like our church. We are all important and we all need to work together. We can do this by adding our talents and ideas to the soup. What do you have to offer to the church? How do you serve?
2. Romans 8:38-39 is one of my very favorite scripture passages! Sometimes, I am tempted to feel like God's love depends on me and what I do, and I forget that God's love is a no matter what kind of love that I can never, ever lose. [Use a coloring page to meditate](#) on the passage. What does it mean that God never, ever stops loving us? How does it make you feel?
3. Play a game with some balloons. Blow up the balloons, and use a permanent marker to write something that gets in the way of our relationship with God, perhaps something listed in Romans 8:38-39, like "life, death, fear," etc. Pop the balloon and remember that nothing can separate us from the love of God!
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. What does it mean that God's love never stops?
 - b. What does the Bible say that we have become through Christ? What does that mean to you?
 - c. If nothing can ever separate us from God, then what do we have to be afraid of? Is it hard to live like that's true? Why or why not?
 - d. What would you say to someone to explain this passage?

Sacrament of Baptism

Max Daniel Jacobs

Son of Stefanie Jacobs and the late Daniel Jacobs, brother of Elizabeth

Representing the Session: Rebecca Guzman

Representing the children: Julia Greeson

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. Matthew S. Brown

Reading from the Old Testament

1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he

walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

Reading from the New Testament

Romans 8:26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Stickum

Dr. Brown

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

The Apostles' Creed

Dr. Bayer

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. 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

How Majestic Is Your Name

arr. Joel Raney

Laura Schelhammer, flute

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**

Will Glover

Gracious God, we approach you, trusting your will for our lives. You give us assurance of your abiding presence through the gift of your Holy Spirit. You provide us with confidence as we follow Christ's call. You promise us that nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Accept now the gifts that we offer, so that this promise may be known and experienced by all. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn**

Give to the Winds Thy Fears

No. 815

1 Give to the winds thy fears; hope, and be
 2 Through waves and clouds and storms God gent - ly
 3 Leave to God's sov - ereign sway to choose and
 4 Let us in life, in death, thy stead - fast

un - dis - mayed. God hears thy sighs and
 clears the way. Wait pa - tient - ly; so
 to com - mand. So shalt thou, won - dering,
 truth de - clare, and pub - lish with our

counts thy tears; God shall lift up thy head.
 shall this night soon end in joy - ous day.
 own God's way, how wise, how strong God's hand!
 fi - nal breath thy love and guard - ian care.

***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 *Fanfare on 'Holy God, We Praise Thy Name*

Paul Fey

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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

Julia Greeson, Will Glover, liturgists

Ushers: Don Ayers, Curt Ireland, Tom Klecker, Brett Thompson, Linda Thompson, Jim Williams

Welcome Team: Donna Brown, Lina Griffiths, Michael Choren, Blair Choren

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, August 27 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 27, 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

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

today
JULY 30
1:00 p.m. -
2:00 p.m.

Making Space Moms' Group
SMPC Preschool Playground

Bring the kids and join us for fellowship and fun on the playground. Contact: Allison Reeves, allison.tarwater@gmail.com.

monday
JULY 31
1:00 p.m. -
3:00 p.m.

SMPC Youth Mission Monday at Loaves and Fishes
Loaves and Fishes, 648 Griffith Road, B

Drop off and pick up at Loaves and Fishes. High schoolers can drive and meet us there if their parent approves. Minimum age is 14. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

wednesday
AUG. 2
6:00 p.m. -
7:00 p.m.

SMPC Youth Message and Macarons
Amelie's, Carmel Commons

Join us for a short devotion and message, a sweet treat and fellowship! All are welcome. No registration required. Please bring a friend. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

thursday
AUG. 3
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.

friday
AUG. 4
7:30 a.m.

Friday Morning Men's Group
Sanctuary

This group meets on the first and third Fridays of each month and would love to have new folks join. We are reading a new book: *Last Call: From Serving Drinks to Serving Jesus* by Jerry Hershops. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

Attentional All Cooks!

We have some fresh summer herbs ready to be picked for a delicious summer meal. You'll find basil, sage and thyme planted right outside Coffee Grounds and rosemary is planted in two pots in front of the Palmer building! Help yourself and make something scrumptious!



NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Beginning today through Sunday, August 20, we will be collecting school supplies for the students of Smithfield Elementary School. The Mission/Outreach Committee has placed several bins in the narthex for donated school supplies. Supplies needed include backpacks, 5-subject spiral notebooks, pocket folders, pens, composition books, pre-sharpened pencils, and more.



List of School
Supply Needs and
Register for All
Church Serves

All Church Serves - Sort and Pack for Smithfield Elementary School

On Sunday, August 27 at 9:00 a.m., we invite children, youth and adults to join us in Mecklenburg Hall for a school supply sort and pack for Smithfield Elementary School. Light breakfast items will be served. Please register on Realm.

Please see the list of supply needs and register for the All Church Serves via the QR code. Thank you for your generosity!

Become a Reading or Math Buddy for Smithfield Elementary School

Learn more about how you can serve students at Smithfield Elementary School with valuable one-on-one time. No prior tutoring or teaching experience needed! SMPC members Kathy Galati and Shelby Ullman and Director of Youth Ministry Lindsey Odom will give more information to those interested on Sunday, August 13 at 8:00 p.m. via Zoom. Please register on Realm.



Register for Zoom
call

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 Collin Sinclair!

Name: Collin Sinclair

Family: My wife, Wendy, and daughters, Julianne (23) and Caroline (20). My mother, Anne Sinclair, is also a member of SMPC.

Years at SMPC: We have been members since 2007 (16 years) and joined shortly after moving to Charlotte from Richmond. Caroline was enrolled in SMPC Preschool, which helped us become familiar with the church.



Why do you love being a part of the Chancel Choir? I consider the choir to be my second family. It's such a blessing to make music with this group and to fellowship with one another. Music is a vital part of worship for me and how I feel most connected to God. I began singing in church choirs as a child and always plan to be singing in some way. Being in the choir also allows me to see the Music Ministry evolve and grow under Zach's leadership.

