



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 8, 2023

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *Fanfare and Processional* Lynn Trapp

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

Moment for Mission Actionnel Fleurisma

Introit *For the Beauty of the Earth* Conrad Kocher

Call to Worship Hunter Fant

One: The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Many: The LORD is good to all, and the Lord's mercy is over all that the Lord has made.

One: O Lord, you open your hand, you satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Many: The Lord is righteous in all the Lord's ways and kind in all the Lord's works.

One: The LORD is near to all who call on the Lord, to all who call on the Lord in truth.

All: The Lord fulfills the desire of those who fear the Lord and the Lord also hears their cry and saves them. We praise the Lord's name forever and ever!

Hymn *Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show* No. 33

1 Praise the Lord! God's glories show,
 2 Earth to heaven ex - alt the strain, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Strings and voic - es, hands and hearts,

saints with - in God's courts be - low,
 Send it, heaven, to earth a - gain, Al - le - lu - ia!
 in the con - cert, bear your parts,

an - gels round the throne a - bove,
 Age to age, God's mer - cies trace, Al - le - lu - ia!
 All that breathes, your Lord a - dore,

all who see and share God's love.
 Praise God's prov - i - dence and grace! Al - le - lu - ia!
 sing - ing praise for - ev - er - more,

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dr. Whitney Bayer

Merciful God, we confess that our confidence is often misplaced. We put our confidence in our abilities rather than in your love. We put our confidence in our belongings rather than in your generosity. We put our confidence in ourselves rather than in you. Forgive us for our misgivings. Redirect us according to your Spirit and your will. Help us to follow your ways and find our freedom in your heavenly calling.

Open us to new levels of trust and joy as we press on towards your goal. In Christ's name, 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. Today is a special day for our congregation because some of our friends from Haiti have joined us for worship. Our church has a special relationship with a school and church in Bayonnais, Haiti. Before worship, we watched a slideshow that gave us a lot of information about this relationship. If you are worshipping online and missed the slideshow, click [this link](#) to watch it.
2. One of our goals for today is to get more sponsors for children at the school. Sponsors provide money each month that pays for the student's education, meals, and a school uniform. It even gives them access to a medical clinic if needed. When you sponsor a child, you also send letters back and forth. One of the children in our congregation whose family sponsors a child says this about it, "It is nice to be able to help people and do something good. I like getting letters and learning more about her life in Haiti." If you already sponsor a child, you can write a letter at a station in the narthex today or [go to the website](#) if you are worshipping online.
3. Learn more about Haiti on the [Nat Geo Kids website](#). How do you think life in Haiti is similar to our lives? How do you think it is different? How do you think God feels about people in other countries? How do you think God wants us to feel?
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. When you do something good for someone else, it makes you feel good. But what else happens? Do you learn and grow from the other person? Do you think you end up giving or receiving more?
 - b. What does the Bible say about sharing what we have with those who need it? What examples does Jesus set for us?
 - c. How can you share this week?

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.

Prayer for Illumination

Dr. Bayer

First Reading

Colossians 3: 12-15

Dr. Bayer

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 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. Above

all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Anthem

Joy in the Morning

Natalie Sleeth

Chancel Choir

*There'll be joy in the morning on that day,
For the daylight will dawn, when the darkness is gone,
There'll be joy in the morning on that day.
There'll be peace and contentment evermore,
Every heart, every voice will together rejoice,
There'll be peace and contentment evermore.
And the glory of the Lord will shine, shine upon us.
And the glory of the Lord will bring the truth divine.
There'll be love and forgiveness everywhere,
And the way of the Lord will that day be restored;
There'll be love and forgiveness everywhere.
There'll be love and forgiveness, there'll be peace and contentment,
There'll be joy!*

Second Reading

Jonah 3: 10- 4: 11

Dr. Brown

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. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about

Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Can't Get No Satisfaction Dr. Brown

The Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) Confession of Belhar, 10.3
Rev. Lindsey Odom

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;

We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain;

We believe that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer Rev. 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 *Santo* Mark Burrows
Jubilate Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano; Kyle Gavagan, percussion

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 Sumner Martin

Almighty and merciful God, from whom comes all that is good, we praise you for your mercies, for your goodness that has created us, and for your grace and love that has sustained us. Help us to love you

and to be thankful for all your gifts by serving you and delighting to do your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

