



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

All Saints' Sunday

Commitment Sunday

November 5, 2023

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *Hymn to Joy* Michael Burkhardt

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Dr. Whitney Bayer

Moment for Stewardship Michael Choren

Introit *How Very Good and Pleasant* Barbara Boertje

***Call to Worship** Dr. Bayer

One: Come, all who are weary from the past week.

Many: We come seeking rest; we come seeking comfort.

One: Come, all who are in need of inspiration for the week ahead.

Many: We come seeking God's truth, word and worship that will set us on the faithful path.

One: Come, all who are humble, open and ready to learn.

All: We come as disciples, ready to listen and learn.

***Hymn** *For All the Saints* No. 326



1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
 3 O blest communion, fellowship divine!
 4 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
 5 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through
 thee by faith before the world confessed, thy
 thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
 We feebly struggle; they in glory shine; yet
 steals on the ear the distant triumph song, and
 gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
 name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
 thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
 all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
 sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dr. Bayer

God our teacher, we often exalt ourselves while evaluating and judging others. We assume too much and don't invest enough in listening, learning and seeking to understand. You call us to humility, yet we resist, puffing ourselves up with prideful arrogance and rigid certainty. Forgive us, soften our hearts and open our minds to all we have yet to learn. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Dr. Bayer

***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. [Listen to a readaloud](#) of *The Tower* by Richard Paul Evans. In our Scripture today, Jesus tells some people that he doesn't like when they act like showoffs. Instead, he wants us to be humble. In *The Tower*, a boy learns a similar lesson—that being the greatest isn't

about being the tallest or the most famous, but about truly seeing and loving others.

2. Do you know what the word disciple means? It means a person who listens in order to learn. Jesus wants us all to be disciples of God, to listen to God in order to learn what God has called us to do, to learn how we can be a servant in the world, and to learn who God has made us to be. Use this printable to create a picture of yourself as a disciple. Before you create, think about what a disciple might look like.
3. Today is also All Saints' Day and Communion Sunday. Look at [this piece of art](#) by Jan Richardson called "The Best Supper." What makes each figure unique? What holds the people together? What do they share and what do they gain from being together at the table?
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. I wonder what Jesus is trying to say to the crowds and disciples.
 - b. I wonder what those around him thought of his message.
 - c. I wonder if you have ever known someone who gives all the hard work to others while sitting by and not doing anything. How did that feel?

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

Micah 3: 5-7

Dr. Bayer

Thus says the Lord concerning the prophets who lead my people astray, who cry "Peace" when they have something to eat, but declare war against those who put nothing into their mouths. Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision, and darkness to you, without revelation. The sun shall go down upon the prophets, and the day shall be black over them; the seers shall be disgraced, and the diviners put to shame; they shall all cover their lips, for there is no answer from God.

Anthem

Lift Your Voice and Sing

Mary McDonald

Chancel Choir; Alleluia Choir; Hosanna Choir
Festival Brass; Ann Carney, organ; Blythe Kinsey, piano

Lift your voice and sing loud praise to Christ, our King.

Lift your voice and sing: Alleluia!

Come, Christians, joined to sing: Alleluia! Amen!

Lift praises to our King: Alleluia! Amen!

ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offertory *Mungu ni Mwema* arr. Mark Burrows
Hosanna and Alleluia Choirs; Blythe Kinsey, piano; ???, 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 Commitment Dr. Brown

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table Rev. Odom

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer Dr. Bayer

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

The Bread and the Cup

You are invited to come forward (see diagram), take the elements, and return to your seat. Remove the wafer on the bottom of the cup before opening the juice. If you are not able to come forward, you will be served at your seat.

Communion of the People

The Prayer after Communion Dr. Brown

We Go Out to Serve

*Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

No. 611

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee; earth and heaven re-flect thy rays;
 3 Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan.

Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, o-pening to the sun a-bove.
 stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.
 Love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, join-ing all in heav-en's plan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a-way.
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Ev-er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of strife.

Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re-joice in thee.
 Joy-ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

*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 "Hymn to Joy"

Paul Fey

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Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

Dr. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor

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

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Chancel Choir

Alleluia Choir

Hosanna Choir

Festival Brass: Justin Austenfeld, Rosy Faires, Kyle Gavagan, Andrew

Sokolowski

Ann Carney, organ

Blythe Kinsey, piano

Acolyte: Miles Ullman

A/V Team: Michael Zagora, Mary Katheryne Zagora

Deacon/Elder of the Day:

Ushers: Curt Ireland, Tom Klecker, Judy Jones, Jon Myers, Craig Parrish,

David Wooley

Welcome Team: Dick Engle, Terry Gaines, Brent McAnally, Amy Zagora,

Karen Sandeen, Paxtyn Sandeen, Kennedy Colson

The flowers in worship this morning are given by Dana and Wells Hefner to the glory of God and in loving memory of Tim Hefner and Tim Braswell.

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).

Congregational Notes (as of November 2, 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.



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 Today is Commitment Sunday

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. Make a pledge by returning a pledge card or by scanning the QR code. Join us for cake in the narthex after worship!



THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today
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.

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

Tough Topic Tuesday
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.

wednesday
NOV. 8
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
NOV. 9
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
NOV. 9
9:30 a.m.

Men's Breakfast Group
Big View Diner, 6637 Lancaster Hwy, Charlotte
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
NOV. 9
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.

saturday
NOV. 11
4:00 p.m. -
6:00 p.m.

Hops and Vine Around Town
Seaboard Brewing, Taproom and Wine Room, 213 N Trade St, Matthews
All are welcome! Contact: Frank Graham, fgraham@carolina.rr.com.

sunday
NOV. 12
9:00 a.m.

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.

sunday
NOV. 12
5:00 p.m. -
6:30 p.m.

Intergenerational Mission Project
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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A Caregiver's Journey, Tuesday, November 14, 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: Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.

Men's Evening Study Group, Tuesday, November 14, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Open Tap, 5010 Carmel Rd. - Join us for our fall social! This group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month and welcomes new members any time. Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

Food for Thought Book Group, Thursday, November 16, 12:30 p.m., McQueen Room - We are celebrating author Charles Martin's birthday! Read any Charles Martin book. All are welcome. Contact: Kathy Paquette, khesspaquette@aol.com.

