



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Scout Sunday

September 24, 2023

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *Pastorale* Edward Broughton

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Dr. Whitney Bayer

Moment for Mission Tim Morgan

Introit *The Mighty God with Power Speaks* M. Morgan

Call to Worship George Elledge

One: The presence of the Lord is here among us –

Many: protecting us, loving us, and encouraging us.

One: We come as a people of hope who seek to carry out God's vision,

Many: and to join in the work that God is doing in our world.

One: Fixing our eyes on what is true, right, and Holy,

Many: may our hearts and minds dwell in the peace that only God can provide,

All: so that we may share the good news of God with a world in need.

Hymn *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* No. 24



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi -
2 Proud - ly rise our mod - ern cit - ies, state - ly
3 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the
4 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it

(Em7) (G) (Bm) (A) (Bm) (A)
Gm7 B^b Dm C Dm C



nite in time and place, flung the suns in burn - ing
build - ings row on row. Yet their win - dows, blank, un -
child - hood of our race; known the ec - sta - sy of
chal - lenge us a - new, chil - dren of cre - a - tive

(G) (F#m) (G) (A) (D)
B^b Am B^b C F



ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space,
feel - ing, stare on can - yoned streets be - low,
wing - ing through un - trav - eled realms of space;
pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - oring you.

(D) (Bm7) (G) (Em7) (G) (F#m7)
F Dm7 B^b Gm7 B^b Am7



we, your chil - dren in your like - ness, share in - ven - tive
where the lone - ly drift un - no - ticed in the cit - y's
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield - ing un - i -
May our dreams prove rich with prom - ise, each en - deav - or

(G) (Em7) (A) (D) (Bm) (A)
B^b Gm7 C F Dm C



powers with you. Great Cre - a - tor, still cre -
ebb and flow, lost to pur - pose and to
mag - ined power, fac - ing us with life's de -
well be - gun. Great Cre - a - tor, give us

(Em7) (F#m) (G) (A) (D)
Gm7 Am B^b C F



at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
mean - ing, scarce - ly car - ing where they go.
struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dr. Bayer

You know how fickle we are, O Lord. We proclaim your presence with us and then behave in ways which run counter to your word. We get caught up in our own needs and whine about the injustices we feel in our lives. Help us to place our trust in your mercy and your

compassionate love. Forgive us when we stray from your ways and wander into paths of self-pity and self-destruction. Lift us from the chaos and put us back on track. Give us confidence in your presence and your direction throughout our lives, for we ask these things in Jesus' name (*silent confession*). 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. Finally! We get to the part in the story of Jonah today where he actually goes to Nineveh. Watch [this video](#) of the story of Jonah. What did you notice in the video that you might have missed when listening to the Bible story? What stood out to you? What do you think about this story?
2. Now that we've read most of the story, see how much you can remember. Try to retell the story in your own words. Also, check out this [word search](#), [decoder](#), and [fill in the blank](#). Maybe do a [coloring page](#) or draw the story in a comic format.
3. Make a Jonah snack using blue jello and Swedish fish! Make the jello per the package directions in clear glasses. Wait for the jello to cool (but not set) in the fridge, and then add the Swedish fish. If you do it too quickly, they'll melt! Have a snack together and talk about the story.
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. How do you think the people of Nineveh felt when Jonah came to proclaim the word of God to them?
 - b. What do you think they were doing that was so wrong?
 - c. When you have been offered grace and a second chance?

Sacrament of Baptism

Max Michael Rhodes

Son of Daniela and Jon Rhodes, brother of Ariana and Connor

Grandson of Miranda and Doug Rhodes

Representing the Session: Doug Rhodes

Representing the children: Ariana Rhodes

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. Bayer

First Readings

Dr. Bayer

Ephesians 2: 8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Colossians 3: 13

Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Anthem

Jonah!

Stephen Hopkins

Chancel Choir; Ann Carney, piano

“Jonah, Jonah. Go to Nineveh and preach my word.” “No, I won’t!”

Jonah, Jonah, Jonah prophet of the Lord.

*God called Jonah to preach to Nineveh,
to have them change their evil ways.*

But he said, “No!” and got on a sailing ship.

