



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 13, 2023

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude

Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

Introit

Call to Worship

Hannah Angerer

One: When the wind is strong and the waves are high, remember the words of Jesus:

Many: Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.

One: When we begin to question God's call, or doubt God's love, remember the words of Jesus:

Many: Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.

One: When we've lost all hope, and don't know where to turn, remember the words of Jesus:

Many: Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.

One: When our faith is stretched to the breaking point, remember the words of Jesus:

All: Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Hymn

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

No. 8

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who did brood up - on the cha - os
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and power, all trav - elers guard in

rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
 mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
 wild and rude, and bade its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
 dan - ger's hour; from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we
 calm a - mid its rage did sleep: O hear us when we
 gave, for fierce con - fu - sion, peace: O hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to thee glad praise from air and land and sea.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Lindsey Odom

God, you call us to step out in faith, to place our lives in your hands, and to wholeheartedly commit to following you always. We confess that we find this difficult to do. It is not always easy to follow where you lead us, to turn away from our own wants and desires, and place our full trust and confidence in you, O Lord. Forgive us when we doubt you, Lord. Increase our faith and trust in you. Open our eyes to see the ways you call us to do the work of your Kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray, 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. In the Gospel story today, Jesus ends up in the boat with the disciples. Even though they are afraid, and even though they don't respond the way he hopes they will, Jesus loves them and is with them. This is true for us too. Draw a picture of Jesus in the boat with you as a reminder that Jesus is with you, even, and maybe especially, when you make a mistake.
2. Try rewriting the story like it would be told today. What would the setting be? What miracle would Jesus do? Email your story to me: rebecca@smpchome.org. I'm interested to hear what you come up with!
3. On the [storypath](http://storypath.org) website, Sara Ann Berger writes, "Sometimes we hear this story of Peter attempting to walk on water as a chastisement, yet another way that Peter failed Jesus, failed in his faith. And indeed, Peter does begin to sink, Jesus does ask about his doubts. But, there is another way to look at it. Peter is the only one of the disciples brave enough to take a chance, the only one with faith enough to give it a try—even if it doesn't work." [Listen to a readaloud](#) of the story *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole*. She continues, "Like Peter, like Sam and Dave, our attempts may not always work. When we try, we may not always succeed or end up where we'd expect, but in a life of faith, we must always be willing to try."
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. Was there something new you heard in this story this time?
 - b. Notice that Jesus dismisses the disciples to go on ahead of him as he dismisses the crowds and then goes up the mountain to pray alone. What do you think we are supposed to learn from that?
 - c. Jesus says, "Do not be afraid," many, many times in the Bible. Why do you think that is? What are we so afraid of?
 - d. Do you think you would have been like Peter who tried to walk on water and lost faith or like the other disciples who stayed in the boat? Where would you have fit into this story?

Sacrament of Baptism

Grant Thomas Gwyn

Son of Dann and Kayleen Gwyn, brother of Landon and Charlotte

Representing the Session: Adrienne Jaquith

Representing the children: Landon Gwyn

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. Brown

Reading from the Old Testament

Psalms 85:8-13

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Load-Out

Dr. Brown

The Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

The Apostles' Creed

Lindsey Odom

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

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

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

Landon Gwyn

Lord of sea and storm, of sunshine and meadow, we present these offerings as tokens of our lives in grateful praise for your love for us. Use these gifts for the ministries of hope and justice in this, your broken world. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

Hymn

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

No. 440

1 Je - sus, lov - er of my soul, let me to thy bos - om fly,
 2 Oth - er ref - uge have I none; hangs my help-less soul on thee.
 3 Thou, O Christ, art all I want; more than all in thee I find.
 4 Plen - teous grace with thee is found, grace to cov - er all my sin.

while the near - er wa - ters roll, while the temp - est still is high.
 Leave, ah! leave me not a - lone; still sup - port and com - fort me.
 Raise the fall - en, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.
 Let the heal - ing streams a - bound; make and keep me pure with - in.

Hide me, O my Sav - ior, hide, till the storm of life is past.
 All my trust on thee is stayed; all my help from thee I bring.
 Just and ho - ly is thy name; I am all un - righ - teous - ness.
 Thou of life the foun - tain art; free - ly let me take of thee.

