



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Good Shepherd Sunday

April 21, 2024

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *Chorale Prelude (Psalm 23:4)* Douglas Wagner
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are
with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

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

Introit *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* Isaac Watts

Call to Worship Eamon Palmer

One: We gather together in the presence of the Good Shepherd,
**Many: who cares for us, who calls each of us by name, and who lays
down his life for us.**

One: We gather together in the presence of the Good Shepherd,
Many: who has created us, who sustains us, and who redeems us.

One: We gather together in the presence of the Good Shepherd,
**Many: who walks beside us in good times and bad, and who calls us to
follow.**

One: We gather together in the presence of the Good Shepherd,
Many: whose goodness and love never stop pursuing us.

**All: This is the God we have come to worship! Let's worship Him
together!**

Hymn *Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud* No. 11

1 Source and Sov-ereign, Rock and Cloud, For-tress, Foun-tain, Shel-ter, Light,
 2 Word and Wis-dom, Root and Vine, Shep-herd, Sav-ior, Ser-vant, Lamb,
 3 Storm and Still-ness, Breath and Dove, Thun-der, Tem-pest, Whirl-wind, Fire,
 Judge, De-fend-er, Mer-cy, Might, Life whose life all life en-dowed:
 Well and Wa-ter, Bread and Wine, Way who leads us to I AM:
 Com-fort, Coun-selor, Pres-ence, Love, En-er-gies that nev-er tire:
 May the church at prayer re-call that no sin-gle ho-ly name
 but the truth be-hind them all is the God whom we pro-claim.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*) Dr. Whitney Bayer
 Savior God, you guide us, but we are slow to follow and stubborn. You welcome us to your fold, but we make others feel as if they don't belong. Forgive our life-alienating ways, our exclusion and judgment; the way we evaluate and compare, demean and degrade. Redeem us. Restore us. Help us be faithful as your flock. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace Dr. Bayer

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. We are continuing to talk about the questions that you asked! Here are two for today: “How do we know God is real?” and “How is it possible that God is always there?” Here’s a vocabulary word: omnipresence. The omnipresence of God is a theological concept that affirms God is everywhere, all the time. How is this possible? And how do we know God is real? Both of these questions have a similar answer: faith. We cannot prove that God is real, and we can’t prove that God is everywhere all the time, but we can experience God.
2. Our [Year of Justice theme for April is Earth Day](#). Lots of Christians like to think about Earth Day as a reminder that God trusted us to care for all of creation. The Year of Justice gives some options including a book to read together, questions for conversation, and lots of idea for what to do together. There’s also a link to [this website](#), which has great ideas for celebrating Earth Day every day.
3. Make a sheep craft! You can come up with an easy one on your own using cotton balls and whatever you have around your house or you can print and cut out [this one](#). Just glue the sheep to the bottom of the staff. Hang up your craft to remind you that Jesus knows and loves you as a Good Shepherd.
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. What does Jesus say is the difference between the hired hand and the Good Shepherd?
 - b. What does it mean that Jesus knows his own and his own know him? What does that mean to you?
 - c. Who are your shepherds? Who is your Shepherd?

Presentation of Bibles to Third Graders

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. Bayer

First Reading

Psalm 23

Dr. Bayer

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely

goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Anthem

Gentle Shepherd

Molly Ijames

Chancel Choir; Ann Carney, piano

*Gentle Shepherd, lead us onward: we have need of nothing more;
By still waters, through green pastures, You our weary souls restore.*

*Gentle Shepherd, for Your glory, guide us safely to our home,
With Your staff to draw us closer when our hearts begin to roam.*

*Gentle Shepherd, when we wander through the valley of despair
And the darkness overwhelms us, You are ever watching there.*

*Gentle Shepherd, Voice of Comfort, calling through the night and cold,
With Your rod of sweet correction, turn Your sheep back to the fold.*

*Gentle Shepherd, oh what mercy! You became the sacrifice,
Laid Your life down in submission when no lamb could pay the price.*

*Gentle Shepherd, interceding, leading us through righteous ways,
Till we reach the upper pasture, where we'll live for endless days.*

Second Reading

John 10: 11-18

Dr. Brown

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

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

Sermon

Recognition

Dr. Brown

The Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

The Apostles' Creed

Dr. Bayer

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy

catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer Dr. Bayer

. . . *(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 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* arr. Robert J. Powell
Ann Carney, recorder

As an alternative to the traditional offering plate, you may support the ministry of SMPC by giving online at www.smpchome.org/give or texting SMPC to 73256.

Doxology

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him,
all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

Prayer of Dedication Ben Bickett

Thank you, Lord, for making us yours and caring for us like a good shepherd cares for their sheep. Help us to hear the call from our Good Shepherd and follow in Christ's way of love. Receive these gifts today and use them to draw us closer to you, God, and to each other, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

Hymn *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* No. 802
(stanzas 1-4)

1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow my ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he lead - eth, and where the ver - dant
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me; thy rod and staff my

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still, thy cross be - fore to guide me.

