



**South
Mecklenburg**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *Prelude on "Crucifer"* Phil Lehenbauer

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Dr. Matthew S. Brown
The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**

Introit

Call to Worship Rev. Lindsey Odom

One: Christ is risen! He greets us with a word of peace.

Many: We welcome the risen Christ! We worship and adore him!

One: Locked doors and doubting hearts cannot keep him away.

Many: We welcome the risen Christ! We worship and adore him!

One: Christ is risen! He comes to bless us with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

All: We welcome the risen Christ! We worship and adore him!

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 pier - 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.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Odom

God of empty tombs, in the risen Christ, you broke the power of sin and evil. Yet we still live in the tombs of forgetfulness, anxiety, and fear. We have failed to love You and our neighbors. When we hesitate to speak of your hope, forgive us, and give us voice. When we find it difficult to love another, forgive us, and give us new compassion. When we stay in the tombs of our fears and doubts, forgive us, and send us out to share your grace. Release us from the tombs that control us, so that we can see your image in one another. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Rev. Odom

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 honor of Thomas, today will be “Questions Sunday”! Please email me your questions at rebecca@smpchome.org. I will collect questions from children in Children’s Worship and choose a few for us to work through during the Church Family Moment in the coming weeks.



2. Try a “micropractice” from the Illustrated Ministry Mini Revolutions curriculum. “Many cultures use the word ‘peace’ as a greeting. When Jesus entered a home, he would say, ‘Peace to this house,’ or ‘Peace be with you.’ Practice using these phrases when you arrive at home. How does this greeting change the mood?”
3. Play a hiding game. Hide things in plain sight in the room where you are. See how many items each person can “see.” Why did Thomas want to see Jesus’ wounds? What do you think of Jesus’ reaction? What things are in plain sight for us each day that we miss?
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. What do you think Jesus looked like when he appeared to the disciples? How many times does he appear? Do you think he looked the same both times?
 - b. How did Jesus help the disciples trust that it was really him?
 - c. How do you help people feel at peace and welcome when they walk through the doors of your school, home, church, or other community place?

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

Reading from the Gospels

John 20: 19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So

the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Unless

Dr. Brown

The Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

The Nicene Creed

Rev. 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

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

arr. Paul Cardall

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.***

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

The Bread and the Cup

You are invited to come forward (see diagram) and receive the elements: cup your hands to receive a cracker, then take a cup. Cups may be placed in the cup-holders in the pews or the racks in the balcony. If you are not able to come forward, you will be served at your seat. Gluten-free elements are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Communion of the People

The Prayer after Communion

Dr. Brown

We Go Out to Serve

Hymn

Thine Is the Glory

No. 238

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con- quering Son; end - less is
 2 Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life! Life is naught

the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment
 he greets us, scat - ters fear and gloom. Let the church with glad - ness
 with - out thee; aid us in our strife. Make us more than con - quers

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain

where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con - quering
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won.

Charge and Benediction

Dr. Brown

Congregational Response

No. 547

***Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
 I can feel his mighty power and his grace.***

***I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face.
 Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.***

Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

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

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

A/V Team: Chris Wilcox, Joe Wilcox

Ushers: Dan DeChant, Gena DeChant, Frank Graham, Jon Myers, Craig Parrish, Gwen Volker, David Wooley

Welcome Team: Dana Hefner, Wells Hefner, Leanne Royster

The flowers in worship this morning are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Carol Brundage's 90th birthday by her children and grandchildren: Tom and Jane McElhaney, Mike and Julie Fisher, and Katie and Alfredo Henriques.

Welcome to South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church! If you are joining us in person or online, are a first-time visitor, a long-term member, or anything in between, we are glad that you are worshiping with us and we want to stay connected with you. To receive our emails, sent on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection, nancy@smpchome.org. Also, find us on Instagram: [@southmeckpres](https://www.instagram.com/southmeckpres) and Facebook: [@southmecklenburgpresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian).

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. During this time, they will explore the story interactively and engage with their peers.
- 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, April 28 at 11:30 a.m.

To learn more, contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection, nancy@smpchome.org or 980-265-2839.

Congregational Notes (as of April 4, 2024)

Remember in Prayer

- Scott Snyder, 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.



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!

THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

tuesday
APR. 9
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
APR. 9
1:00 p.m. -
2:30 p.m.

Caregiver's Journey
McQueen Room
Finding meaning and purpose as you care for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. Facilitated by Kathy Garner (Alzheimer's Association). Contact: Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.

tuesday
APR. 9
7:30 p.m.