That’s how he tried to run away.

Jonah, Jonah, Jonah, runnin’ from the Lord.

But God knew where he was, and caused a storm to blow,

And toss the ship upon the sea.

Then Jonah said, “You’ve got to toss me out.

That’s the only way to calm the seas.”

Jonah, Jonah, Jonah brought trouble from the Lord.

God made a whale (No, it says a big fish!)

That swallowed Jonah up inside.

After three days and nights in there, he prob’bly wished that he could die.

Jonah, Jonah, Jonah, in the belly of the whale.

Then Jonah prayed: “Oh, Lord, deliver me, save me from my sinful ways.

I promise I will follow you all the rest of my days.”

Jonah, Jonah, Jonah, prayin’ to the Lord.

*God heard Jonah prayin’ for deliverance,
and gave the whale a new command.*

It wasn’t long before the whale got sick and spit him up on dry land.

“Jonah, Jonah. Go to Nineveh and preach my word.” “Yes! I will!”

Jonah, Jonah, Jonah, prophet of the Lord.

Jonah, Jonah, you can’t run away from the Lord!

Second Reading

Jonah 2: 10-3: 10

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

Then the Lord spoke to the fish, and it spewed Jonah out upon the dry land. The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you. "So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across.

Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish. "When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Who Knows?

Dr. Brown

The Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) A Declaration of Faith, Chapter 10.5

Dr. Bayer

Hope in God gives us courage for the struggle. The people of God have often misused God's promises as excuses for doing nothing about present evils. But in Christ the new world has already broken in and the old can no longer be tolerated. We know our efforts cannot bring in God's kingdom. But hope plunges us into the struggle for victories over evil that are possible now in the world, the church, and our individual lives. Hope gives us courage and energy to contend against all opposition, however invincible it may seem, for the new world and the new humanity that are surely coming.

Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord.

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

Jonah and the Whale

Tammy Waldrop

Rebecca Guzman, narration; Zach Bowyer, organ

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

Ryan Brookshire


Gracious God, we pray that these gifts may be used to uplift and to minister to those in need. We pray that our worship may always include but extend beyond our monetary donations, so that our lives themselves become an answer to your gracious call. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

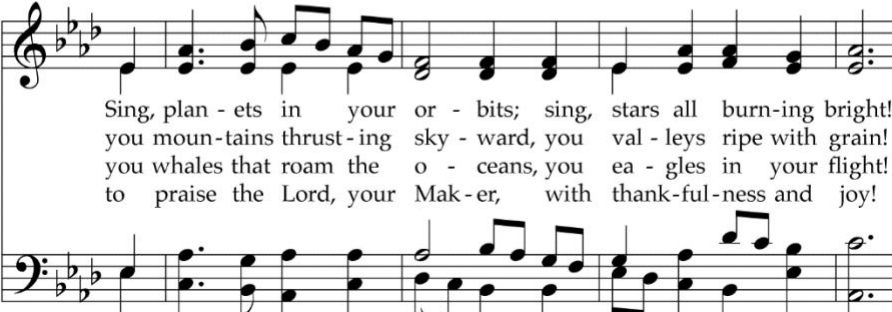
Hymn

Sing Praise to God, You Heavens!

