



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 27, 2023

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *Jesus Loves Me* arr. Jason D. Payne

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

Introit *That's What Makes a Hero* VBS Participants

***Call to Worship** Evan Mangels

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth,

Many: who comes to our aid in times of need,

One: and who gives us the courage to do what we know is right.

Many: This is our wonderful and awesome God!

All: We will worship our God with joy and thankfulness! Amen.

***Hymn** *Sing Glory to the Name of God* No. 10

Unison

1 Sing glo - ry to the name of God, whose ho - ly splen - dor shines a -
 2 The name of God is full of might: re - sound - ing thun - der, flash - ing
 3 The name of God is wild and free, a - whirl in ho - ly mys - ter -
 4 May God for - ev - er be our peace; may hymns of glo - ry nev - er

Harmony *Unison*

broad.
 light. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! En - throned a - bove the
 y. A se - cret wrapped in The wil - der - ness can -
 cease: Let all the faith - ful

crash - ing waves, the God of grace and glo - ry saves.
 not con - tain the ech - oes of the great re - frain:
 smoke and fire, still chant - ed by the tem - ple choir:
 peo - ple come; sing praise to God, the Three - in - One:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia,

Unison

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dr. Whitney Bayer

Gracious God, you are always present and active amid your people. We confess that sometimes we fail to recognize and respond to your saving work in the world. We defer to power and privilege and succumb to

doubt and despair when your ways are not clear. Behold, you are doing a new thing; help us to perceive it. Forgive us when we do not respond to your call. Liberate us from our fears and self-imposed limitations. Guide us into the fullness of life and love that you are at work preparing. In Jesus' name we pray. 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. In this week's gospel, Jesus tells Peter that he is the rock upon which the church will be built. Wow! That is such a big responsibility. Many of you are starting school tomorrow, which often feels like a big responsibility, so I want to share with you what happened next. Peter did his best. Peter made mistakes. Peter learned from them and tried again. So too, will you make mistakes this school year. Remember that nobody, especially not Jesus, expects for you to be perfect.
2. Jesus asks the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Make a collage or a drawing of all the names you can think of for Jesus and the words you would use to describe Jesus. Who is Jesus to you? Hang it up somewhere to remind you that Jesus is with you as you move through this school year.
3. Make sure that you get a sticker today and put it somewhere you will see during your school day! Our stickers this year come from the book of Hebrews 13:21. Look it up! Remember that God gives you "everything good," and you ARE equipped with what you need, just because you are a child of God.
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. Why do you think Jesus wanted to know what people were saying about the Son of Man?
 - b. I wonder why Jesus asked the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?"
 - c. I wonder what we would say if Jesus asked us the question, "Who do you say that I am?"

Blessing of the Backpacks

Rebecca Guzman

As the children four years old through third grade gather for the Blessing of the Backpacks, 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.***

One: God of fresh starts and new beginnings, we bring ourselves, our big feelings, and our backpacks to you. In our backpacks, we carry blank pages, sharpened pencils and pointy crayons, and in our hearts, we carry big feelings, unanswered questions and hopeful expectations. There are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring—of what we might learn, who we might meet and who we might become.

One: God, our friend who is always with us, be with us through it all. Be with us as we ride the bus. Be with us as we walk. Be with us as we buckle seat belts, zip up jackets and tie shoes. How ever we get there, and whatever we wear, bless this journey into something new. For the grown-ups going back to school, With-Us God, be with them, too. Thank you for our teachers, helpers, caregivers and leaders and for all they do to help us learn and grow. God, our friend who is full of wonder, fill their hearts and bless their hands.

Many: God, our encourager, you have given us everything good to begin our year. Let us wake each day with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

One: God, who taught us how to be generous with our time and talents, give us hands and feet to serve you this year.

All: May we be everything good for the people we see this year! Amen.

The children will return to join their families following the sermon.

Anthem *Fairest Lord Jesus* arr. Craig Courtney
Chancel Choir; Ann Carney, piano

*Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nations, O thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.*

*Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring:*

Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.

*Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling starry host;*

*Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heaven can boast.*

*Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations! Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!*

Prayer for Illumination Dr. Brown

Reading from the Old Testament Isaiah 51: 1

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.

Reading from the Gospels Matthew 16: 13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Church

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

Festival Prelude on "Thaxted" David Howard Pettit

Kyle Gavagan, trumpet

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**

Grayson Myers

O God, you bind us together in love, to learn, to be healed, to grow, and to serve. Open our hearts to the amazing opportunities to help others through the gifts that we have given. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

*Hymn

The Church's One Foundation

No. 321

(stanzas 1-4)

1 The chur-ch's one foun-da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord.
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has un - ion with God, the Three in One,

She is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
 by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more:
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won:

From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride.
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
 And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song,
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

Commissioning of the Confirmation Class of 2024

Lindsey Odom

Lilly McAnally

One: Confirmands, we bless you on your journey and pray you will create and discover new ways of living out what it means to be faithful Christ-followers. As members of this church, we promise to guide, nurture and encourage you with love and prayer.

