



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve

**Bulletins for all three services are below –
PLEASE SCROLL DOWN**

10:10 a.m. Service

We Gather

Prelude

Carol Medley

As you entered today, you received a “Mad Lib” prayer handout. We invite you to fill them out at any point during the service. When it’s time for the offertory, please put your Mad Lib prayer into the offering plate as you offer your prayer to God. If you are a pre-reader, have one of your grown-ups help you write!

Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Dr. Whitney Bayer

Introit

David Wood

*Light a candle bright and tall
For a Love which knows no end.
Love that comes to one and all.
Fear and hatred to upend.
Shine within our hearts today
Come, O Love, to us, we pray.*

Lighting of the Advent Candle – LOVE

Lina and Chuck Griffiths; Michael, Marla, Blair, and Brooke Choren

Reader: . . . “Here I am,” she whispers, “the servant of the Lord.”

**All: So we gather to light a candle, because this might be the
spark we need: Love, here with us.**

(stanzas 1 and 3)

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
got - ten, not cre - at - ed!
glo - ry in the high - est! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

***Call to Worship**

Colin Lee

One: When we celebrate Advent, we are people who are waiting...
What are we waiting for?
Waiting for a train to go, or a bus to come or the rain to go,
Or the phone to ring or the snow to snow, or waiting around for
a yes or no,
Or waiting for our hair to grow?
I don't think that's why....but...
All of us, everyone is just waiting.
Are we waiting for the fish to bite, or waiting for wind to fly a kite
Or waiting perhaps for our uncle Jake, or a pot to boil, or a better
break,
Or a string of pearls or a pair of pants, or a wig with curls, or
another chance?
Why is everyone just waiting?
Can you tell me?

Many: We are waiting for Christ our king, whom shepherds guard and
angels sing; We are waiting for Christ, the baby who brings:
One: Hope and Peace and Joy and Love.
All : Come, baby Jesus. We are waiting for you!

We Hear and Respond to the Word

Invitation to the Story

Rebecca Guzman

During the storytelling, we invite you to use your pipe cleaners to make something from the story that stands out to you. Maybe you will make the star, or an angel. Maybe you will make a heart or some other symbol that reminds you of the meaning of Christmas. We will sing a few songs during the storytelling. We'll prompt you when it's time to sing.

Storytelling

Savannah Brown, Graham Trimmer,
Rev. Lindsey Odom

Story Carols

Away in a Manger

No. 114

***Away in a manger, no crib for his bed;
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.***

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

No. 119

***Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."
"Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinner reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"***

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

No. 136

***Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!
While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!
Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that bless-ed Christmas morn.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!***

Wiggle Prayer

Rebecca Guzman, Clara Guzman

. . . (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

Light of Hope, Light of Peace

Mark Patterson

Hosanna and Alleluia Choirs

*Light of hope, light of peace,
You are just the light we need.*

Shine for all the world to see:

Christ is coming soon.

*Light of hope, light of peace,
Promise of the love he brings.*

Shine for all the world to see:

Christ is coming soon.

*Light of hope, light of peace,
Gift of joy that gladly rings,*

Shine for all the world to see:

Christ is coming soon.

Christ is coming soon.

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**

Advent Doxology

R. G. Huff

Praise to God, the One who made us.

Praise to Christ, the newborn Son.

Praise the Spirit, ever with us. Praise the Godhead, Three in One.

Clear a path! Prepare the way! Advent leads to Christmas Day!

***Prayer of Dedication**

Oliver Bayer

Holy One, this Advent season we wait with love, and we give with love. Love for you, O God, and love for all of our neighbors. Receive our gifts and offerings, and use them to create hope, peace, joy, and love within your creation. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

Service of Light

Lighting of the Christ Candle

***Carol**

Silent Night, Holy Night!

No. 122

You are invited to stand and break your glow stick for the service of light.

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,

Round yon virgin mother and child!

