



# South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**A Service of Worship**

**Second Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 14, 2024**

**10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed**

## **We Gather**

**Prelude**                *To God Be the Glory: A Hymn Fantasy*      Michael Burkhardt

**Welcome and Concerns of the Church**                              Dr. Whitney Bayer

**Introit**                *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*      Robert Robinson

**\*Call to Worship**    Adeline Bayer

One: Jesus comes alongside us and calls each of us to follow him.

**Many: A simple call. A hard call.**

One: The call of Jesus shouts out above the noise of the world.

**Many: Perhaps the signal is too powerful for us to hear.**

One: But Jesus calls us to follow, and we must listen.

**Many: For we are called to hate evil and love good and establish justice.**

One: Gracious Holy Spirit, inspire our hearts with courage and joy.

**All: We seek to be a people that embodies Jesus' love and goodness. By the power of God at work within us, may it be so.**

**\*Hymn**                *To God Be the Glory*                              No. 634

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!  
2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,  
but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.  
our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,

and give him the glory: great things he has done!

**Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

Dr. Bayer

Gracious God, you know us better than we know ourselves. You know our sins even before we confess. Your knowledge is wonderful, but also challenging. We'd much rather avoid painful truths and deny our role in wrongdoing. Help us face our failings so we can move forward in truth. Draw us ever closer to you, we pray. Amen.

**Assurance of God's Grace**

Dr. Bayer

**\*Response of Praise**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

No. 475

(stanza 2)

*Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*

**We Hear and Respond to the Word**

1. Tomorrow, we celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Even though it doesn't tie directly with our scripture for today, you might find it helpful to check out our [resources for CARE \(Conversation Around Race Equity\) for kids](#). You could also get started by making 2024 your Year of Justice! Each month, we will highlight a justice issue in our church family moment. In January, we begin by exploring the concept of justice. Click [here](#) for more information.
2. Think about how you can invite other people to hear the story of Jesus. How do we tell about Jesus with our words? How about with our actions? Click [here](#) for a printable invitation to come to worship at church with you on Sunday! If you don't have a printer, you can make your own invitation.
3. [Listen to the hymn](#), "Lord Speak to Me That I May Speak" and think about what the hymn is saying to us. What does Jesus want us to do? What examples has he given us of how to live in the world?
4. Journal, considering the following:
  - a. Why do you think Jesus was gathering all of these people?
  - b. Philip was eager to join Jesus, but Nathanael was not so sure. Who do you think you would have been like? What might have been Nathanael's decision if Philip had not been there to encourage him?
  - c. Notice that in the story, when Jesus calls someone, that person goes and tells someone else. Who told us about Jesus? Who might have told them?

### **Children's Liturgy**

Anna Vechnak

*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**

Isaiah 53:1-3

Dr. Bayer

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

### **Anthem**

*Come and See*

Karen Marrolli

Chancel Choir; Jill Deanne Fung, cello; Ann Carney, piano

*Come and see. Love is here now. Free your soul. Let judgment go.  
Come and see. Lay your heart down. Simply be, that you may see.  
Only light can drive away the dark. Only mercy dampens hatred's spark.  
Where compassion reigns, only love remains.*

*Come and see. Peace is here now. Just reach out and conquer doubt.  
Come and see. Lay your fear down. See what you find with opened mind.  
Where we tend to turn toward force or fight,  
shouting who is wrong and who is right,  
nurture opened hearts from whence healing starts. Come and see.*

*Come and see. We can build a world where all are known,  
where all are home,  
where you don't need to carry guilt or shame,  
you don't need to carry hurt or pain,  
where the fires of grace burn in every place.  
Come and see, come and see, come and see.*

**Second Reading**

John 1:43-51

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Invitation to Wonder

Dr. Brown

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

Philippians 2:5-11

Rev. Lindsey Odom

**Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every**

tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**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** *Be Thou My Vision* arr. David Abramsky  
Jill Deanne Fung, cello

*As an alternative to the traditional offering plate, you may support the ministry of SMPC by giving online at [www.smpchome.org/give](http://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** George Elledge  
**Christ, you invite us to follow. You equip us with talents and gifts for our journey. We humbly respond to your gracious invitation. As we go out to serve, accept the gifts that we offer to proclaim your love. Use our talents in ways that will set others free. Shed light on our path as we seek to abide in your way. Amen.**

## **Service of Ordination and Installation**

**Statement of Purpose** Leisa Lackey, Clerk of Session

**Presentation of Elders** Dr. Brown

**Statement on the nature of the office of Elder** Dr. Brown

**Presentation of Deacons** Dr. Bayer

**Statement on the nature of the office of Deacon** Dr. Bayer

### **Constitutional Questions to the Elders and Deacons**

**Constitutional Questions to the Congregation** Leisa Lackey

Do we, the members of the church, accept Dave Gaines, Gayle Ireland, Lisa Kuszmar, Lilly McAnally and Jon Myers as ruling elders chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ?

