



# South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Confirmation Sunday

May 12, 2024

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

## We Gather

**Prelude** *A Joyful Ring* Barbara Kinyon  
Gaudete Ringers

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

**Introit** *We Are One in Christ Jesus* arr. Philip Blyker

**Call to Worship** Oliver Bayer

One: Jesus prayed for his disciples, praying for God's provision,  
direction, and protection to guide them.

**Many: Just as Jesus prayed for his disciples, Jesus also prays for us.**

One: Jesus prays for us, even before the time we were born.

**Many: God's abundant love rests upon us.**

**All: From experiencing God's abundant love, may it be said of us as  
it was said of old: "See how those Christians love one another."  
Amen.**

**Hymn** *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* No. 610

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my  
 2 The name of Je - sus charms our fears, and  
 3 Christ speaks, and lis - tening to his voice new  
 4 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -  
 5 To God all glo - ry, praise, and love be

dear Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my  
 bids our sor - rows cease, sings mu - sic in the  
 life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful wak - en  
 sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the  
 now and ev - er given by saints be - low and

God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace!  
 sin - ner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.  
 to re - joice; the poor in heart be - lieve.  
 earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.  
 saints a - bove, the church in earth and heaven.

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

Dr. Whitney Bayer

**Savior God, we invite you into our lives for a season, only to forget and neglect you once again. You beckon us, calling for our attention, but we are distracted and busy taking care of other priorities. Remind us, Holy God, that you are the source of our flourishing. You are the living water by which we have been planted. Forgive our neglect. Forgive our unfaithfulness. Focus us on you, your Word, and all that your Spirit provides. 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. Today is Confirmation Sunday! Some of the questions I received had to do with Confirmation. In the Presbyterian Church, we baptize people of all ages, including babies and young children. Obviously, this means that they have not made a personal decision to follow the way of Jesus. So, when those kids reach eighth grade, they are given a choice to join the Confirmation Class. At SMPC, they spend a whole school year learning together and then in May, they write their own Statements of Faith and claim the promises that their parents or caregivers made to them in Baptism. Today, we celebrate that claim with them and formally welcome them to be adult members of the church, who can vote in congregational meetings.
2. In our scripture today, Jesus is praying for his friends. Take some time to pray for your friends. If you haven't yet learned how to write, you can draw a picture of your friend(s). Or you might try praying in color. Using [this template](#), write the name of your friend in the middle. You can then pray for specific things by writing them around, or just color it in. Remember that prayer doesn't always have to use words.
3. Print and complete a [coloring page](#), [word search](#), [crossword](#), or [maze](#).
4. Journal, considering the following:
  - a. Who is the "them" Jesus is talking to God about? Are we included?
  - b. What does it mean for us to be "protected from the evil one"?
  - c. What does it mean for us to be sent into the world? What's our mission?



### **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**

Colossians 1:15-20

Dr. Bayer

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness

of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

**Anthem** *Fairest Lord Jesus* arr. Craig Courtney  
Chancel Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano

*Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nations, O thou of God and man the Son,  
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,  
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.  
Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,  
robed in the blooming garb of spring:  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer who makes the woeful heart to sing.  
Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,  
and all the twinkling starry host;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels heaven can boast.  
Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations! Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!*

**Second Reading** John 17:6-19 Dr. Brown

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

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

**Sermon** Prophet — Priest — King Dr. Brown

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer** Rev. Lindsey 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** *Antiphonal Praise* Michael Bedford  
Gaudete Ringers

*As an alternative to the traditional offering plate, you may support the ministry of SMPC by giving online at [smpchome.org](http://smpchome.org) 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** Lilly McAnally

**Holy God, we ask that through these gifts given today, we will go to discover the needs and opportunities around us. May God's continuing presence grant us the power to love and the strength to serve. Amen.**

## **We Go Out to Serve**

**Presentation of Confirmands** Rev. Odom

**Scripture Reading** 1 Peter 2:9 Dr. Brown

**Profession of Faith** Dr. Bayer and Dr. Brown

Recognizing that all are sinners, dependent on the mercy of God, do you profess your faith in Jesus Christ as Lord of all and Savior of sinners, and do you confess your dependence upon Christ for your salvation?

