



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Christ the King Sunday

November 26, 2023

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *Partita on "Lasst Uns Erfreuen": V. Reflection* C. Callahan

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

Introit *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!* J. M. Kraus

***Call to Worship** Jordan Booker

One: We come, for God gathers us here, with this community of faith,

Many: where the hungry are served first, and where the thirsty drink life's water.

One: We come, for God welcomes us here in a spirit of grace and hospitality,

Many: where the naked are clothed, and where the stranger is embraced.

One: We come, for God reunites us here, sisters and brothers, in this family of faith called love,

Many: where the imprisoned model justice, and where the sick are cradled in God's peace.

All: We are called to receive God's love and reach out in compassion to others.

***Hymn** *All Creatures of Our God and King* No. 15
(stanzas 1 - 4)

Unison

1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice
 2 O broth - er wind with clouds and rain, you nur - ture gifts
 3 O broth - er fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shad -
 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain

Harmony

and with us sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 of fruit and grain. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 ows of the night. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 or sor - row grieve, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison

O broth - er sun with gold - en beam, O sis - ter moon
 O sis - ter wa - ter, flow - ing clear, make mu - sic for
 Dear moth - er earth, who day by day un - folds such bless -
 Christ bears your bur - dens and your fears; so, e - ven in

with sil - ver gleam, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 your Lord to hear. Sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 ings on our way, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 the midst of tears, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dr. Brown

Merciful God, we sing to Jesus as our king, and we declare Jesus as our Lord, and yet you know, though we are slow to confess, that our

loyalties remain divided. Our idols are many, both human and inanimate, both institutional and material, both political and trendy. We grant them authority over us and provide vast warehouse space for them in our hearts and minds. Forgive us, Lord, for allowing our idols to displace our worship and faithfulness, our service and priorities. Renew our attentiveness to your presence and your purposes. May we approach all people and all things through the lens of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Hear us now, as in silence we lift to you that which weighs upon our hearts... Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Dr. Brown

*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 today's sermon, Lindsey will ask you to think about your "unicorn" church. [This book](#), *A Church for All*, by Gayle Pittman might have some ideas for you about your unicorn church. It certainly does for me! [Here](#) is another book that has wonderful thoughts about what it means to be the church.
2. Look at [this](#) piece of art. Today's scripture invites us to see the face of Christ in each person we meet. Methodist minister/artist Jan Richardson created "Christ in the Scraps" from scraps of paper she had tossed aside while working on other projects. Find the face in this piece of art. Can it sometimes be hard to find the face of Christ in the world around us? What does it mean that the artist created this piece out of scraps? You can read about how she created it [here](#).
3. Today is Christ the King Sunday! It is the last Sunday before Advent, and a new church year, begins. What does it mean to say that Jesus is king? What kind of king do you think Jesus is? Print and color [this page](#) while you ponder the meaning.
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. What do you remember about the story today?
 - b. What message do you think Jesus was trying to get across?
 - c. I wonder what it meant when Jesus said, "just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." What do you think?

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. Brown

First Reading

Psalm 100: 1-5

Dr. Brown

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Anthem

Christ the Center

Andrew Bruhn

Chancel Choir

*Christ the center, Christ the circle, faith the trusting in the storm;
Christ the center, Christ the circle, faith will save us from all harm.
Oh, the wonder of the circle, grace and mercy, peace abound.
Christ will draw us in a circle and with grace our faith surround.
Oh, the wonder of the circle, messianic rose of peace,
Christ the blossom in the center: Peace, be still! Our faith increase!
Christ the radius of living, Christ the middle, Christ around:
God, awaken our forgiving, that the life of Christ abound.
Christ the center, Christ the circle, faith will hold us when we fall;
Christ the center, Christ the circle, faith the gift and faith the call. Amen!*

Second Reading

Matthew 25: 31-46

Rev. Lindsey Odom

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?"

And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

"One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon For the sake of our young people, Rev. Odom
let's live into Matthew 25

***The Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) The Apostles' Creed

Dr. Brown

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 Dr. Brown

. . . (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 *Give Me Jesus* arr. Ruth Elaine Schram
Joanna Alford, soprano; Zach Bowyer, baritone

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** Dr. Brown

Wonderful God, we give you thanks and praise. You have created us in your own image. You have claimed us as your beloved people. You have called us to be a blessing for others. Use the gifts of your good creation and the works of our hands to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, invite the stranger in, clothe the naked, take care of the sick, and visit the imprisoned, so that we can break down dividing walls and build up your church, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

*Hymn

Crown Him with Many Crowns

No. 268

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;

hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 but down-ward bends his burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Odom

*Congregational Response

All Creatures of Our God and King

No. 15

(stanza 6)

*O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart.*

Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude *Festive Voluntary on "Lasst Uns Erfreuen"* Phil Lehenbauer

Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, 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

Joanna Alford, soloist

Jordan Booker, liturgist

Acolytes: Claire Overcash, Olivia Overcash

A/V Team: Chris Wilcox, Joe Wilcox

Ushers: Mitchell Davis, Jenny Gates, Jonathan Mangels, Evan Mangels, Charlie Metzler, David Wooley

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](#) and Instagram: [@southmeckpres](#).

