



# South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## A Service of Worship

Youth Sunday

February 11, 2024

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

### We Gather

**Prelude** *Resound and Rejoice* Jason Krug  
Gaudete Ringers; Helen Castle, Gayle Ireland, co-directors

**Welcome and Concerns of the Church** Rev. Lindsey Odom

**Introit** *My Lighthouse* Rend Collective

**Call to Worship** Emery Hicks & Elise Ullman

One: Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. So, arise, shine, for your light has come.

**Many: Light, like a glimmer of hope and possibility.**

One: Arise, shine, for your light has come.

**Many: Light, like a beacon of faith and direction.**

One: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

**Many: Light, God's light, shines in the darkness and does not let the darkness extinguish it.**

One: Let us remember Jesus' words: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk without light but will have the light of life."

**Many: Together we see God's light in the person of Christ, despite the darkness.**

One: O God, shine your life-giving light on your people today within this hour of worship and as we go forth from worship.

**Many: Shine within our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Jesus Christ.**

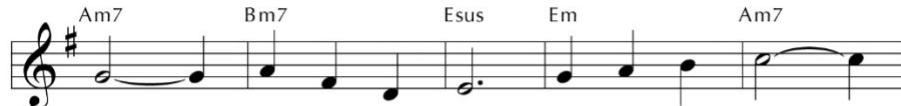
One: For the radiance of God's love and light shines within us and calls us outward into our community and world.

**All: Let us together proclaim the praise, glory, and light of the Lord. Let us worship God.**

**Hymn                      *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness*                      No. 314**



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for  
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for  
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



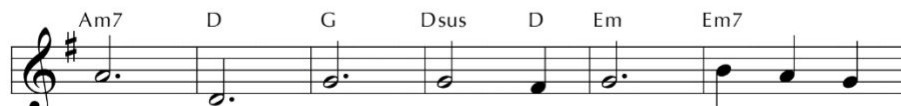
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

**Prayer of Confession (unison)                      Dylan Booker, Jordan Booker**  
**God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of Christ's light. You have also called us to be children of light, and we want to be, but sometimes we act more like children of darkness. We turn away from the poor, we ignore cries for justice, and we do not strive for peace. Forgive us, O God. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, so**

that, as forgiven and renewed people, we may reflect the love and light of Jesus Christ into our world. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Dylan Booker, Jordan Booker

Response of Praise

No. 582

*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

Lilly McAnally

Today we learn about the coming of Jesus! Which is great news for us and all God's people!

1. Check out some good current news on the Good News Network <https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/>. While doing this, think of some people that you could share your good news with. Why is the coming of Jesus good news?
2. Look up "This Little Light of Mine" on youtube. Listen to different versions and see what each of them might reveal about the light of Jesus.
3. For a hands-on approach to thinking about this week's text, get a piece of paper and some glitter. Illustrate the light shining onto baby Jesus, and then flowing out from Jesus and landing on each of us. What do you think it means for the light of Jesus to reflect from us?
4. Journaling Questions:
  - a. Parts of the text are talking about John the Baptist and parts are talking about Jesus. Which parts are talking about which person?
  - b. What do you learn about Jesus and John the Baptist?
  - c. What words do you notice that are descriptors of Jesus?
  - d. How can you "ignite the light"?

Children's Liturgy

Lilly McAnally

*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

Judah Estes

First Readings

Genesis 1:3-5

Judah Estes

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the

darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Genesis 1:14-18

Luke Estes

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

Psalm 18:28-30

Luke Estes

It is you who light my lamp; the Lord, my God, lights up my darkness. By you I can crush a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God—his way is perfect; the promise of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all who take refuge in him.

**Anthem**

*This Little Light of Mine*

arr. George Mabry

Jubilate Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.*

*Every day, I'm gonna let my little light shine.*

*On Monday, he gave me the gift of love,*

*On Tuesday peace come from above.*

*On Wednesday, told me to have more faith;*

*On Thursday, gave me a bit more grace.*

*On Friday, told me to watch and pray;*

*On Saturday, told me what to say.*

*On Sunday, gave me power divine,*

*Just to let my little light shine.*

**Second Reading**

John 1:1-10

Reid Cook

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**Reflections**

Xander Case  
Collin Cushman  
Hunter Fant  
Hank Jacobus  
Jack Nielsen  
Blake Randle

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

Ryan Brookshire

Hear the good news from the Book of Psalms: If we say, “Surely the darkness will overwhelm us, and the light around us will be night,” we are wrong. Even the darkness is NOT dark to God, and the night is as bright as the day. The God who promised never to leave us or forsake us has come to us in Jesus Christ. It is God’s love in Christ Jesus our Lord that transforms the world. For Jesus came among us as a servant to be Emmanuel, God with us. Jesus humbled himself in obedience to God’s will and freely accepted death on the cross. Jesus binds up the brokenhearted, heals all our afflictions, and relieves us from the burden of our sins. Through the gift of Jesus Christ, the world is changed and transformed. So arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Thanks be to God! Amen.