Do you now resolve and promise, depending on the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will seek to live as a follower of Christ?

Do you declare your intention to participate actively and responsibly in the worship and mission of the church?

**Questions to the Congregation** Lilly McAnally

**The Affirmation of Faith** *(unison)* **The Apostles' Creed**  
Lilly McAnally

**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.

Hymn

*I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*

No. 69

*Leader or All*

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?

*Refrain*  
*All*

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.

**Prayer of Confirmation and Laying on of Hands**

Rev. Odom

**Welcome to Discipleship**

Dean Elledge

One: By publicly professing their faith, the students of the Confirmation Class of 2024 have expressed their intention to continue in the covenant God made with them in their baptism. Let us welcome them as they join with us in the worship and mission of the church.

**All: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in Christ.**

**Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Brown

## Congregational Response

*I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*

No. 69

*(refrain)*

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?*

*I have heard you calling in the night.*

*I will go, Lord, if you lead me.*

*I will hold your people in my heart.*

## Postlude

*Tocatta Concerto No. 1 (Azmon)* Franklin D. Ashdown

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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 and Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Chancel Choir

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

Blythe Kinsey, piano

Oliver Bayer, liturgist

Lilly McAnally, Dean Elledge, representing the Session

**Acolytes:** Grayson Myers, Graham Trimmer

**A/V Team:** Mary Katheryne Zagora, Michael Zagora

**Ushers:** Don Ayers, Andy Burke, Judy Jones, Linda Nagle Hanson, Craig Parrish, Michael Zagora

**Welcome Team:** Donna Brown, Jennifer Hurlburt, Kasia Hurlburt, Kathy Rasimas

The flowers in worship this morning are given by Karen and John Sandeen to the glory of God and in honor of the Confirmation Class of 2024.

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). 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](mailto:nancy@smpchome.org) or 980-265-2839.

### **Congregational Notes** (as of May 9, 2024)

#### **Remember in Prayer**

- Rodney, Lundee, Jordan and Justin Ernsberger and their families, as Rodney's father, George Ernsberger, entered the church triumphant on May 1.
- Sarah Massey, as she 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](mailto:prayer@SMPChome.org).



## SMPC Confirmation Class of 2024

<b>Confirmand</b>	<b>Mentor</b>
Dylan Booker	Hank Jacobus
Ryan Brookshire	Jane Brookshire
Siena Carr	Sharon Mitchell
Alicia Cianfrone	Lily McAnally
Reid Cook	Andrew Brown
Emily Durham	Carol Roan
Luke Estes	Bob Williamson
Judah Estes	Jon Myers
Emery Hicks	Shelby Ullman
McKenna Hope	Tierra Sandeen
Madison Jenkins	Alicia Bickett
Katherine Kuszmar	Kristen Angerer
Anna Mangels	Kathy Graham
Tyler Pease	Rob Hope
Porter Sandeen	Kristin Sandeen
Elise Ullman	Susan Hicks

*Join us in the narthex after worship to greet the confirmands and celebrate them with cake!*



**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 cake in the narthex to celebrate our Confirmands and 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 TOMORROW, 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](http://smpchome.org/construction-2024) or scan QR code.



### THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

monday  
**MAY 13**  
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@smpchome.org](mailto:whitney@smpchome.org).

tuesday  
**MAY 14**  
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  
**MAY 14**  
11:30 a.m.

#### Lunch Bunch Spring Gathering Trio Restaurant, 10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy

Join the Lunch Bunch for a yummy lunch and fellowship! Everyone is welcome. Please RSVP by TODAY, May 12, to Ruth Ann Engle, [raengle22@gmail.com](mailto:raengle22@gmail.com).

tuesday  
**MAY 14**  
1:00 p.m. -  
2:30 p.m.