- 5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
 thy unction grace bestoweth;
 and O what transport of delight
 from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days
 thy goodness faileth never;
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
 within thy house forever.

Charge and Benediction

Dr. Brown

Congregational Response

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

No. 802

(stanza 6)

Postlude

Recessional (Psalm 67: 4)

Douglas Wagner

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples
 with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

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Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

Dr. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Chancel Choir

Ann Carney, piano, recorder

Eamon Palmer, Ben Bickett, liturgists

A/V Team: Kari Case, Xander Case

Ushers: Don Ayers, Andrew Brown, Dick Engle, Curtis Guy, Kara Guy, Bjorn Hansen

Welcome Team: Donna Brown, Jennifer Hurlburt, Kasia Hurlburt

Welcome to South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church! If you are joining us in person or online, are a first-time visitor, a long-term member, or anything in between, we are glad that you are worshiping with us and we want to stay connected with you. To receive our [emails](#), sent on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection, nancy@smpchome.org. These emails contain a weekly devotion and information about upcoming worship services and church

activities. Also, find us on Facebook: [@southmecklenburgpresbyterian](#) and Instagram: [@southmeckpres](#).

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 Sunday, April 28 at 9:15 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 18, 2024)

Remember in Prayer

- Judy Casey and family, as C.W. Casey entered the Church triumphant on April 12.
- 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, in the midst of the chaos that has enveloped their country.

To join the prayer chain or send a prayer request:

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

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!

BRYANT FARMS ROAD EXTENSION PROJECT UPDATE

Beginning Monday, April 29, the small section of Blakeney Heath Rd between Bryant Farms Rd/Elm Ln and Park Farms Ln will be closed as the City starts work on the new traffic circle. Bryant Farms Rd/Elm Ln will remain open, but you will not be able to turn onto Blakeney Heath Rd at the gas station to turn into the church. During construction, access to the church will only be available coming from Blakeney Shopping Center on Blakeney Health Rd or via Park Farms Ln. For more info, go to smpchome.org/construction-2024 or scan QR code.



THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today
APR. 21
11:15 a.m. -
12:30 p.m.

SMPC Youth Mission Project
Mecklenburg Hall, Middle and High Schoolers
We will be writing letters to Haitian students. SMPC has a close relationship with Haiti and supports Haiti through our work with Friends Empowering Haiti (previously Friends of OFCB) and Ewo (previously World of God). Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

today
APR. 21
3:00 p.m. -
4:30 p.m.

High Seas Mini Golf
10001 Charlotte Hwy, Fort Mill, SC, 4th and 5th Graders
Fourth and fifth graders are invited to join us for mini golf! Cost: \$15 (covers mini golf and ice cream). Please register on Realm. Contact: Emily Brown, ekhoward@vt.edu.

monday
APR. 22
12:00 p.m. -
1:00 p.m.

CARE (Conversations Around Race Equity) Group
Zoom
This group is conducting a six-week **virtual** 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@smpchome.org.

tuesday
APR. 23
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. 23
7:30 p.m.

Men's Evening Study Group Social
Open Tap, 5010 Carmel Center Dr.
This group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month. Everyone is welcome to join us for a social outing at Open Tap. Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

wednesday
APR. 24
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. 25
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. 25
7:30 p.m.

Making Space 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.

sunday
APR. 28
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, took a break and concludes on Sunday, May 5. Newcomers to the study are welcome. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

sunday
APR. 28
11:15 a.m. -
1:00 p.m.

Lunch on the Grounds
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.



sunday
APR. 28
5:00 p.m. -
6:30 p.m.

BAM! Bible and Music
Meet in Narthex, Ages Kindergarten - 5th Grade

Children sing, creatively engage with Bible stories, and explore various instruments. We will serve pizza. Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

sunday
APR. 28
5:00 p.m. -
6:30 p.m.

SMPC Youth High Seas Miniature Golf
High Seas Mini Golf, 10001 Charlotte Hwy, Fort Mill, SC, Middle and High Schoolers

Join us for mini golf fun! \$12 per person. Dropoff and pickup from High Seas. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday Morning Men's Group, Friday, May 3, Chapel 206 - The group meets on the first and third Fridays of every month. They are reading the book, The Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan. All are welcome. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

American Red Cross Blood Drive, Saturday, May 4, 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., The Commons - Please sign up to donate blood or volunteer at the drive. Scan QR code to find our *Serve our Community* page and links to donate or volunteer. Contact: Bill Ramsey, bill.john.ramsey@gmail.com.



LOOKING AHEAD

Here are a few dates to mark on your calendar as we head into the busy spring/summer months!



Confirmation Sunday
Sunday, May 12
10:10 a.m. Worship,
Sanctuary



Pentecost Sunday
Sunday, May 19
10:10 a.m. Sanctuary



Augusta Youth Choir
Wednesday, May 29
7:00 p.m., Sanctuary



Graduate Sunday
Sunday, June 2
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary



VBS & Mission Possible
July 22-July 25 | 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
More info & register on Realm