



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

October 29, 2023

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *Introduction and March on "Lauda Anima"* Brenda Portman

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

Moment for Stewardship Lisa Kuszmar

Introit *How Very Good and Pleasant* Barbara Boertje

***Call to Worship** Clara Guzman

One: We often want to have our own way in all that we do.

Many: Remind us, Lord, that we are called to be your disciples.

One: Our lives shall be witnesses to the love of God, which has been poured upon us.

Many: Help us, O Lord, to witness to you by the ways in which we care for our neighbors.

One: Help us, O Lord, to do what is pleasing in your sight, both now and forever.

All: Let us bring all that we have and all that we are to God in gratitude.

***Hymn** *Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven* No. 620

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his
 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his
 3 Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; well our
 4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be -

feet your trib - ute bring; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for -
 peo - ple in dis - tress; praise him still the same as
 fee - ble frame he knows; in his hands he gent - ly
 hold him face to face. Sun and moon, bow down be -

giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia!
 ev - er, slow to chide, and swift to bless: Al - le - lu - ia!
 bears us, res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia!
 fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Lindsey Odom

Holy God, giver of all blessings, we thank you for the mercies we know, and ask for your forgiveness when we fail to acknowledge you as the source of all good. Sometimes we carry on our lives as if there is no God. We do not always live as we ought. We turn away from God, from our neighbors, and from our true selves. Help us, we pray, that we can see the world with new and gracious eyes, so that we can pursue everything good. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Rev. Odom

***Response of Praise**

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

No. 582

(first stanza twice: 1st time choir, 2nd time all)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,

*and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

We Hear and Respond to the Word

Church Family Moment

Rebecca Guzman

1. Our scripture today reminds us that everything good comes from God. We're about to enter a season when lots of people are focused on gratitude, so why not start today? What gifts from God are you thankful for? Think past the normal family and friends—what little things are you grateful for? What things about your community, your country, the world?
2. Listen and sing along with [this music video](#) for “Everything Good.” (Please note that it does have some animated images of the crucifixion, so you can minimize the screen if you prefer.) What does it mean that everything good comes from God? Which of the things named stood out to you?
3. Part of “everything good” is our church family. [Here is a coloring page](#) that says, “I Love My Church.” What do you love about your church? Remember—a church is not just a building, it's the people who make up the church community.
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. What are you grateful for?
 - b. How do we show our gratitude to God?
 - c. The scripture doesn't just say that everything good comes from God. It also says that we are given everything good so that we have what we need to do God's will. What does that mean to you?

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

Rev. Odom

First Reading

Romans 12: 2, 9, 21

Rev. Odom

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good.

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Anthem *Behold, How Good* Michael John Trotta
Chancel Choir; Lori Schellin, soloist
*Behold, how good, behold, how wonderful,
Behold, how pleasant to dwell in harmony.
Behold, how pleasant for all of us to dwell in harmony,
Together all as one.
From one he made all nations to live on all the earth.
In one we move and have our being, our life, our strength.
Behold, how good. Behold.*

Second Reading Hebrews 13: 20-21 Dr. Brown
Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.
One: This is the word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Everything Good Dr. Brown

***The Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) The Confession of 1967 - 9.23
Dr. Whitney Bayer
The new life does not release people from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, and fear. They still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as they mature in love and faithfulness in their life with Christ, they live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

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 *Festive Praise* Susan Geschke
Exultate Ringers

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**

Owen Conerly

God of Peace, we are confronted with so many overwhelming needs in our world. Walk with us as we set aside our own desires and wants and join the call to alleviate the injustice of our world. Transform these monetary gifts into genuine acts of love and ministry to our neighbors, and help us to do what is pleasing in your sight. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn**

Lord of All Good

No. 711

1 Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to you;
2 We give our minds to un - der - stand your ways;
3 Fa - ther, whose boun - ty all cre - a - tion shows;

use them your ho - ly pur - pose to ful - fill,
hands, eyes, and voice to serve your great de - sign;
Christ, by whose will - ing sac - ri - fice we live;

to - kens of love and pledg - es brought a - new,
heart with the flame of your own love a - blaze,
Spir - it, from whom all life in full - ness flows:

that our whole life is of - fered to your will.
till for your glo - ry all our powers com - bine.
to you with grate - ful hearts our - selves we give.

***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

J. N. Lemmens

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

Exultate Ringers

Lori Schellin, soloist

Clara Guzman, Owen Conerly, liturgists

A/V Team: Kari Case, Xander Case

Deacon/Elder of the Day: Kari Wooley

Ushers: Bob Cushman, George Elledge, Mary Elledge, Brett Thompson, Linda Thompson, Jim Williams

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 Sunday, November 19 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 26, 2023)

Remember in Prayer

- 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. Your pledge supports our ministries and programs and makes a difference in our faith community and world. 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. 29
5:00 p.m. -
6:30 p.m.

SMPC Youth Halloween Party and Bonfire Night
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.

tuesday
OCT. 31
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.

wednesday
NOV. 1
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.

friday
NOV. 3
7:30 a.m. -
8:30 a.m.

Friday Morning Men's Group
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.

saturday
NOV. 4
8:00 a.m. -
12:30 p.m.

American Red Cross Blood Drive
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.



sunday
NOV. 5
9:00 a.m.

New! Adult Bible Study: Reading the Bible Amid the Israeli-Palestine Conflict

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.

THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

sunday
nov. 5
3:30 p.m. -
4:00 p.m.

Blessing of the Animals
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.

sunday
nov. 5
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.

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

BYG (Big Youth Group)
Mecklenburg Hall, Middle and High Schoolers
We will grow in our faith and love through Bible study, small group time, good food, fun games and amazing company. Please bring canned goods for Thanksgiving meal kits for Smithfield Elementary. More information and register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tough Topic Tuesday, Tuesday, November 7, 7:00-8:00 p.m., Zoom - We will listen to Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes as she draws on her experience as a clinical psychologist and professor of practical theology to diagnose whiteness as the hidden wound that lies at the heart of racism and racial injustice. Please register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

Shelter Ministry, Thursday, November 9, 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, morganc43@aol.com.

Hops and Vine Around Town, Saturday, November 11, 4:00-6:00 p.m., Seaboard Brewing, Taproom and Wine Room, 213 N Trade St, Matthews - All are welcome! Contact: Frank Graham, fgraham@carolina.rr.com.

Intergenerational Mission Project, Sunday, November 12, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall - All ages welcome! We will make Thanksgiving meal kits for Smithfield Elementary School students and their families. Please register on Realm. 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.