#### A 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](mailto:whitney@smpchome.org).

tuesday  
**MAY 14**  
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. All are welcome. Contact: Jon Myers, [jonmyers2@gmail.com](mailto:jonmyers2@gmail.com).

**Please note: There is no Conversations with Matt Brown on Wednesday, May 15 or May 22. It will resume on Wednesday, May 29.** We will discuss the scripture for the coming week's sermon. Join us! Contact: Matt Brown for the Zoom ID#, [matt@smpchome.org](mailto:matt@smpchome.org).

thursday  
**MAY 16**  
12:30 p.m.

#### Food for Thought Book Group McQueen Room

We're discussing *Funny Farm: My Unexpected Life with 600 Rescue Animals* by Laurie Zaleski and *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks. All are welcome. Contact: Kathy Paquette, [knesspaquette@aol.com](mailto:knesspaquette@aol.com).

friday  
**MAY 17**  
7:30 a.m. -  
8:30 a.m.

#### Friday Morning Men's Group 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](mailto:irelandcurtis00@gmail.com).

**saturday**  
**MAY 18**

**Breakfast for Center of Hope**

We cook and serve breakfast to Center of Hope guests on the third Saturday of every month. Go to [smpchome.org](http://smpchome.org) > Serve or scan QR code to sign up to donate or serve. Contact: Bob Williamson, [bobwill31@hotmail.com](mailto:bobwill31@hotmail.com).



**saturday**  
**MAY 18**  
**1:00 p.m. -**  
**2:30 p.m.**

**SMPC Family Playdate on the Playground**  
**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](mailto:kaitlin.slanina@gmail.com).

**sunday**  
**MAY 19**  
**1:30 p.m. -**  
**3:30 p.m.**

**CARE Group Uptown Walking Tour**

**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 this Thursday, May 16. Contact: Whitney Bayer, [whitney@smpchome.org](mailto:whitney@smpchome.org).

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**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](mailto:rrt1317@aol.com).



**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](mailto:zach@smpchome.org).

**Roof Above "Fast Track to Serve" Orientation, Monday, June 10, 12:30-1:30 p.m., 945 N. College Street** - We will tour the facility, learn more about Roof Above's mission of ending homelessness, and discover more opportunities to partner and serve with them. Ages 12 and up. Max 15 people. Register on Realm. Contact: Donna Brown, [donna matt89@gmail.com](mailto:donna matt89@gmail.com).



**SMPC Golf Tournament, Thursday, June 27, 12:00-6:00 p.m., Sun-City Carolina Lakes, 23012 Kingfisher Dr, Indian Land, SC**

- For all levels, men, women & youth. Captain's Choice Scramble with warmups beginning at 12:00 p.m. and a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. We'll have door prizes and prizes for team/individual accomplishments. \$50 per person. More info and register on Realm. Contact: Brett Thompson, [bathomp1971@yahoo.com](mailto:bathomp1971@yahoo.com).

**CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE GIVING**

If you are searching for the perfect way to say "thank you" to your favorite teacher, consider giving to one of the organizations SMPC supports through Alternative Giving. For example, maybe your favorite teacher would love a donation to be made in his/her honor to Friends Empowering Haiti, which helps fund school meals and operations, the medical clinic and special projects at the school in Bayonnais, Haiti. Alternative Giving cards are available in the Connection Center or the church office. Contact: Donna Brown, [donna matt89@gmail.com](mailto:donna matt89@gmail.com).



**SERVICE OPPORTUNITY: PROCTORING AT SMITHFIELD**

Smithfield Elementary is looking for proctors for end of grade (EOG) tests on May 24, May 29 and/or May 30, 7:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m. This is a stress-free and easy service opportunity. Please contact SMPC member Kathy Graham, [kathyspeech@carolina.rr.com](mailto:kathyspeech@carolina.rr.com) for sign up links or see our weekly email.