



**South
Mecklenburg**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**A Service of Worship
Sixth Sunday of Easter**

May 5, 2024

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *Variations on "Hyfrydol": I. Intrada* Albert Travis

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

Introit *Live in Charity* Jacques Berthier

Call to Worship Rev. Lindsey Odom

One: See what love has been given to us, that we should be called children of God.

Many: We gather to recall the love that Jesus brought into this world and into our lives.

One: Therefore, beloved, let us not love in word or in speech but in deed and in truth.

Many: Let us eagerly seek to love God, love one another, and bear fruit that will last!

All: May we abide in God's love, find joy in that love, be renewed by that love, and replicate that love to the world. Amen.

Hymn *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* No. 366

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;
 find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Odom

Holy God, you teach us to abide in your love, for it completes our lives and brings us joy. You also ask us to love others as you have loved us. We struggle to love the people in our lives as you have loved us. We push aside those whom we believe are the least in your Kingdom. Forgive us, we pray, and teach us to love again. Form in us a new vision of community in which there is neither East nor West, neither South nor North. We pray for the sake of your Kingdom. 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. Lots of people had questions about The Lord's Supper! Today is a great day to talk about those questions! Check out [this link](#) that answers every question I received plus a few that I didn't!
2. Listen to a [readaloud](#) of "Four Feet, Two Sandals". Both the Psalm and the Gospel readings for today are a celebration of friendship. Psalm 133 celebrates the friendship between David and Jonathan. The Gospel passage helps us understand the friendship that Jesus has with the disciples and what love really looks like. How does the book teach us about real love between friends?
3. Listen to [this hymn](#), titled "By Our Love." Maybe you will sing along with it, especially if it is familiar to you. How do people know you are a Christian? How do you think Jesus wants us to spread the Good News?
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. What's happening in this passage? Who is talking? Who is he talking to? What is he describing?
 - b. What do you think should happen when friends don't agree? How should it happen? Is that what usually happens in your life?
 - c. What does Jesus mean when he says that God will give them "whatever you ask him in my name?"



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

Rev. Odom

First Reading

Psalm 133

Rev. Odom

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

Anthem

If You Love Me

Joel Raney

Chancel Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano

*My peace I give you, my peace I leave with you,
And I will comfort you in times of trouble.
And if you love me keep my commands.
Though I may leave you, I will return for you,
I'll go prepare for you a place beside me.
And if you love me keep my commands.
Because I live, you too, shall live.
I bring you peace that the world cannot give.*

Second Reading

John 15:9-17

Dr. Brown

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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

Sermon

As

Dr. Brown

Hymn

Abide with Me

No. 836

(stanza 4)

***I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.***

The Affirmation of Faith *(unison)*

The Nicene Creed
Dr. Whitney 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

Solitude
Chancel Ringers

Kurt Meyer

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

Rev. Odom

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. Bayer, Dr. Brown

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. Communion 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

For Everyone Born

No. 769

(stanzas 1-4)



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
for young and for old, the right to be - long,
for just and un - just, a new way to live,
for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

Refrain

and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and
 joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,
 God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,
 jus-tice and joy!

Charge and Benediction

Dr. Brown

Congregational Response

For Everyone Born

No. 769

(stanza 5)

***For everyone born, a place at the table,
 to live without fear, and simply to be,
 to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
 for everyone born, the right to be free,
 and God will delight when we are creators
 of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
 yes, God will delight when we are creators
 of justice, justice and joy!***

Postlude

Postlude on "Hyfrydol"

Jason Payne

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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 & Missions/Outreach

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Chancel Choir

Chancel Ringers

Blythe Kinsey, piano

A/V Team: Kari Case, Xander Case

Deacon/Elder of the Day: Rich Fuller

Ushers: Mitchell Davis, Phil Eatherton, Frank Graham, Jonathan Mangels, Evan Mangels, Craig Parrish, David Wooley

Welcome Team: Dana Hefner, Wells Hefner

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, May 26 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 May 1, 2024)

Remember in Prayer

- The families of the officers killed in the line of duty in Charlotte this week.
- Laura and Matt Flora and their family, as Matt's grandfather, Woodrow "Woody" Flora, entered the Church triumphant on April 20.
- 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

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

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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!

BRYANT FARMS ROAD EXTENSION PROJECT UPDATE

Beginning Monday, May 13, 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. For more info, go to smpchome.org/construction-2024 or scan QR code.



THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today

MAY 5

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.

today

MAY 5

5:00 p.m. -
6:30 p.m.

SMPC Youth High BYG (Big Youth Group)

Mecklenburg Hall, Middle and High Schoolers

BYG provides an opportunity for youth to grow in faith and love through Bible study, small group time, good food, fun games, and amazing company. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

monday

MAY 6

12:00 p.m. -
1:00 p.m.

CARE (Conversations Around Race Equity) Group Zoom

This group is conducting a **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@smcphome.org.

tuesday

MAY 7

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

MAY 7

7:00 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. All are welcome. Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

wednesday

MAY 8

9:30 a.m.

Conversations with Matt Brown McQueen Room and Zoom

We will discuss the scripture for the coming week's sermon. Join us! Contact: Matt Brown for the Zoom ID#, matt@smpchome.org.

thursday

MAY 9

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. Extra hands always needed! Contact: Carol Morgan, morgancc43@aol.com.

thursday
MAY 9
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. Join us for breakfast and conversation. Contact: Bob Tyler, Btyler@unitedskates.com.

thursday
MAY 9
7:30 p.m.

Making Space Mom's Group and Rain or Shine "Mash Up"
Foxcroft Wine Company, Waverly
Fellowship and connection is what it's all about! All are welcome. Please RSVP as soon as possible to Allison Reeves, allison.tarwater@gmail.com.

sunday
MAY 12
10:10 a.m.

Desserts for Center of Hope
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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lunch Bunch Spring Gathering, Tuesday, May 14, 11:30 a.m., Trio Restaurant, 10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy - Join the Lunch Bunch for a yummy lunch and fellowship! Everyone is welcome. Please RSVP by Sunday, May 12 to Ruth Ann Engle, raengle22@gmail.com.

A Caregiver's Journey, Tuesday, May 14, 1:00-2:30 p.m., 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.

Friday Morning Men's Group, Friday, May 17, 7:30-8:30 a.m., Chapel 206
This 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.

Breakfast for Center of Hope, Saturday, May 18 - We cook and serve breakfast to Center of Hope guests on the third Saturday of every month. Go to smpchome.org > Serve our Community to sign up. Food and monetary donations and servers are needed! Contact: Bob Williamson, bobwill31@hotmail.com.

SMPC Family Playdate on the Playground, Saturday, May 18, 1:00-2:30 p.m., 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.

International Dining Group, Thursday, May 23, 6:00 p.m., Portofino's, 9716 Redstone Drive, Indian Land, SC - Join us as we sample different cuisines around town. All are welcome. Please RSVP by Monday, May 20 to Alice Tyler, rrt1317@aol.com.

SAVE THE DATE



Augusta Youth Chorale, Wednesday, May 29, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary - Join us for this special guest performance! Free to attend and everyone is welcome! Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.

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.



LET'S CONNECT!
Follow SMPC on social media!



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