



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Graduate Sunday

June 2, 2024

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* arr. Charles Callahan
Emma Collard, horn

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

Introit *God Welcomes All* John Bell

Call to Worship Rev. Lindsey Odom

One: Jesus Christ is the light of the world; the light no darkness can overcome.

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

One: Light, like a beacon of faith and direction.

Many: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us! We must arise and shine!

One: 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 *Here in This Place* No. 401

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,
 van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;
 brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.
 Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and
 blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,
 we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Odom

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' light. We ignore the goodness that is all around us. We fail to recognize Christ' holy touch in our world, and we neglect our responsibility to treat all things and all people as sacred. Forgive us, we pray, and free us to live in love and peace with you, with ourselves, and with all of your creation. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, 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

Rev. Odom

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

Kathy Graham

1. It's Graduate Sunday! In Children's Worship, our kids will be writing messages and drawing pictures in sidewalk chalk for the seniors to see after worship. If you want to share a prayer for our seniors, whether you are worshipping in person or online, you can use [this link](#). We will compile and email them to the seniors tomorrow.
2. Our Year of Justice topic for June is LGBTQIA pride month. Click [here](#) for some great ways to have a conversation at home about how to support our siblings in Christ who are part of this community. One of the activities is to [listen to](#) *A Church For All* by Gayle Pitman.
3. Use oil, cotton swabs, and construction paper to make a craft that illustrates how Jesus' light shines through us. You can find full instructions [here](#). The author notes that, "We let the light of Jesus shine through us through the things we do and say, just as the light shines through the patterns we made with the oil."
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. Parts of the gospel talk about John the Baptist and parts talk 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

Kathy Graham

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

Hank Jacobus

First Readings

Genesis 1:3-5

Hank Jacobus

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

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

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

A Jubilant Song

Victor Johnson

Jubilate Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano

Cantate Domino canticum novum.

Lift up your voice in jubilant song!

Cantate Domino canticum novum.

Lift up your voice, sing and rejoice, alleluia!

O let your heart sing a jubilant new song,

And let your spirit be glad!

Come let us raise a joyful song of praise. Alleluia!

Second Reading

John 1:1-10

Brooke Hicks

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.

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

Reflections

Brooke Hicks

Cameron Fraser

Hank Jacobus

The Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

The Nicene Creed

Dr. Brown

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

Grand Chorus
Exultate Ringers

Joel Raney

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. Whitney Bayer

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Dr. Brown

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. 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

Communion Anthem

Think of Me and Remember

Joel Raney

Ben Bickett, tenor; Brett Parrish, tenor

The Prayer after Communion

Dr. Bayer

We Go Out to Serve

Recognition of our Graduating High School Seniors

Rev. Odom

One: Families of these graduates, at baptism, the Church promised to help you guide and nurture your children by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful disciples as they grow in ministry. We upheld that promise when, at Confirmation, we watched your sons and daughters move beyond the faith you gave them to claim their own faith journey.

One: Graduates, you have grown up here on the stories of God. We have told them to you, sung them to you, acted them out—hoping to teach them to you. With gratitude, we have listened to you tell them to us, sing them, act them out — teaching us in return.

All: We have prayed for you more than you know, both in frequency and in urgency. Amidst our prayers, we give thanks for you. And today we celebrate your achievement, with pride in what you've done, and in what we see you becoming.

One: We pray that the stories of God's truth and grace, of God's love, and of the redeeming of all creation will continue to sustain you, encourage you, challenge you, and transform you, wherever you go, whatever you do. These are the stories we pray you will continue to hear, continue to live toward, continue to live into.

All: Each one of you is a special part of this congregation. We are proud of you, and we promise to support you with our love, our counsel and prayers, and to continue to walk with you on your journey of faith.

Blessing of the Graduates (*unison*)

Dr. Bayer

May God's blessing rest on each one of you. May God's light shine on you and make your path clear. May you ever grow more fully into the person God wants you to be, and may you discover the incomparable joy of living lives that bring honor and glory to God. Carry this blessing with you, as a sign of the unwavering care and support of this congregation and the steadfast love of Christ. Amen.