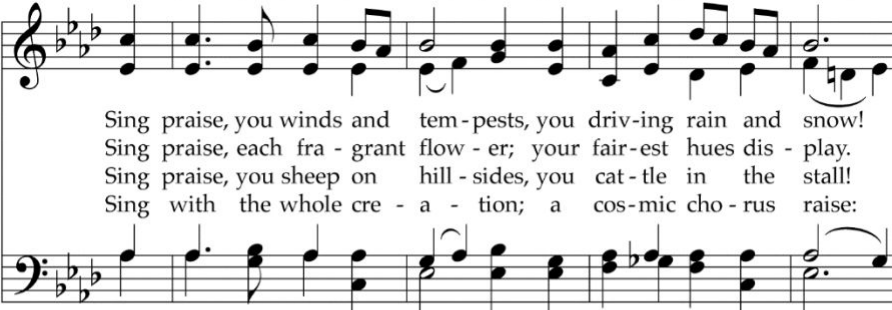
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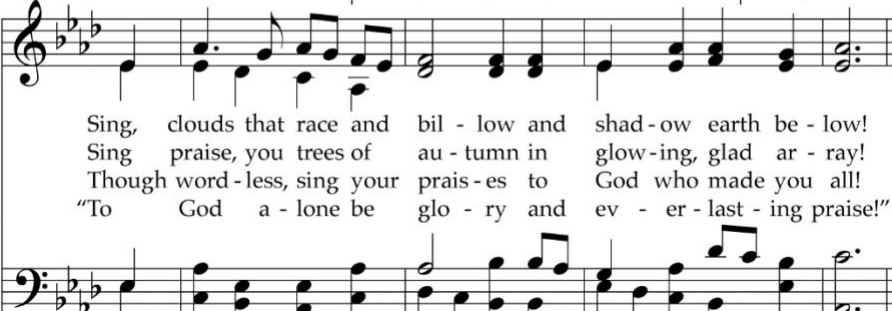
1 Sing praise to God, you heav-ens! Sing praise, each shin-ing light!
2 Sing praise, O earth, sing prais-es! Sing prais-es, hill and plain,
3 Sing prais-es, all you crea-tures in whom God takes de-light:
4 Sing prais-es now, God's peo-ple; your gift of speech em-ploy



Sing, plan-ets in your or-bits; sing, stars all burn-ing bright!
you moun-tains thrust-ing sky-ward, you val-leys ripe with grain!
you whales that roam the o-ceans, you ea-gles in your flight!
to praise the Lord, your Mak-er, with thank-ful-ness and joy!



Sing praise, you winds and tem-pests, you driv-ing rain and snow!
Sing praise, each fra-grant flow-er; your fair-est hues dis-play.
Sing praise, you sheep on hill-sides, you cat-tle in the stall!
Sing with the whole cre-a-tion; a cos-mic cho-rus raise:



Sing, clouds that race and bil-low and shad-ow earth be-low!
Sing praise, you trees of au-tumn in glow-ing, glad ar-ray!
Though word-less, sing your prais-es to God who made you all!
"To God a-lone be glo-ry and ev-er-last-ing praise!"

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.*

Postlude *Toccata on "Holy Manna"* Joel Raney

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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
Chancel Choir
Ann Carney, piano
George Elledge, Ryan Brookshire, liturgists

A/V Team: Brad Alford

Ushers: BSA Troop 119, BSA Troop 219, Pack 119

Welcome Team: BSA Troop 119, BSA Troop 219, Pack 119

The flowers in worship this morning are given by Tammy and Joel Winchip to the glory of God and in celebration and with grateful hearts for 31 years of marriage.

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).

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.
- 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 September 21, 2023)

Remember in Prayer

- Bert and Kimberly Booker and their family as Bert's father entered the Church triumphant on September 18.
- 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.

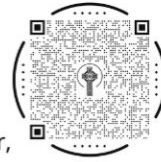
THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