**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

Emily Durham, Emery Hicks,  
Anna Mangels, Elise Ullman

*Please get out your phones, go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com), and  
use code 63 55 588 to submit your prayer request.*

. . . (*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.**

**Invitation to the Offertory**

Emery Hicks, Elise Ullman

**Offertory**

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* arr. K. Thomerson  
Exultate Ringers; Laura Schelhammer, flute

*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

Madi Jenkins

Creator God, blessed are you, for you fill all creation with your light and love. Lift up our eyes to see the needs of our world and the places where darkness smothers hope. Lift up our eyes to see where we can help and the ways in which we can use our gifts to make a difference. Dwell in us, O God, that we may be a light in the darkness, spreading love, joy, justice, and peace through our gifts, our time, our talents, and our resources. This we pray through Christ, our Savior. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

Hymn

Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining

No. 192



1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the  
2 Lord, I come to your awe - some pres - ence, from the  
3 As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness, so our

(C) (G) (D) (C) (D)  
D A E D E



midst of the dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, Light of the  
shad - ows in - to your ra - diance; by the blood I may  
fac - es dis - play your like - ness; ev - er chang - ing from

(Bm7) (Em7) (C) (D) (Bm7)  
C#m7 F#m7 D E C#m7



World, shine up - on us; set us free by the truth you now  
en - ter your bright - ness. Search me; try me; con - sume all my  
glo - ry to glo - ry, mir - rored here may our lives tell your

(Em7) (F) (Dsus)(D) (F) (Dsus)(D)  
F#m7 G Esus E G Esus E



bring us. Shine on me; shine on me.  
dark - ness. Shine on me; shine on me.  
sto - ry. Shine on me; shine on me.

Refrain (G) (D) (Em) (C) (G) (Am7) (C) (D7) (C) (D)  
A E F#m D A Bm7 D E7 D E



Shine, Je - sus, shine; fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry.

Blaze, Spir - it, blaze; set our hearts on fire.

(G) (D) (Em) (C) (G) (Am7) (C) (D7) (C) (D)  
 A E F#m D A Bm7 D E7 D E

Flow, riv - er, flow; flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy.

(G) (D) (Em) (C) (G) (Am) (D7) (G)  
 A E F#m D A Bm E7 A

Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

**Charge and Benediction**

Rev. Odom

**Congregational Response**

***Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining***

No. 192

*(refrain)*

***Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father's glory.***

***Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.***

***Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy.***

***Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.***

**Postlude**

*Fantasia on "King of Kings"*

Ralph Simpson

**Worship Service Notes**

**Leading Worship this Morning**

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

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist

**Senior Speakers:** Xander Case, Collin Cushman, Hunter Fant, Hank Jacobus, Jack Nielsen, Blake Randle

**Liturgists:** Dylan Booker, Jordan Booker, Ryan Brookshire, Reid Cook, Emily Durham, Judah Estes, Luke Estes, Emery Hicks, Madi Jenkins, Anna Mangels, Lilly McAnally, Elise Ullman

Jubilate Choir

Exultate Ringers

Gaudete Ringers; Helen Castle, Gayle Ireland, co-directors

Blythe Kinsey, piano

Laura Schelhammer, flute

**Art Group:** Alexa Cannon, Haley Davis, Elizabeth Glover, Caroline Guy, Lilly McAnally

**Acolyte:** Miles Ullman

**A/V Team:** Brad Alford, Kari Case

**Ushers:** Hannah Angerer, Ben Bickett, Owen Bickett, Siena Carr, Dylan Davis, Haley Davis, Will Glover, Katherine Kuszmar, Graeme Mitchell, Jake Zagora

**Welcome Team:** Kennedy Colson, Aaron Eberhardt, Addison Fraser,

Cameron Fraser, Elizabeth Glover, Emery Hicks, Madi Jenkins, Katherine Kuszmar, Paxtyn Sandeen, Elise Ullman, Grace Wooley, Jake Zagora  
**Children's Worship Leaders:** Alicia Cianfrone, Katie Gravender, Madi Jenkins

**Cookies and Lemonade Hosts:** Adeline Bayer, McKenna Hope, Tuuli Ritchie, Porter Sandeen

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](#).