Hymn

God of the Sparrow

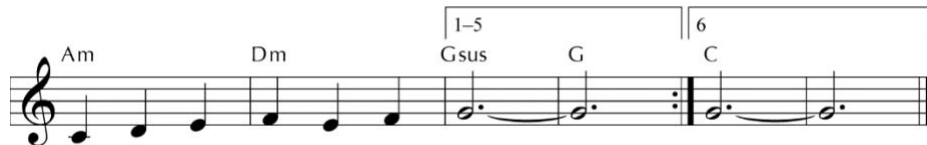
No. 22



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe God of the
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the



swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say Awe
 trum - pet blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe
 emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say Grace
 prod - i - gal How does the crea - ture say Care
 prun - ing hook How does the crea - ture say Love
 lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say Joy



How does the crea - ture say Praise
 How does the crea - ture cry Save
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks
 How does the crea - ture say Life
 How does the crea - ture say Peace
 How do your chil - dren sav Home

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

Postlude on "Old Hundredth"

Fred Bock

Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

Dr. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor

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

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Chancel Choir
Jubilate Choir
Blythe Kinsey, piano
Kyle Gavagan, percussion
Hunter Fant, Sumner Martin, liturgists

Acolyte: Oliver Bayer

A/V Team: Mary Katheryne Zagora, Michael Zagora

Ushers: Andy Burke, Richard Franseen, Frank Graham, Curt Ireland, Tom Klecker, Gwen Volker

Welcome Team: Donna Brown, Jack Hess

In lieu of flowers, a donation has been made to the Sanctuary Fund by Marge Kruse to the glory of God and in memory of her late husband, Dick Kruse.

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 October 5, 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

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

today

OCT. 8

5:00 p.m. -
6:30 p.m.

BAM! Bible and Music

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.

today

OCT. 8

5:00 p.m.
-6:30 p.m.

Youth Kickball and Fellowship Night

Mecklenburg Hall, Middle and High Schoolers

Please join us for kickball, ice-cream treats, fellowship and fun! Please register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

tuesday

OCT. 10

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.

tuesday

OCT. 10

11:30 a.m.

Lunch Bunch

Ted's Montana Grill, 7404 Waverly Walk Ave

Join friends old and new! Everyone is invited. RSVP by today, October 8 to Ruth Ann Engle, raengle22@gmail.com.

tuesday

OCT. 10

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

A Caregiver's Journey

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: Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.

tuesday

OCT. 10

7:00 p.m. -
8:00 p.m.

Tough Topic Tuesday

Zoom

Join us for the first Tough Topic Tuesday! We'll listen to Lisa Sharon Harper's, "Four Words That Change Everything." Please register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

tuesday

OCT. 10

7:30 p.m.

Men's Evening Study Group

Chapel 206

Men's Evening Study Group, Tuesday, October 10, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Chapel 206 - This group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month. We are studying the book *Courage* by Tom Berlin. Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

wednesday

OCT. 11

9:30 a.m.

Conversations with Matt Brown

McQueen Room and Zoom

We will discuss the scripture for the coming week's sermon. Contact: Matt Brown for the Zoom ID#, matt@smpchome.org.

THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

thursday
OCT. 12
9:00 a.m.

Shelter Ministry
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, morganc43@aol.com.

thursday
OCT. 12
9:30 a.m.

Men's Breakfast Group
Big View Diner, 6637 Lancaster Hwy, Charlotte, NC

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.

thursday
OCT. 12
7:30 p.m.

Making Space Mom's Group
Chapel 206

Moms of all ages are invited to join us for conversation and fellowship! Contact: Allison Reeves, allison.tarwater@gmail.com.

friday
OCT. 12
7:30 p.m.

Friday Morning Men's Group
Chapel 206

This group normally meets on the first and third Fridays of each month, but is meeting Friday, October 13. Its normal schedule will resume in November! We are reading *UFO of God: The Extraordinary True Story of Chris Bledsoe* by Chris Bledsoe. | Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

saturday
OCT. 14
9:00 a.m.

Parents' Morning Out
Meet in the Narthex, Ages 3-5th grade

We will play games, do crafts, watch a Bible story movie, and have a fun snack! The cost is \$10/child to cover the materials. Register on Realm or with QR code. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

International Dining Group, Thursday, October 19, 6:00 p.m., Punta Cana Grill, 5230 South Blvd. - This group loves to eat out! All are welcome. Please RSVP to Alice Tyler, rrt1317@aol.com by Monday, October 16.

JOIN THE MEAL MINISTRY!

The SMPC Meal Ministry delivers meals to church members in need. We are looking for more volunteers! You don't have to be a five-star chef and there is a lot of flexibility with this service opportunity. For more information please contact Amy Zagora, amyzagora@gmail.com.

MISSIONS/OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Friends Empowering Haiti (formerly Friends of OFCB) is raising money to purchase food for the school in Bayonnais, Haiti. Scan QR code for more.



Scan the QR code and/or please stop by the table in the narthex today 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.