Safe in - to the ha - ven guide. O re - ceive my soul at last!
 Cov - er my de - fense - less head with the shad - ow of thy wing.
 False and full of sin I am; thou art full of truth and grace.
 Spring thou up with - in my heart. Rise to all e - ter - ni - ty.

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

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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

Hannah Angerer, Landon Gwyn, liturgists

Clara Guzman, summer organ sidekick

Deacon/Elder of the Day: David Kinsey

Ushers: Andy Burke, Dan DeChant, Dick Engle, Richard Franseen, Frank Graham, Judy Jones

Welcome Team: Jack Hess, Kathy Rasimas

The flowers in worship this morning are given by Dann, Kayleen, Landon, and Charlotte Gwyn to the glory of God and in honor of Grant's baptism.

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).

Congregational Notes (as of August 10, 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
AUG. 13
8:00 p.m.

Become a Reading or Math Buddy for Smithfield Elementary

Learn more on this Zoom call. No prior tutoring or teaching experience needed! Please register on Realm or via the QR code. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



wednesday
AUG. 16
9:30 a.m.

Conversations with Dr. Matt Brown **Chapel 206 and Zoom**

This is a great time to join as we resume after a summer break! We will discuss the scripture for the coming week's sermon. Evening session resume date to be determined. Contact Dr. Matt Brown for the Zoom ID#, matt@smpchome.org.

thursday
AUG. 17
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. 18
7:30 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 a new book: Last Call: From Serving Drinks to Serving Jesus by Jerry Herships. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

saturday
AUG. 19
9:00 a.m.

Donate Bagged Lunches for Roof Above **Saturday, August 19**

If you're looking for a summer service opportunity the whole family can be a part of, please consider making bagged lunches for our Roof Above neighbors who are experiencing hunger and homelessness. Our next delivery date is Saturday, August 19, and we are in need of bagged lunches! Please see more details and sign up via QR code. Contact: Shelby Ullman, shelby.ullman@gmail.com.



Bagged Lunches



UPCOMING EVENTS

SMPC Youth Down on the Farm

Middle and High Schoolers

Saturday, August 26, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., the Bartholomew's House, 402 Marvin Rd, Waxhaw, NC 28173

Join us for the first SMPC Youth event of the school year! We will have a brief devotion before swimming, sand volleyball, basketball, Spikeball, cornhole, and other fun outdoor games! There will be pizza and lemonade for dinner. Please bring a lawn chair. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

All Church Serves - Sort and Pack Backpacks for Smithfield Elementary School

Sunday, August 27, 9:00 a.m., Mecklenburg Hall

Children, youth and adults are invited to sort and pack backpacks with donated supplies for Smithfield Elementary School. Light breakfast items will be served. We will bless the backpacks in worship that morning at our annual Blessing of the Backpacks. Register for the All Church Serves on Realm or via the QR code.

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 27, During 10:10 a.m. Worship

Bring your backpack for a special blessing!



Register for All
Church Serves

Ordination of Lindsey Odom

Sunday, August 27, 5:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Join us as Director of Youth Ministry and Missions/Outreach Lindsey Odom becomes an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament. Her new title at SMPC will be Associate Pastor of Youth Ministry and Missions/Outreach. Please stay for a reception following the service!

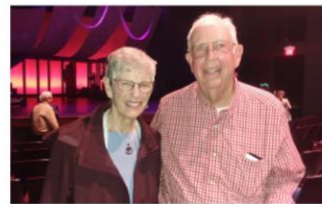


FACES OF FAITH

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 Tom Massey!

Name: Tom Massey

Family: My wife, Sarah, and I moved to Waxhaw from Clemson, SC, over twenty years ago. We're both retired Air Force, me a pilot and she a nurse. We also have a son a couple of hours away who just retired from the Army. We occasionally have one of our two granddaughters sitting in the pew with us.



Years at SMPC: We moved our church affiliation to SMPC seven years ago, and have been blessed with many new and caring friends.

How does studying the Scripture ahead of time with the pastor enrich your experience during Sunday worship? I really enjoy the Conversations with Dr. Matt Brown class on Wednesdays in which we explore the scriptures that background the next Sunday's message. It gives us an insight into Matt's mind, his personal theology and values, and his ways of thinking. It is a delight to witness the "Aha!" moments, whether by the pastor or the congregants. It is unlike any opportunity I've encountered before.

