



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 2023

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* Dieterich Buxtehude

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Rev. Lindsey Odom

Moment for Stewardship David Wooley

Introit *What Is This Place* Bernard Huijbers

***Call to Worship** Camdyn Sheeler

One: The earth has its kings, queens, rulers, presidents, but God is ruler of all.

Many: In God we live, move, and have our being.

One: God requires our faithfulness and our service.

Many: We reach out to others with the same kind of love with which God has touched our lives.

One: Come, let us worship the Lord who is always with us.

All: Let us praise God who walks daily by our side.

***Hymn** *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!* No. 305

1 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
 2 Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns su - preme,
 3 Let cour - age be our friend; let wis - dom be our guide,
 4 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has led us through the a - ges long!
 em - power - ing us to catch the vi - sion, dream the dream!
 as we in mis - sion mag - ni - fy the Cru - ci - fied!
 For Christ the Lord has tri - umphed o'er the a - ges long!

In bold ac - cord, come cel - e - brate the jour - ney now and praise the Lord!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dr. Whitney Bayer

God of perfect love, you continually bring forth life, transforming sadness to joy, and despair to hope. We are weak, but you are strong. Our ways are flawed, but your ways are true. Forgive us, redeem us, transform us. Take away the sin that burdens us, and restore us to the people you would have us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. 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 the passage today, some people ask Jesus a tricky question, and he responds by asking them to look at their coins. If you are worshiping from home, maybe you can look at some of your coins. Who or what do you see on the coins? Ask an adult for some help. Why do you think those images are on the coins? If God had a coin, what image would be on it?

2. [Color a page](#) with today's verse on it, and while you are coloring, consider what it means to give to God what is God's. What does belong to God?
3. Listen to a [readaloud](#) of *A Chair for My Mother* by Vera B. Williams. In the book, the girl learns an important lesson about what is really important, and she also makes sacrifices for someone that she loves. Jesus teaches us that people are always more important than money, and that everything and everyone belongs to God. How do you see this illustrated in the story?
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. Why do you think the people were trying to trick Jesus into answering a tricky question?
 - b. I wonder what Jesus meant when he said, "give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's."
 - c. I wonder what Jesus meant when he said give "to God the things that are God's"?
 - d. How do you think we do give to God?

Children's Liturgy

Rebecca Guzman

***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.

Prayer for Illumination

Dr. Bayer

First Reading

Psalm 96

Dr. Bayer

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth. Say among the nations, "The Lord is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity." Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

Anthem

How Can I Keep from Singing?

Jeffrey Honoré

Chancel Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano

*My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.
I hear the real though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It sounds and echoes in my soul. How can I keep from singing?
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?*

Second Reading Matthew 22: 15-22 Dr. Matthew S. Brown

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Gotcha? Nope. Dr. Brown

***The Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) The Apostles' Creed
Rev. 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 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 *Adagio on Beach Spring* John Karl Hirten

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**

Ava Hope

O God, we are reminded today of the cost of discipleship. Nothing less than our whole life is required. We dedicate these gifts in response to Christ's call, and offer ourselves in full commitment. Take us and mold us to honor and obey you, O God, and to serve you with all that you have blessed us with. We pray that which we give today will reflect your love, justice, and peace. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn**

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

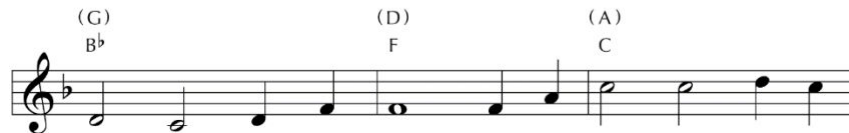
No. 716



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your



end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly
Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es
grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to



cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn
joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in



to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall
la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,
shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,



rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

*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

Darwall's 148th

Barbara Harbach

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

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Chancel Choir

Ann Carney, organist

Camdyn Sheeler, Ava Hope, liturgists

Acolyte: Daniel Lee

A/V Team: Chris Wilcox, Joe Wilcox

Ushers: Andrew Brown, Dan DeChant, Dick Engle, Charlie Metzler, Jon Myers, Carol Watkins

Welcome Team: Donna Brown, Micheal and Blair Choren, Leanne, Jake and Kyle Royster

The flowers in worship this morning are given by Freda and Al Smith to the glory of God and in loving memory of their beloved grandson, Alec Ostendarp.

