



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

June 23, 2024

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *Word of God, Come Down on Earth* arr. Frederick Frahm

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Rev. Lindsey Odom
The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**

Introit *Spirit of the Living God* Daniel Iverson

Call to Worship Camdyn Sheeler

One: We come to worship,

Many: sometimes more like David, and sometimes more like Goliath.

One: We come to worship,

Many: to remember to trust in God's strength, not our own, and to live into the calling that God has for our lives.

One: We come to worship,

Many: to lay all that we are and all that we have before you, O God.

All: May we lay before God the power of trust, the power of hope, and the power of faith. Let us worship God!

Hymn 463 *How Firm a Foundation* FOUNDATION

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Odom

Abundant God, you know how often we set our minds on human things instead of divine things. We are prone to thinking of our desires long before we ever consider yours. We try to force the Spirit to fit our agenda and manipulate your grace for our own purposes. We long for comfort and stability. We admit to you that we prefer the easier way of what we have always done, even if it is not where you currently call. Forgive us, O God. Turn our eyes forward, to where you are leading. Remind us that you are our God and will never leave us. Give us faith to see your way, and courage to walk in it. 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

Anna Vechnak

1. Watch the story video here. What did you notice when watching the video? If you have heard the story before, did it make you think about anything in a new way?
2. There's a fun song called "Only a Boy Named David" that tells the story with words and motions. Watch it [here](#) and see if you can learn them!
3. Listen to a [readaloud](#) of *The Recess Queen* by Alexis O'Neill. Remember that David defeated Goliath not because little guys can win (though they can!), but because he was following God, and nothing is impossible with God. How does this story relate to the story of David and Goliath? How does Katie Sue "defeat" Mean Jean?
4. Play hop scotch and think about David and his five stones. You could also choose a Bible verse to write in your chalk boxes.
5. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. Why do you think everyone was so afraid of Goliath?
 - b. Do you think David was afraid?
 - c. How did David know God was with him? How do you know God is with you?



Children's Liturgy

Anna Vechnak

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. Matthew S. Brown

First Reading

Ephesians 6:12-18

For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to

quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

Second Reading

1 Samuel 17

Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. Saul and the Israelites gathered and encamped in the valley of Elah, and formed ranks against the Philistines. The Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. He had greaves of bronze on his legs and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and his shield-bearer went before him. He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us."

And the Philistine said, "Today I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man, that we may fight together." When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid. Now David was the son of an Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, named Jesse, who had eight sons. In the days of Saul the man was already old and advanced in years. The three eldest sons of Jesse had followed Saul to the battle; the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. David was the youngest; the three eldest followed Saul, but David went back and forth from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem. For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening. Jesse said to his son David, "Take for your brothers an ephah of this parched grain and these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers; also take these ten cheeses to the commander of their thousand. See how your brothers fare, and bring some token from them." Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, took the provisions, and went as Jesse had commanded him. He came to the encampment as the army was going forth to the battle line, shouting the war cry. Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage, ran to the ranks, and went and greeted his brothers. As he talked with

them, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines, and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him. All the Israelites, when they saw the man, fled from him and were very much afraid. The Israelites said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. The king will greatly enrich the man who kills him, and will give him his daughter and make his family free in Israel." David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine, and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" The people answered him in the same way, "So shall it be done for the man who kills him." His eldest brother Eliab heard him talking to the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David. He said, "Why have you come down? With whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart; for you have come down just to see the battle." David said, "What have I done now? It was only a question." He turned away from him toward another and spoke in the same way; and the people answered him again as before. When the words that David spoke were heard, they repeated them before Saul; and he sent for him. David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth." But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. Your servant has killed both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God." David said, "The Lord, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go, and may the Lord be with you!" Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. David strapped Saul's sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them." So David removed them. Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine. The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field." But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This very day the Lord will deliver you

into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hand." When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, striking down the Philistine and killing him; there was no sword in David's hand. Then David ran and stood over the Philistine; he grasped his sword, drew it out of its sheath, and killed him; then he cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. The troops of Israel and Judah rose up with a shout and pursued the Philistines as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron, so that the wounded Philistines fell on the way from Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron. The Israelites came back from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their camp. David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armor in his tent. When Saul saw David go out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this young man?" Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know." The king said, "Inquire whose son the stripling is." On David's return from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with the head of the Philistine in his hand. Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" And David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

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

Sermon

"Let no one's heart fail"

Dr. Brown

Hymn 612

We Praise You, O God

KREMSER

1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
 2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and moth - ers;
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
 through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
 and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
 When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
 With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.

we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
 and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
 To you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

The author wrote this text when only nineteen years old in response to a request from the organist of the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City, who wanted another Thanksgiving text to sing to this Dutch tune. He regarded the usual text (see no. 336) as too full of conflict.

TEXT: Julia C. Cory, 1902, alt.

MUSIC: *Neder-landsch Gedenck-Clanck*, 1626; harm. Eduard Kremser, 1877

KREMSER

12.11.12.11

The Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

The Apostles' Creed

Dr. Whitney 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

I Know that My Redeemer Lives

arr. Charles W. Ore

As an alternative to the traditional offering plate, you may support the ministry of SMPC by giving online at 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

April Grace Marino

God of mercy and grace, with grateful hearts we give you thanks for lives transformed through your love. We offer these gifts and the service of our lives, praying that they may be used to transform the lives of those in need. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

Hymn 846

Fight the Good Fight

DUKE STREET

1 Fight the good fight with all thy might.
 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace;
 3 Cast care a - side; lean on thy guide.
 4 Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.

Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.
 lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.
 God's bound - less mer - cy will pro - vide.
 God chang - eth not, and thou art dear.

Lay hold on life, and it shall be
 Life with its way be - fore us lies;
 Trust, and thy trust - ing soul shall prove
 On - ly be - lieve, and thou shalt see

thy joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
 Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.
 Christ is its life, and Christ its love.
 that Christ is all in all to thee.

Charge and Benediction

Dr. Brown

Congregational Response

No. 748

***Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
 through this and every coming day,
 that in your Spirit strong and true
 our lives may be our gift to you.***

Postlude

Jesus Shall Reign

arr. Raymond Haan

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE,
 License #A-735003. All rights reserved.*

Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor
Dr. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor
Rev. Lindsey Odom, Associate Pastor for Youth and Missions/Outreach
Ann Carney, organist
Anna Vechnak, Children's Spiritual Formation committee
Camdyn Sheeler, April Grace Marino, liturgists

A/V Team: Brad Alford, Luke Estes

Deacon/Elder of the Day: David Gaines

Ushers: Andy Burke, Dan DeChant, Gena DeChant, Richard Franseen,
Jonathan Mangels, Evan Mangels

Welcome Team: Jack Hess, Jane Klecker, Tom Klecker, Amy Zagora

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 today at 11:30 a.m. To learn more, contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection, nancy@smpchome.org or 980-265-2839.

Remember in Prayer

- Tracy and Carol Bower and their family, as Tracy's mother, Virginia Handy Bower, entered the Church triumphant on June 17.
- Elizabeth Martin, as she recovers from tonsillectomy surgery.
- 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, in the midst of the chaos that has enveloped their country.

To join the prayer chain or send a prayer request:

prayer@SMPChome.org.

Vacation Bible School at SMPC!



Monday, July 22 -

Thursday, July 25

9:00a-12:00p

VBS: Ages 3-4th grade

Register on Realm or via QR code. Volunteers also needed. Please contact: Adrienne Jaquith, smpcvbs@gmail.com



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!

THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

monday
JUN 24
6:15 p.m.

SMPC's Men's Softball **SMPC Ball Field**

The SMPC Men's Softball team plays about twice a week through June and July. They also play Friday, June 28 at 6:15 p.m. before taking a week off for the July 4th holiday. Check the church calendar for more game dates. If you would like to join in on the fun this summer, contact Jimmy Galati, jamesgalati63@yahoo.com.

wednesday
JUN 26
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 27
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.



thursday
JUN 27
1:00 p.m.

SMPC Golf Tournament **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, colonmorg@gmail.com.



Summer Organ Sidekick **One Spot Left!**



There is one spot left (at time of print!) to be a Summer Organ Sidekick! Children ages rising 2nd grade to rising 6th grade are invited to sit next to Director of Music and Organist Zach Bowyer at the organ to experience what it's like to lead music during worship! More info and sign up via QR code. 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.

SERVE THIS SUMMER

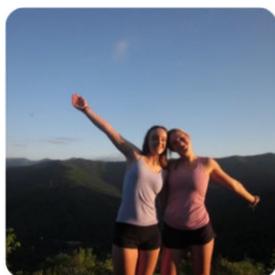
SMPC offers many opportunities that allow you to serve our church, our community and our world. We hope you will join us in serving and sharing God's light! More information about service opportunities is available in the Connection Center. You can also scan the QR code to let a Missions/Outreach Committee member know of your interest!



FACES OF FAITH

Two of our high school youth, Caroline Guy (pictured below on left) and Haley Davis, are serving as advocates for the Massanetta Springs Middle School Conferences during June. We are so proud of them and their heart to serve. In case you don't know, advocates are high school leaders who empower the faith of middle schoolers during each conference as they design and lead keynotes, small group time, workshops, recreation, and worship. Major bonus: They will be serving as advocates when SMPC middle schoolers are at Massanetta June 25-28 (this week!).

Even with their busy schedules, these inspiring young women were kind enough to be interviewed for Faces of Faith. Enjoy getting to know them!



Names: Caroline Guy and Haley Davis

Ages and Grades: Caroline is 16 and Haley is 15. Both are rising juniors in high school.

Families: Caroline is the daughter of Kara and Curtis Guy and has one sister, Natalie. Haley is the daughter of Denise and Mitchell Davis and has one sister, Dylan.

What are you most looking forward to about being an advocate at Massanetta this summer?

Caroline: I am mostly looking forward to all of the friends and memories I will be making. Also I am excited for the energizers (the dances we do to get everyone pumped up)!

Haley: To meet new people and become closer with God and bringing other people closer to God, as well.

How has being a part of SMPC Youth shaped your faith journey?

Caroline: Being a part of SMPC Youth has shaped my faith journey by experiencing God's love through others. My friends and leaders have showed me what it's like to experience this which draws me closer to God.

Haley: I have actually wanted to become closer with God and learn about God and Jesus and what they have done for us. I feel so much more connected with God since joining the youth group and feel inspired to teach others!

What is your advice for rising 6th graders who are just now joining our youth program or any youth who are curious about joining it?

Caroline: My advice would be to keep showing up to youth group because over time it will be a lot more fun than expected. Also, to not be afraid to go because it is always so welcoming, and everyone is super friendly.

Haley: Go to as many events as you can! This is the best way to meet new people and become friends with others! It may seem scary at first but there are so many other kids in the same position as you.