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| today
SEPT. 24
8:00 p.m. -
8:30 p.m. | BAM! Bible and Music
Narthex
Children will sing, creatively engage with Bible stories, and explore various instruments in peer age groups. We end with a pizza dinner and free play time. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org. |
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| tuesday
SEPT. 26
10:00 a.m. | Handiworkers Group
Room 104, Palmer Building
Knitters, needlepointers, quilters, cross-stitchers and crocheters are invited - all levels! We meet weekly to work on projects (to keep & to donate). Contact: Judy Jameson, jgjameson@gmail.com. |
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| tuesday
SEPT. 26
7:30 p.m. | Men's Evening Study Group
Chapel 206
This group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month. We are studying the book <i>Courage</i> by Tom Berlin. Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com. |
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| wednesday
SEPT. 27
9:30 a.m. | Conversations with Matt Brown
Chapel 206 and Zoom
We will discuss the scripture for the coming week's sermon. Contact: Matt Brown for the Zoom ID#, matt@smpchome.org. |
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| thursday
SEPT. 28
9:30 a.m. | Men's Breakfast Group
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. |
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| thursday
SEPT. 28
7:30 p.m. -
8:30 p.m. | Making Space Mom's Group
Patio between Starbucks and Crumbl at Stonecrest
For moms of all ages! Drop by anytime to learn more about our study this fall and meet other moms. We'll have refreshments! Contact: Allison Reeves, allison.tarwater@gmail.com. |
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| friday
SEPT. 29
7:30 a.m. -
8:30 a.m. | Friday Morning Men's Group
Chapel 206
The next two meeting dates are Friday, September 29 and Friday, October 13. The normal first-and-third-Friday schedule will resume in November! We are reading <i>UFO of God: The Extraordinary True Story of Chris Bledsoe</i> by Chris Bledsoe. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com. |
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| saturday
SEPT. 30
4:00 p.m. -
6:00 p.m. | Hops and Vine Around Town
Middle James Brewery, 400 N. Polk Street, Suite B, Pineville
Formerly named "Hops Around Town," one of SMPC's favorite fellowship opportunities is back this fall! All are welcome! Contact: Frank Graham, Frank.Graham@forvis.com. |
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Believing and Belonging, October 1, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,

McQueen Room - For all who are considering membership and/or would like to know more about being Presbyterian and SMPC. We'll explore the history and beliefs of the Presbyterian church and how God uses our gifts to create community. Lunch and childcare provided. Register on Realm or via QR code. Contact: Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org.



BYG (Big Youth Group), October 1, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall, Middle and High Schoolers - Join us for a study, fun and fellowship. Please bring canned goods for our food drive for Loaves and Fishes. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

SMPC Field Trip to Greensboro's International Civil Rights Center & Museum, Monday, October 2, Meet in SMPC Parking Lot at 7:45 a.m., Depart at 8:00 a.m. - The museum is built

around the original F.W. Woolworth lunch counter where four Black NC A&T students protested the store's "Whites only" policy. The tour is \$20/ person and is ~ 90 minutes. Register on Realm or via QR code. Contact: Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.



BBQ Lunch on the Grounds, October 8, 11:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m.-

Join us after worship for a BBQ lunch catered by The Q Shack. We'll enjoy chicken and pork along with sides. Adults: \$12; Children ages 4 - 10: \$7; Children under 4: Free. Contact: Kathy Graham, kathyspeech@carolina.rr.com.

Lunch Bunch, Tuesday, October 10, 11:30 a.m., Ted's Montana Grill, 7404 Waverly Walk Ave. - Join friends old and new! Everyone is invited. RSVP by Saturday, October 7 to Ruth Ann Engle, raengle22@gmail.com.

Tough Topic Tuesday, Tuesday, October 10, 7:00-8:00 p.m.,

Zoom - Join us for the first Tough Topic Tuesday! We'll listen to Lisa Sharon Harper's, "Four Words That Change Everything." In memory of her great-grandmother who lived in slavery, Harper preaches the good news of God's liberation. Register on Realm or via QR code. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.



Parents' Morning Out, Saturday, October 14, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Meet in the Narthex, Ages 3-5th grade - We will play games, do crafts, watch a Bible story movie, and have a fun snack! Cost is \$10/child to cover the materials. Sign up on Realm or via QR code. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

MISSIONS/OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Friends Empowering Haiti (formerly Friends of OFCB) is raising money to purchase food for the school in Bayonnais, Haiti. The school provides lunch daily for 2,500 students on four campuses. It's often the only food the students receive that day. Donate via the QR code or under "Give" at smpchome.org. Contact: Judy Nichols, judy5cents@aol.com.



On **Sunday, October 8** at the start of worship, a rep from Ewo and Pastor Actionnel Fleurisma, founder of OFCB, will share their excitement about student sponsorships in Bayonnais, Haiti. Scan the QR code and/or please stop by the table in the narthex on Oct. 8 to learn more and prayerfully consider changing the life of a Haitian student through sponsorship. Contact: Judy Jones, judy21jones@gmail.com.

Join the 2023 CROP Hunger Walk Team or Donate Now!

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.