Men's Evening Study Group
Chapel 206
This group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month. They are watching a video series called *Strange Book of Books* that dives into the origins of different stories in the Bible. Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

wednesday
APR. 10
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
APR. 11
9:00 a.m.

Shelter Ministry
Mecklenburg Hall
This ministry meets to fill empty Rx bottles with body wash for our neighbors at Roof Above. Contact: Carol Morgan, morgancc43@aol.com.

thursday
APR. 11
9:30 a.m.

Men's Breakfast Group
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

thursday
APR. 11
12:30 p.m.

Food for Thought Book Group
McQueen Room
All are welcome as we discuss the book *Funny Farm: My Unexpected Life with 600 Rescue Animals* by Laurie Zaleski. Contact: Kathy Paquette: khesspaquette@aol.com.

thursday
APR. 11
7:30 p.m.

Making Spaces Mom's Group
Chapel 206
Moms of all ages are invited to join us for fellowship and study. Contact: Allison Reeves, allison.tarwater@gmail.com.

saturday
APR. 13
1:00 p.m. -
2:30 p.m.

SMPC Family Playdate
SMPC Playground, Ages 3-1st Grade
Family fun on the SMPC playground. Siblings welcome! Snacks and drinks will be provided for the children. Contact: Kaitlin Gaul, kaitlin.slanina@gmail.com.

saturday
APR. 13
4:00 p.m. -
6:00 p.m.

Hops and Vine Around Town
Kit's Trackside Crafts, 330 Main Street, Pineville
Join us for fun and fellowship at a great local brewery! Contact:
Frank Graham, Frank.Graham@forvis.com.

sunday
APR. 14
9:00 a.m. -
10:00 a.m.

Adult Bible Study: Invitation to the Old Testament
McQueen Room and Zoom
This 8-week study began before Lent and resumes April 14. You
can still come even if you did not attend the first four weeks!
Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Desserts for Center of Hope Shelter for Women and Children, Sunday, April 14, 10:10 a.m. - We collect desserts on the second Sunday of every month to deliver to Center of Hope. Go to smpchome.org/serve to sign up. Contact: Terry Gaines, terryg@carolina.rr.com.

BAM! Bible and Music, Sunday, April 14, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Meet in Narthex, Ages Kindergarten - 5th Grade - Children sing, creatively engage with Bible stories, and explore various instruments. Pizza will be served. Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

BYG (Big Youth Group), Sunday, April 14, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall, Middle and High Schoolers - Bible study, small group time, good food, fun games, and amazing company. Please register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

CARE (Conversations Around Race Equity) Group, Monday, April 15, 12:00 p.m., Zoom - This group is beginning a six-week study and discussion of a video series, *The Color of Compromise* by Jamar Tisby. New members to CARE are welcome and encouraged. Contact: Whitney Bayer, whitney@smcphome.org.

International Dining Group, Thursday, April 18, 6:00 p.m., Eggspectation, 14815 Ballantyne Village Way, Suite 150-160, Charlotte - Join us as we sample different cuisines around town! Please RSVP by Monday, April 15 to Alice Tyler, rrt1317@aol.com.

Breakfast for Center of Hope, Saturday, April 20 - Help serve breakfast to guests at the Center of Hope. Food donations for this month's breakfast are due Thursday, April 18. Monetary donations are always welcome. Sign up at smpchome.org/serve. Contact: Bob Williamson, bobwill31@hotmail.com.

CARE Group Uptown Walking Tour, Sunday, April 21, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Polk Park, 501 N. Tryon St (Carpool from SMPC, meet at 12:45 p.m.) - A guided, two-hour walking tour exploring how stories of "exclusions and invisibilities" have been written into the Charlotte cityscape. Cost is \$20/person. Register on Realm by Thursday, April 18. Contact: Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.

Lunch on the Grounds, Sunday, April 28, 11:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall (lunch tables outside weather permitting) - Join us for fellowship and delicious food from Brown Bag! \$12 per adult, \$6 ages 5-10, free for ages 4 and under. Register on Realm or via QR code. Contact: Kathy Graham, kathyspeech@carolina.rr.com.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL/MISSION POSSIBLE

Vacation Bible School and Mission Possible, Monday, July 22-Thursday, July 25 at SMPC - VBS is for children ages 3-4th grade. Mission Possible is for rising 5th and 6th graders. Register on Realm. Contact: Adrienne Jaquith, smpcvbs@gmail.com.