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,

Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing:

*"Alleluia; Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born."*

*Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.*

*Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.*

***Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

Postlude

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

arr. David Cherwien

5:00 p.m. Service

We Gather

Prelude

The First Noel

arr. Phillip Keveren

Xander Case and Zach Bowyer, piano

Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

Introit

David Wood

*Light a candle bright and tall
For the Christ we greet today.
Christ has come, our all in all.
With the angels, let us say:
Shine within our hearts today
Come, O Christ, to us, we pray.*

***Call to Worship**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jason, Tonya, Cameron, and Addison Fraser

Reader: ...“Glory to God in the Highest heaven,” we whisper, “and
peace to all on earth.”

All: **So we gather to light a candle, because it is the only spark
we need: Christ, here, with us.**

***Carol**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

No. 133

1 O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e-ter-nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an-gels; sing in ex-ul-ta-tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap-py morn-ing; Je-

ye; O come ye to Beth-le-hem! Come, and be-hold him,
 of a vir-gin, a mor-tal he comes; ver-y God, be-
 all ye cit-i-zens of heaven a-bove! Glo-ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo-ry given; Word of the Fa-ther,

Refrain
 born the King of an-gels!
 got-ten, not cre-at-ed!
 glo-ry in the high-est! O come, let us a-dore him; O come, let
 now in flesh ap-pear-ing!

us a-dore him; O come, let us a-dore him, Christ, the Lord!

Prayer of Adoration (*unison*)

Rebecca Guzman

O wondrous God of the stars, we come tonight with breathless wonder to see the babe who will change our lives. We hear the names "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "Prince of Peace," and we are in awe. You have touched the earth this night with your unconditional love. Touch us—touch our hearts and minds and souls. May we never tire of this story. May we never take it for granted. Make this night magical again. Amen.

*Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

No. 119

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

We Hear and Respond to the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Rebecca Guzman

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Rebecca Guzman

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from

this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Anthem *Ding Dong! Merrily on High* arr. Larry Shackley
Jubilate Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano

Ding dong! Merrily on high in Heaven the bells are ringing.

Ding dong! Verily the sky is filled with angels singing.

Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

All God's people here below are filled with joy and gladness,

For Messiah now we know has banished fear and sadness.

Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

'Tis the long-awaited time; the Son of God is given!

And the ringing of the chime lifts all our hearts to Heaven.

Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis! Ding dong!

Second Reading Luke 2:1-20 Collin Cushman,
Blake Randle

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Peace

Dr. Brown

*Carol

Joy to the World

No. 134

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

*The Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

The Nicene Creed

Rev. Lindsey Odom

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the

Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he 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 *Come, Behold the Newborn King* Linda Scholes
Exultate Ringers

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Doxology** ***Advent Doxology R. G. Huff
Praise to God, the One who made us.
Praise to Christ, the newborn Son.
Praise the Spirit, ever with us. Praise the Godhead, Three in One.
Clear a path! Prepare the way! Advent leads to Christmas Day!

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table Dr. Brown

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer Rev. Odom

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 Dr. Brown
Rev. Odom

Communion of the People

The Prayer after Communion Dr. Brown

We Go Out to Serve

Carol** ***Silent Night, Holy Night! No. 122

(hold lit candles upright, tilt unlit candles to receive the flame)

***Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.***

***Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing:
“Alleluia; Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.”***

***Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.***

***Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.***

***Charge and Benediction** Dr. Brown

***Postlude** *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* arr. David Cherwien

8:00 p.m. Service

We Gather

Prelude *O Come, All Ye Faithful* arr. Joel Raney
Blythe Kinsey, piano; Zach Bowyer, organ

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

Introit David Wood

***Light a candle bright and tall
For the Christ we greet today.
Christ has come, our all in all.
With the angels, let us say:
Shine within our hearts today
Come, O Christ, to us, we pray.***

***Call to Worship**

Lighting of the Christ Candle
Dave, Wimberly, Alexander, and Reese Earp

Reader: ...“Glory to God in the Highest heaven,” we whisper, “and peace to all on earth.”