In celebration of Black History Month, we will hear music from composers of African descent each Sunday in February. Today, our postlude is based on hymn 273, an African American Spiritual. This spiritual is a classic example of how praise of God rises out of human experience. The repeated response "no one works like him" shows confidence that the sovereign, liberating Christ abounds with the very attribute the singers need in order to survive. The composer, Ralph Simpson, was an active organist, composer/arranger, and retired chairman of the Department of Music at Tennessee State University. A native of Birmingham, Alabama, he was the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in music from Michigan State University. He also taught at Alabama State University, Dillard University and Fisk University.

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 today 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 25, 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

**tuesday**  
**FEB. 13**  
**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](mailto:jgjameson@gmail.com).

**tuesday**  
**FEB. 13**  
**1:00 p.m. -**  
**2:30 p.m.**

**Caregivers Group**  
**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](mailto:whitney@smpchome.org)

**tuesday**  
**FEB. 13**  
**5:30 p.m. -**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**  
**Mecklenburg Hall**  
Bring your family and friends for a pancake feast! Food donations will support our Center of Hope ministry: pancake mix, syrup, Tang drink mix and quick grits. \$5/person (maximum family cost of \$20) will defray meal costs. Register on Realm. Contact: Nancy Metzler, [nancy@smpchome.org](mailto:nancy@smpchome.org).



**tuesday**  
**FEB. 13**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**Men's Evening Study Group**  
**Chapel 206**  
This group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month. All are invited. Contact: Jon Myers, [jonmyers2@gmail.com](mailto:jonmyers2@gmail.com).

## Ash Wednesday, February 14

**Drive Through Ashes**, 7:30-9:15 a.m., Church Parking Lot  
**Worship & Communion**, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary and Livestream

**thursday**  
**FEB. 15**  
**12:30 p.m.**

**Food for Thought Book Group**  
**McQueen Room**  
All are welcome as we discuss the book *Take My Hand* by Dolen Perkins-Valdez. Contact: Kathy Paquette, [khesspaquette@aol.com](mailto:khesspaquette@aol.com).

**friday**  
**FEB. 16**  
**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 a new book: *The Fourth Quarter of Your Life: Embracing What Matters Most* by Matthew Kelly. All are welcome. Contact: Curt Ireland, [irelandcurtis00@gmail.com](mailto:irelandcurtis00@gmail.com)

**saturday**  
**FEB. 17**  
**4:00 p.m. -**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Hops and Vine Around Town**  
**Open Tap, 5010 Carmel Center Drive**  
All are invited to join us for fellowship! Contact: Frank Graham, [Frank.Graham@forvis.com](mailto:Frank.Graham@forvis.com).

**sunday**  
**FEB. 18**  
**9:00 a.m. -**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**Lenten Adult Bible Study: Seven Last Words**  
**McQueen Room and Zoom**

This study explores the seven last phrases Jesus uttered from the cross as seen and heard by those who stood near the cross. This six-week study, led by Melissa White and Rebecca Guzman, concludes on Palm Sunday, March 24. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**BAM! Bible and Music, Sunday, February 18, 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 served. Please register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

**International Dining Group, Thursday, February 22, 6:00 p.m., That's Amore Italian Grill, 2018 Bridgemill Drive, Suite 100, Indian Land, SC 29707** - All are invited to join us as we sample different cuisines! Please RSVP to Alice Tyler, rrt1317@aol.com, by Monday, February 19.



**Parents Morning Out, Saturday, February 24, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Children ages 3-5th Grade** - We'll play games, craft, watch a Bible story movie, and enjoy a delicious snack. Cost: \$10/child to cover materials. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

**Walters State Community College Chamber Choir Concert, Thursday, February 29, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary** - The Chamber Choir from Walters State Community College in Morristown, TN will perform at SMPC during their stop in Charlotte for their spring tour! No cost to attend and all are invited! Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.

## OF NOTE

**Valentine's Day Alternative Giving** - Give the gift of love by donating to the agencies that our Missions & Outreach Ministries support. Cards and envelopes are in the Connections Center. Contact: Donna Brown, donnamatt89@gmail.com.



**Registration for the 2024-25 school year at SMPC Preschool is now open.** Children ages 2 through TK. Contact SMPC Preschool Director Tammy Winchip, tammy@smpchome.org for more information.



**Support SMPC Youth by purchasing a SMPC t-shirt!** Funds go to the SMPC youth program and youth trips. Deadline to order t-shirts is Wednesday, February 28. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

**Center of Hope Breakfast:** Saturday, February 17  
**Room in the Inn:** Wednesdays, February 21 and March 13  
**American Red Cross Blood Drive:** Saturday, March 9  
**Desserts for Center of Hope:** Sunday, March 10



## "SEVEN LAST WORDS": LENT AT SMPC

We hope you'll join us this Lenten season for worship, study, service and fellowship. Register for events and find out more on our website.