Do we, the members of the church, accept Michael Choren, Richard Franseen, Susan Hicks, Marge Kruse, Tom Massey and Crystal Myers as

deacons chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ?

Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the church?

**Prayer of Ordination and Installation**

Dr. Brown

**Charge to Elders and Deacons**

Dr. Bayer

## We Go Out to Serve

\*Hymn

*I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*

No. 69



1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who  
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est



made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.  
break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

\*Charge and Benediction

Dr. Brown

\*Congregational Response

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

No. 475

(stanza 3)

***O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.***

**Postlude**                      *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*      arr. M. Burkhardt

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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 and Missions/Outreach

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist

Chancel Choir

Jill Deanne Fung, cello

Ann Carney, piano

Anna Vechnak, Children's Vision and Planning Committee

Adeline Bayer, George Elledge, liturgists

**Acolyte:** Miles Ullman

**A/V Team:** Brad Alford

**Deacon/Elder of the Day:** Kim Overcash

**Ushers:** Don Ayers, Phil Eatherton, Dick Engle, Frank Graham, Brett Thompson, Linda Thompson

**Welcome Team:** Jack Hess, Curt Ireland, Tom Klecker, Gary Sunstrom

A brief Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 21 after the 10:10 am worship service to fulfill the State of North Carolina's legal requirement to hold an Annual Meeting of the Corporation.

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](mailto: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 on Sunday, January 28 at 11:30 a.m. To learn more, contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection, [nancy@smpchome.org](mailto:nancy@smpchome.org) or 980-265-2839.

### **Congregational Notes** (as of January 10, 2024)

#### **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](mailto:prayer@SMPChome.org).



**South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church**

8601 Bryant Farms Road, Charlotte, NC 28277, 704-544-0404

PO Box 79321, Charlotte, NC 28271

[smpchome.org](http://smpchome.org)

## WELCOME!

After worship, we hope you'll join us for lemonade and cookies in Coffee Grounds, located in the narthex. 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!

### THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today

**JAN. 14**

11:45 a.m. -  
1:00 p.m.

**SMPC Youth Community and Coffee at Amelie's  
Amelie's French Bakery, 7715 Pineville-Matthews Road,  
Middle and High Schoolers**

Let's meet for coffee and a sweet after worship. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

tuesday

**JAN. 16**

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.

wednesday

**JAN. 17**

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.

thursday

**JAN. 18**

12:30 p.m.

**Food for Thought Book Group  
McQueen Room**

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

thursday

**JAN. 18**

6:00 p.m.

**International Dining Group  
Zapata's Mexican Restaurant, 15130 John J. Delaney Drive**

All are welcome to join as we try new cuisines around Charlotte. RSVP by Monday, January 15 to Alice Tyler, rrt1317@aol.com.

friday

**JAN. 19**

7:30 a.m. -  
8:30 a.m.

**Friday Morning Men's Group  
Chapel 206**

The group meets on the first and third Fridays of every month. They are starting the book *The Fourth Quarter of Your Life: Embracing What Matters Most* by Matthew Kelly. All are welcome. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

saturday

**JAN. 20**

**Center of Hope Breakfast  
Meet in Church Parking Lot**

Help serve breakfast to the guests at Center of Hope! We promise it'll be the best way to spend a Saturday morning. Food donations for this month's breakfast are due Thursday, January 18. Monetary donations are always welcome. Contact: Bob Williamson, bobwill31@hotmail.com.



sunday

**JAN. 21**

9:00 a.m. -  
10:00 a.m.

**Adult Bible Study: Invitation to the Old Testament  
McQueen Room**

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 meet for 4 weeks, take a break during Lent and resume for 4 weeks in April. Please register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**BAM! Bible and Music, Sunday, January 21, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Kindergarten through 5th Grade, Meet in Narthex**

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.

**Youth Mission Project, Sunday, January 21, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Legacy Heights Senior Living Community, 11230 Ballantyne Trace Ct, Middle and High Schoolers**

- We'll play board games and make door hangers with residents. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

**Men's Evening Study Group, Tuesday, January 23, 7:30 p.m., Chapel 206** - This group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month. Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

**Men's Breakfast Group, Thursday, January 25, 9:30 a.m., Big View Diner, 6637 Lancaster Hwy** - This group meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month to enjoy breakfast and conversation. Contact: Bob Tyler, Btyler@unitedskates.com.

**Making Space Mom's Group, Thursday, January 25, 7:30 p.m., Chapel 206** - We are studying *Bible Stories for Grownups*. Moms of all ages are invited! Contact: Allison Reeves, allison.tarwater@gmail.com.

**Save the Date! Lunch Bunch, Friday, February 9, 11:15 a.m., Narthex** - Join us for lunch followed by a first person historical presentation of Martha Washington by Nora Brooks. More details to come. All are welcome. Contact: Ruth Ann Engle, raengle22@gmail.com.

## MISSIONS/OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

**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.



**Desserts for Center of Hope  
Sunday, February 11 During 10:10 a.m. Worship**  
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.



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