All: **So we gather to light a candle, because it is the only spark we need: Christ, here, with us.**

*Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

No. 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
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Refrain

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now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

Prayer of Adoration (*unison*)

Dr. Whitney Bayer

O wondrous God of the stars, we come tonight with breathless wonder to see the babe who will change our lives. We hear the names “Wonderful Counselor,” “Mighty God,” “Prince of Peace,” and we are in awe. You have touched the earth this night with your unconditional love. Touch us—touch our hearts and minds and souls. May we never tire of this story. May we never take it for granted. Make this night magical again. Amen.

*Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

No. 119

1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
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We Hear and Respond to the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Dr. Bayer

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Dr. Bayer

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Anthem

What Child Is This?

arr. Robert Hobby

Chancel Choir

*What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ, the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!
So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!*

Second Reading

Luke 2:1-20

Dr. Brown

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary

and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Peace

Dr. Brown

*Carol

Joy to the World

No. 134

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
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heaven and na - ture sing,

***The Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*)

The Nicene Creed

Dr. Bayer

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he 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

The Work of Christmas

Dan Forrest

Chancel Choir

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost, to heal the broken,
To feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations, to bring peace among brothers,
To make music from the heart.*

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***Doxology**

Advent Doxology

R. G. Huff

Praise to God, the One who made us.

Praise to Christ, the newborn Son.

Praise the Spirit, ever with us. Praise the Godhead, Three in One.

Clear a path! Prepare the way! Advent leads to Christmas Day!

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Dr. Brown

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

Dr. Brown

Dr. Bayer

Communion of the People

The Prayer after Communion

Dr. Brown

We Go Out to Serve

***Carol**

Silent Night, Holy Night!

No. 122

(hold lit candles upright, tilt unlit candles to receive the flame)

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,

Round yon virgin mother and child!

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,

Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing:

"Alleluia; Christ the Savior is born,

Christ the Savior is born."

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from Thy holy face,

With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;

With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;

Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

***Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Brown

***Postlude**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

arr. David Cherwien

Congregational Notes

(as of December 21, 2023)

Remember in Prayer

- Dixie Lindquist and her family as Dixie's husband, David Lindquist, entered the Church triumphant on December 13.
- Richard DeMund as he undergoes treatment for cancer.
- 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.

Christmas Eve Offering

Our tradition is to give our Christmas Eve offering to agencies supported by our Missions/Outreach ministries. Today's offering will be divided between The Salvation Army Center of Hope and OFCB Ministries.

The Salvation Army Center of Hope is an emergency homeless shelter and transitional housing program for women and children located near uptown Charlotte. The Center is the largest such shelter in the Southeast and sleeps more than 350 women and children every night.

OFCB Ministries in Bayonnais, Haiti, is a bastion of hope in a land of extreme poverty. OFCB operates a Christian K-13 school (2,300 students), a church, and a medical clinic. OFCB has been a mission of SMPC since its inception in 1993.

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The Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy is adapted from the work of Karen Ware Jackson.



South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

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smpchome.org

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2023

Welcome to South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church! We hope you will consider joining one (or more!) of our many classes, ministries or groups in 2024. There are so many ways to get involved - we didn't have enough room to list them all here! To stay updated, please subscribe to our weekly email, follow us on social media, or go to our website, smpchome.org. Contact: Nancy Metzler, director of hospitality and connection, nancy@smpchome.org.

STUDY

Conversations with Matt Brown

Every Wednesday resuming January 3, 9:30 a.m., McQueen Room and Zoom
Join us as we discuss the scripture for the coming week's sermon. Contact for the Zoom ID#: Matt Brown, matt@smpchome.org.