One: Just as we promised you in baptism, we walk alongside you on this journey. As you go through confirmation we pray that you will come to know God more fully and are able to do God's mission in the world. We speak this prayer over you:

All: Faithful and loving God, we lift up these confirmands as they seek a deeper relationship with you. We pray that they will be bold in their questions, give voice to their doubts, share their challenges and celebrate their joys. We lift up their mentors and families as they continue to nurture these youth. In response to your love, O God, we commit ourselves to journeying with these confirmands, their mentors and families. May your love continue to light the way for all of us, together. Amen.

***Charge and Benediction** Dr. Brown

***Congregational Response**

The Church's One Foundation No. 321
(stanza 5)

Postlude *Festive Postlude* 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

Evan Mangels, Lilly McAnally, Grayson Myers, liturgists

Ann Carney, piano

Kyle Gavagen, trumpet

A/V Team: Kari Case, Mary Katheryne Zagora

Deacon/Elder of the Day: Amy Zagora

Ushers: Phil Eatherton, Curtis Guy, Kara Guy, Jonathan Mangels, Evan Mangels, Carol Watkins

Welcome Team: Donna Brown, Curt Ireland, Kathy Rasimas

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](#) and Instagram: [@southmeckpres](#).

Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church? Our Session will gather to welcome new members today 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 August 24, 2023)

Remember in Prayer

- Matt and Donna Brown and their family as Matt's mother, Jeanne Brown, entered the Church triumphant on August 23.
- Nancy and Charlie Metzler and their family as Nancy's mother, Ann Hammond Long, entered the Church triumphant on August 24.
- Cathy Janney, as she undergoes surgery on Monday, August 28.
- All those affected by the wildfires in Maui.
- 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. 27

5:00 p.m.

Lindsey Odom's Ordination

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!

wednesday

AUG. 30

9:30 a.m.

Conversations with Dr. Matt Brown

Chapel 206 and Zoom

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.

friday

SEPT. 1

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 Hershops. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BAM! (Bible and Music) Kickoff

Sunday, September 10, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Narthex, Children in K-5th Grades

Join us as we kick off a new year of BAM! During BAM!, children will sing, creatively engage with Bible stories, and explore various instruments in peer age groups. Pizza will be served. Please register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

BYG (Big Youth Group)

Sunday, September 10, 5:00-6:15 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall

Middle and high schoolers are invited to join us for the first BYG of the year! In BYG, youth grow in faith and love through bible study, small group time, good food, fun games, and amazing company. Pizza will be served. Please bring some school supplies for our partner school, Smithfield Elementary School. Please register on Realm. Contact Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

A Caregiver's Journey

Tuesday, September 12, 1:00-2:30 p.m., 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.

Men's Evening Study Group

Tuesday, September 12, 7:30 p.m., 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.

OF NOTE

Attention Youth and Adult Music Ministry Members!

Rehearsals are kicking off for another year of choir and handbells. We always welcome new members! If you have not already registered, please fill out the form via the QR code our our website. Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.



Music Ministry Form

Help Those Affected by the Fires in Hawaii

We pray for the people who are affected by the fires in Hawaii. If you would like to help those in need, please consider making a donation to the Presbyterian Disaster Association's (PDA) Disaster Relief - U.S. Wildfires fund.



Donate to PDA

New Adult Study Begins September 10

Join us this fall as we walk through the Bible's earliest source for the life of Jesus – the Gospel of Mark. We will follow scholar Amy-Jill Levine as she examines John the Baptizer, the Little Apocalypse, the Transfiguration and several of Jesus's most notable stories and parables.

This six-week study, led by Melissa White and Rebecca Guzman, will meet Sundays beginning September 10 at 9:00 a.m. in the McQueen Room. Please sign up on Realm or via the QR code. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.



Register for Gospel of Mark Study

SPIRITUAL FORMATION RESOURCES

Tips For Choosing a Bible for You

Director of Spiritual Formation Rebecca Guzman is offering tips on how to choose the best Bible to fit your needs! You'll find some questions to ask yourself before purchasing a Bible, along with several recommendations depending on your answers.



What Bible Do I Buy?

Tips For Choosing a Bible for Your Child

Director of Spiritual Formation Rebecca Guzman dives into the wonderful journey of choosing the perfect Bible for your child. Scan the QR code to read the post. We encourage children to bring their Bibles to worship, too!



How to Choose a Bible for your Child

MISSIONS/OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Go to smpchome.org/serve-our-community for more info and to sign up!

Donate Bagged Lunches for Roof Above - Saturday, September 9

Desserts for Center of Hope - Sunday, September 10

Center of Hope Breakfast Donations and Servers - Saturday, September 16

Read the Fall Edition of 'South Meck Press'

The latest edition of *South Meck Press*, SMPC's printed newsletter, is also online! Simply scan the QR code or find it on smpchome.org/media. We hope to see you at worship or at one of the many events planned in the coming months. If you didn't receive the printed copy and would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org.



Fall 2023 South Meck Press



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