Congregational Notes (as of November 22, 2023)

Remember in Prayer

- Ryan Brookshire, 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

We are currently at 92.3% of our campaign goal - this is a great start! Thank you to the 250 families who have already made a financial commitment for 2024. If you have not had a chance to make a pledge, you can make one online via the QR code or contact Mary Katheryne Zagora, mkzagora@smpchome.org.



THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

tuesday
NOV. 28
10:00 a.m.

Handiworkers Group
Room 104, Palmer Building
Knitters, needlepointers, quilters, cross-stitchers and crocheters are invited - all levels! Contact: Judy Jameson, jgjameson@gmail.com.

tuesday
NOV. 28
7:30 p.m.

Men's Evening Study Group
Chapel 206
This group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month and welcomes new members any time. Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

wednesday
NOV. 29
9:30 a.m.

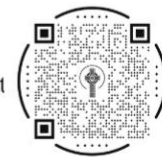
Conversations with Matt Brown
McQueen Room and Zoom
We will discuss the scripture for the coming week's sermon. Contact: Matt Brown for the Zoom ID#, matt@smpchome.org.

friday
DEC. 1
7:30 a.m. -
8:30 a.m.

Friday Morning Men's Group
Chapel 206
This group meets the first and third Friday of each month. They are reading the book *The Genius of Jesus: The Man Who Changed Everything* by Erwin Raphael McManus. All are welcome. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

saturday
DEC. 2
10:00 a.m. -
4:00 p.m.

SMPC/Salvation Army Kettle Bell Ringing
Saturdays, Belk SouthPark Mall, Times Vary
Join in on this special SMPC tradition! This is a great volunteer opportunity for families and friends. Contact: Terry Gaines, terryg@carolina.rr.com.



saturday
DEC. 2
10:30 a.m. -
12:30 p.m.

Women's Holiday Tea
Mecklenburg Hall
Join us for music, meditation, spiced tea, Chicken Salad Chick and sweets. Childcare is available. Register by Thursday, November 30 on Realm or via the QR code. Contact: nancy@smpchome.org.



sunday
DEC. 3
9:00 a.m.

An Unlikely Advent: Adult Bible Study
Sunday, December 3, 9:00 a.m. OR Monday, December 4, 10:00 a.m., McQueen Room or Zoom - Register on Realm or via QR code. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.



sunday
DEC. 3
9:00 a.m.

Advent Wreath Workshop
Mecklenburg Hall

Everyone is invited to make Advent wreaths. No registration required. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

sunday
DEC. 3
9:00 a.m. -
12:00 p.m.

Alternative Gift Market
Narthex and Online

Find the perfect gift for everyone on your list by shopping the AGM! We'll have agencies set up in the Narthex to provide more information on how your gift will help those in need. Shop in person on December 3 or online until December 25 via the QR code. Contact: Donna Brown, donnamatt89@gmail.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS

BAM! Bible and Music, Sunday, December 3, 5:00-6:30 p.m.,
Kindergarten through 5th Grade, Meet in Narthex

If your child would like participate in Festival of Carols, please plan for them to attend BAM! on December 3. We will end with a pizza dinner and free play time. Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

BYG (Big Youth Group), Sunday, December 3, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall

- We will join together for an Advent devotion and have fun and fellowship decorating gingerbread houses and Christmas cookies. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

Lunch Bunch, Tuesday, December 5, 11:30 a.m., Ruby Sunshine, 12330

Johnston Rd - Lunch Bunch is meeting for brunch! All are welcome. RSVP to Ruth Ann Engle, raengle22@gmail.com.

THE ADVENT SEASON AT SMPC

We look forward to celebrating the Advent season as a faith community. Here are a few event highlights to mark on your calendar. Invite a friend! Find more information and registration links on smpchome.org/advent or via the QR code.

SMPC Kettle Ringing - December 2, 9, 16, Times Vary, Belk, SouthPark Mall

Angel Tree Tags Available - Beginning Sunday, November 26, Narthex and Online

Women's Holiday Tea - Saturday, December 2, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall

Advent Wreath Workshop - Sunday, December 3, 9:00 a.m., Mecklenburg Hall

Alternative Gift Market - Sunday, December 3, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Narthex

Festival of Carols - Sunday, December 10, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary and Livestream

The Longest Night Service, Tuesday, December 19, 5:30 p.m., Sanctuary and Livestream

Christmas Eve Worship - Sunday, December 24, 10:10 a.m. (Family), 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. (both Candlelight Communion), Sanctuary and Livestream

MISSIONS/OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

Center of Hope Breakfast Donations Needed

Each month, SMPC provides breakfast for the guests of Center of Hope. There are opportunities to donate breakfast items each month and drop them off at the church or you can also donate a monetary contribution anytime. Find more information via the QR code. Thank you for your support! Contact: Bob Williamson, bobwill31@hotmail.com.