Friday Morning Men's Group

Friday, January 5, 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m., Chapel 204

This group meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month and would love to have new folks join. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

Men's Evening Study Group

Tuesday, January 9, 7:30 p.m. Chapel 206

The group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month. Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

Making Space Mom's Group

Thursday, January 11, 7:30 p.m., McQueen Room

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

Adult Bible Study: Invitation to the Old Testament

Sundays beginning January 21, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m., McQueen Room

The study approaches the Hebrew scriptures by inviting participants to hear the story of God and God's calling of the people of Israel through the many voices of the biblical text. This 8-week study will take a break during Lent and resume for 4 weeks in April. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

SERVE

Desserts for Center of Hope

Sunday, January 14

Bring desserts for us to deliver to the women and children who temporarily call Center of Hope home. Contact: Terry Gaines, terryg@carolina.rr.com.

Shelter Ministry

Thursday, January 18, 9:00 a.m., Mecklenburg Hall

This ministry meets to fill empty medicine bottles with body wash for Roof Above. Contact: Carol Morgan, morgancc43@aol.com.

Breakfast for Center of Hope

Saturday, January 20

On the third Saturday of each month, SMPC preps, cooks and serves breakfast for guests at the Center of Hope. There are opportunities to serve breakfast or donate items. Contact: Bob Williamson, bobwill31@hotmail.com.

Room in the Inn

February 4, February 21 and March 13, Sardis Presbyterian Church

We are partnering with Sardis Presbyterian Church and Trinity Presbyterian Church. Volunteers will help with dinner, overnight stays or breakfast and cleanup. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, March 9, 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall

Please bring your American Red Cross Donor Card or photo I.D. Contact: Bill Ramsey, bill.john.ramsey@gmail.com.

SMALL GROUPS

Handiworkers Group

Tuesdays resuming January 9, 10:00 a.m., Palmer 104

All knitters, needlepointers, quilters, cross-stitchers and crocheters (beginners to experts) are invited. Contact: Judy Jameson, jgjameson@gmail.com.

A Caregiver's Journey

Tuesday, January 9, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m., McQueen Room

Finding meaning and purpose as you care for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. Contact: Dr. Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.

Men's Breakfast Group

Thursday, January 11, Big View Diner, 6637 Lancaster Hwy

This group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays each month to enjoy breakfast and conversation. Contact: Bob Tyler, Btyler@unitedskates.com.

Food for Thought Book Group

Thursday, January 18, 12:30 p.m., McQueen Room

All are welcome as we discuss the book *All the Broken Places* by John Boyne. Contact: Kathy Paquette, khesspaquette@aol.com.

International Dining Group

Thursday, January 18, Time and Location TBD

This group explores local restaurants on the third Thursday of every month. Please join us! Contact: Alice Tyler, rrt1317@aol.com.

Supper Circles

Supper circles meet monthly or every other month and are hosted at a restaurant or a home. Contact: Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org.

CHILDREN

BAM! (Bible and Music)

Sunday, January 7, 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

BAM! is our Sunday evening program for children in kindergarten through 5th grade. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

YOUTH (MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL)

Big Youth Group (BYG)

Sunday, January 7, 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall

Bible study, small group time, good food, fun games and amazing company. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

Youth Mission Night

Sunday, January 14, 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m., Legacy Heights Senior Living Community, 11230 Ballantyne Trace Ct, Charlotte, NC 28277

Please join us as we play board games and create door hangers with the residents at Legacy Heights. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

MUSIC

Chancel Choir

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Do you enjoy leading worship through song? Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.

2024 OPERATING FUND CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Thank you to the 270 families who have committed a total of \$1.1 million in pledges to the *Everything Good* 2024 Operating Fund campaign! This campaign funds all of our ministries and operations for 2024. To date, 12 new families have made pledges, and repeat pledging families increased their pledges by an average of 3.2%. Thank you! There is still time to pledge via the QR code. Thank you to our Stewardship Committee and SMPC staff for their hard work on this campaign.



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