



A Service of Worship

14th Sunday after Pentecost

September 3, 2023

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude

Variations on "Hanover"

III. Pastorale

Michael Burkhardt

Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Dr. Whitney Bayer

Introit

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

J. M. Kraus

Call to Worship

Dr. Bayer

One: We gather hoping to see God,

Many: here in worship, we realize that we see God in one another.

One: We can see God:

Many: when we show one another honor,

One: when we pursue hospitality to strangers,

Many: when we live in harmony with one another,

One: when we rejoice in hope.

All: Let us worship the visible God amongst us.

Hymn

You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

No. 299

1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,
 2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save,
 3 "Sal - va - tion to God, who sits on the throne!"
 4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right:

and pub - lish a - broad Christ's won - der - ful name.
 he still re - mains nigh; his pres - ence we have.
 Let all cry a - loud and hon - or the Son.
 all glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might,

The name all vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex - tol,
 The great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,
 The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,
 all hon - or and bless - ing, with an - gels a - bove,

whose king - dom is glo - rious, who rules o - ver all.
 as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus our King.
 fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
 and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fi - nite love!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dr. Bayer

God of love, you ask us to love one another from the center of who we are, and you encourage us to do good. But we have not listened to your words. Instead of loving, we have practiced hatred. Instead of doing good, we have sought to get even. Forgive us for giving up. Give us grace to try again and encouragement to make your ways our ways. We pray, we wait, and we hope. 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 [this recording](#) of the hymn “Take My Life and Let It Be.” Maybe you will sing along with it, since the lyrics are included. How does the hymn relate to our scripture for the day?
2. Listen to a [readaloud](#) of *Miss Fannie’s Hat* by Jan Karon. Miss Fannie is ninety-nine years old and has lots of hats! She claims each hat is her favorite one, but when asked to part with one she learns a lesson about self-sacrifice and the joy it can bring to oneself and others. Jesus teaches us about self-sacrifice in the gospel passage for today. What does it mean to sacrifice something?
3. Make and decorate a cross. You can cut one out of construction paper or use tape to make resist art. You can make a stained glass cross with shrinking plastic (with adult help). Use what you have! Display your cross somewhere that you will see it every day to remind you that we are called to follow Jesus.
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. Jesus calls Peter a stumbling block. What is a stumbling block for you? In other words, what prevents you from fully following God?
 - b. Jesus tells us that if we want to follow him, we must lose our lives in order to save them. What do you think he means by that?
 - c. What might you have to leave behind in order to more fully follow Jesus?

Children’s Liturgy

Rebecca Guzman

As the children four years old through third grade gather for Children’s Worship, 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.***

Congregation: God be with you there.

Children: God be with you here.

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

Anthem

Christ Be My Leader

Kevin Hildebrand

Chancel Choir; Laura Schelhammer, flute

*Christ be my leader by night as by day;
safe through the darkness, for he is the Way.*

*Gladly I follow, my future his care,
darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.*

*Christ be my teacher in age as in youth,
drifting or doubting, for he is the Truth.*

*Grant me to trust him; though shifting as sand,
doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.*

*Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
death cannot hold me for he is the Life.*

*Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.*

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Lindsey Odom

Reading from the Old Testament

Psalm 105:1-6

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually. Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 16:21-28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things. Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Cross-Bearing

Rev. Odom

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.

Offertory

Amazing Grace
Laura Schelhammer, flute

arr. Anthony Evert

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.***

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Dr. Bayer

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Dr. Brown

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: **We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: **It is right to give our thanks and praise . . .**

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.

The Words of Institution

Rev. Odom

The Bread and the Cup

You are invited to come forward (see diagram), take the elements, and return to your seats. If you are not able to come forward, you will be served at your seat.

Communion of the People

The Prayer after Communion

Dr. Bayer

We Go Out to Serve

Hymn

Will You Come and Follow Me

No. 726

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F[#]m7) (G) (Asus)(A)
 Gm7 B^b Am7 B^b Csus C

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at-tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Charge and Benediction

Rev. Odom

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.

Postlude

Variations on "Hanover"

Michael Burkhardt

I: Fanfare and Chorale, V. Toccata

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Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Rev. Lindsey Odom, Associate Pastor of Youth Ministry & Missions/
 Outreach

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

Dr. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Chancel Choir

Laura Schelhammer, flute

A/V Team: Kari Case, Xander Case

Ushers: Don Ayers, Mary Elledge, Frank Graham, Judy Jones, Charlie Metzler, Linda Nagle Hanson, Don Ayers

Welcome Team: Jack Hess

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. Also, find us on Instagram: [@southmeckpres](https://www.instagram.com/southmeckpres) and Facebook: [@southmecklenburgpresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian).

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. During this time, they will explore the story interactively and engage with their peers.
- 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 September 24 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 31, 2023)

Remember in Prayer

- Blake Robertson, as he recovers from surgery.
- 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

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

wednesday
SEPT. 6
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.

sunday
SEPT. 10
9:00 a.m.

New Adult Study: The Gospel of Mark

McQueen Room

Join us this fall as we walk through the Bible's earliest source for the life of Jesus – the Gospel of Mark. This six-week study will be led by Melissa White and Rebecca Guzman. Please sign up on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

sunday
SEPT. 10
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

BAM! (Bible and Music) Fall Kickoff

Narthex, Children in K-5th Grade

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.

sunday
SEPT. 10
5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

BYG (Big Youth Group)

Mecklenburg Hall, Middle and High Schoolers

Middle and high schoolers are invited to join us for the first BYG of the year! 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

Shelter Ministry, Thursday, September 14, 9:00 a.m., 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.

Men's Breakfast Group, Thursday, September 14, 9:30 a.m., Big View Diner, 6637 Lancaster Hwy, Charlotte, NC 28277 – This group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays each month to enjoy breakfast and conversation. All are welcome. Contact: Bob Tyler, Btyler@unitedskates.com.

Save the Date!

International Dining Group, Thursday, September 21, 6:00 p.m., Waldhorn Restaurant, 12101 Lancaster Highway, Pineville, NC 28134

This group loves to eat out! All are welcome. Please note Waldhorn is limiting us to 20 reservations. | RSVP by Tuesday, September 19 to Alice Tyler

Dinner, Done! Scouts Troops 119 and 219 Annual BBQ Sale Going On Now

The best BBQ and vegetarian chili in town is right here at SMPC! Scouts Troops 119 and 219 will be selling BBQ and veggie chili in the church parking lot on:

- Sunday, September 10
- Sunday, September 17
- And online anytime!



Pickup dates and times are:

- Saturday, September 23, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- Sunday, September 24, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

MISSIONS/OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES



2023 CROP Hunger Walk Date Announced - Join the Team or Donate Now!

Each year in October, SMPC participates in the Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk with one simple mission: to raise money and awareness to alleviate hunger and poverty in our local community and overseas.

We will host our own walk on the SMPC grounds on October 22. We'll gather at 2:00 p.m. and walk at 2:30 p.m. We hope you'll join us! Contact: Bob Cushman, rtcushman@yahoo.com.

Ongoing 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

SPIRITUAL FORMATION RESOURCES

**We are building our resourced library!
Check out the latest on our website.**



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.



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