Hymn

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me
(stanzas 1-4)

No. 543



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
 2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness-
 3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,
 4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
 es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
 strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
 light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
 hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

Charge and Benediction

Dr. Brown

Congregational Response

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

No. 543

(stanza 5)

***Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that hear my
 voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me: O Christ, surround me;
 O Christ, surround me.***

Postlude

Toccata Brevis

Daniel Gawthrop

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

Brooke Hicks, Cameron Fraser, Hank Jacobus, senior speakers

Chancel Choir

Jubilate Choir

Exultate Ringers

Ben Bickett, Brett Parrish, soloists

Emma Collard, horn

Blythe Kinsey, piano

Kathy Graham, Children's Spiritual Formation committee

A/V Team: Kari Case, Xander Case

Ushers: Andrew Brown, Frank Graham, Curt Ireland, Craig Parrish, Donna

Podgorny, Bob Williamson, David Wooley

Welcome Team: Jack Hess

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).

Congregational Notes (as of May 30, 2024)

Remember in Prayer

- Maria, Jeff, Hiley and Chloe Davis and their family, as Maria's father, Steve Hudson, entered the Church triumphant on May 25.
- Our high school and college graduating seniors, as they begin the next chapter in their lives.
- Rebecca, Rafael and Clara Guzman, as they enjoy rest and respite while on Rebecca's sabbatical.
- 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.

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South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

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smpchome.org

SMPC WEEKLY

JUNE 2, 2024

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

today
JUN 2
5:00 p.m. -
6:30 p.m.

Junior and Senior Pool Party
The Randle's House, Juniors and Seniors in High School
We will be congratulating the seniors and all their accomplishments as we are so proud of them. Dinner will be provided (a taco bar), but please bring a side item or a dessert item. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smcphome.org.

today
JUN 2
5:00 p.m.

SMPC's Men's Softball
SMPC Ball Field
The SMPC Men's Softball team plays about twice a week through the month of June. If you would like to join in on the fun this summer, contact Jimmy Galati, jamesgalati63@yahoo.com.

monday
JUN 3
12:00 p.m. -
1:00 p.m.

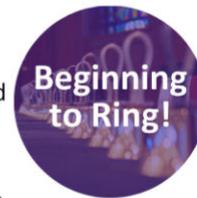
CARE (Conversations Around Race Equity) Group
Zoom
This is the last session in this group's **virtual** study and discussion of a video series, *The Color of Compromise* by Jamar Tisby. New members to CARE are welcome and encouraged. Contact: Whitney Bayer, whitney@smcphome.org.

wednesday
JUN 5
9:30 a.m.

Conversations with Dr. Matt Brown
McQueen Room or Zoom
We will discuss the scripture for the coming week's sermon. All are welcome! Contact Matt Brown, matt@smpchome.org for the Zoom ID#.

thursday
JUN 6
10:00 a.m.

Beginning to Ring!
Sanctuary
Join us on Thursdays this summer to learn to play the handbells! Led by Director of Music and Organist Zach Bowyer and SMPC Chancel Ringers Member Gayle Ireland, you will learn a ton and have so much fun along the way. No need to RSVP - just come! Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.



friday
JUN 7
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 and always welcomes new faces! Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.



friday
JUN 7
3:30 p.m. -
5:30 p.m.

SMPC Youth Summer Celebration at Starbucks
Starbucks at Stonecrest, Rising 6th Graders - Graduated High School Seniors
Meet Lindsey at Starbucks for a special treat to celebrate school ending and summer beginning! No registration is necessary - come when you can! Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

**Sunday
JUN 9
10:10 a.m.**

**Desserts for Center of Hope
Drop Off Before 10:10 a.m. Worship**

Bring a sweet treat for the residents who temporarily call Center of Hope home. Sign up at smpchome.org > Serve our Community. Contact: Terry Gaines, terryg@carolina.rr.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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, donnamatt89@gmail.com.



Bagged Lunches Drop-Off for Roof Above, Saturday, June 15, 9:30-9:45 a.m., In Front of the Palmer Building

Each month, SMPC donates 100 bagged lunches for residents of Roof Above. Slots are available to donate this month! Go to smpchome.org > Serve our Community to sign up. Contact: Shelby Ullman, shelby.ullman@gmail.com.



SMPC Golf Tournament, Thursday, June 27, 1:00-6:00 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 1:00 p.m. and a shotgun start at 2:00 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, or Ron Morgan, colronmorg@gmail.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. Alternative Giving cards are available in the Connection Center or the church office. Contact: Donna Brown, donnamatt89@gmail.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.



Congratulations

Class of 2024

LET'S CONNECT!

Follow SMPC on social media!



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