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



Thursday email
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](#).

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 301 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 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 October 19, 2023)

Remember in Prayer

- Freda and Al Smith and family as their grandson, Alec Ostendarp, entered the Church triumphant on October 10.
- Bill Amacher, as he recovers from surgery.
- All those caught in the crossfire of warfare in Israel and Gaza.
- 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.

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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!

2024 Operating Fund Campaign: Everything Good

At SMPC, we rejoice in the gifts God has given and strive to respond with intention through worship, connection and service. Over the next few weeks, we hope you'll join us in person during our 10:10 a.m. worship services or via livestream to see and hear how your pledge makes a difference. Commitment Sunday is November 5. Make a pledge by returning a pledge card or by scanning the QR code.



THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today
OCT. 22
2:30 p.m.

2023 CROP Hunger Walk

Start at SMPC

We'll gather at 2:00 p.m. and walk at 2:30 p.m. We hope you'll join us! Sign up for the walk and/or donate via the QR code. Contact: Bob Cushman, rtcushman@yahoo.com.



today
OCT. 22
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.

tuesday
OCT. 24
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. 24
7:00 p.m. -
8:00 p.m.

Tough Topic Tuesday

Zoom

Join us for the second Tough Topic Tuesday! We will listen as Dr. Kristin Du Mez describes her process of studying the history of White evangelicalism for her best-selling book, *Jesus and John Wayne*. Please register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

tuesday
OCT. 24
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 *Courage* by Tom Berlin. Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

wednesday
OCT. 25
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. 26
9:30 a.m.

Men's Breakfast Group

Big View Diner, 6637 Lancaster Hwy

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. 26
7:30 p.m.

Making Space Mom's Group

Chapel 206

It's our second session of Bible Stories for Grownups. Moms of all ages are invited to join us! Contact: Allison Reeves,

allison.tarwater@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

New! Adult Bible Study: Reading the Bible Amid the Israeli-Palestine Conflict, Begins Sunday, October 29, 9:00 a.m., McQueen Room – Over the course of four weeks, we will study the book, *Chosen?: Reading the Bible Amid the Israeli-Palestine Conflict* by Walter Bruggeman. Find more details and register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smcphome.org.

SMPC Youth Halloween Party and Bonfire Night, Sunday, October 29, 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall, Middle and High Schoolers

We'll have a costume contest, fun Halloween-themed games, and a bonfire with S'mores. Dress up and bring a friend! Please register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

Friday Morning Men's Group, Friday, November 3, 7:30-8:30 a.m., Chapel 206 -

We are reading the book, *UFO of God: The Extraordinary True Story of Chris Bledsoe* by Chris Bledsoe. All are welcome. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

American Red Cross Blood Drive, Saturday, November 4, 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall - Please bring your donor I.D.

card or driver's license. Sign up via QR code or at <https://smpchome.org/serve-our-community>. Contact: Tierra Sandeen, tierrad@hotmail.com.



Blessing of the Animals, Sunday, November 5, 3:30-4:00 p.m., In front of the Palmer Building - Please make sure pets are comfortable in social settings and are leashed or in a crate. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

JOIN THE FESTIVAL OF CAROLS CHOIR

If you would like to participate in our Festival of Carols Choir on December 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, we would love to have you! No prior experience or Chancel Choir participation is necessary. We just ask that you attend the first half hour of Chancel Choir rehearsals (7-7:30 p.m.) on Wednesdays. Contact: Zach Bowyer: zach@smpchome.org.

SUPPORT OUR MISSION IN HAITI

Friends Empowering Haiti (formerly Friends of OFCB) is raising money to purchase food for the school in Bayonnais, Haiti. Scan QR code for more. Contact: Judy and Dave Nichols, judy5cents@aol.com.



We are over halfway to our goal of sponsoring 20 additional Haitian students. We would love your help! Please prayerfully consider changing a life through sponsorship. Scan the QR code for more information. Contact: Judy Jones, judy21jones@gmail.com.