



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

June 30, 2024

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *Prelude on "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"* Paul Fey

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Dr. Whitney Bayer
The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**

Introit *Great Is the Lord* Michael W. Smith

Call to Worship Fiona Mitchell

One: Wait for the Lord, like those who hope in God's mercy and grace.

Many: God's steadfast love endures forever.

One: Watch for God, like those who eagerly await the morning.

Many: We watch for God, who is always with us.

One: Hear God's hopeful word, like those who long for healing and peace.

All: We count on God's steadfast presence with us, to guide, heal and uplift our spirits. Amen.

Hymn 619 *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven* LAUDA ANIMA



1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; glad of heart your
 2 Praise God for the grace and fa - vor shown our fore - bears
 3 Like a lov - ing par - ent car - ing, God knows well our
 4 An - gels, teach us ad - o - ra - tion; you be - hold God

car - ols raise; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
 in dis - tress; God is still the same for - ev - er,
 fee - ble frame, glad - ly all our bur - dens bear - ing,
 face to face. Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion,

who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!
 slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
 still to count - less years the same. Al - le - lu - ia!
 dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all your days!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing our Mak - er's faith - ful - ness!
 Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me, praise God's name!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dr. Bayer

God of perfect love, you continually bring forth life, transforming sadness to joy and despair to hope. We are weak, but you are strong. Our ways are flawed, but your ways are true. We are seldom right, but you are never wrong. Forgive us, redeem us, transform us. Take away the sin that burdens us and restore us to the people you would have us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. 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

Kaitlyn Gaul

For the next five weeks, we will focus on scriptures that we will explore at Vacation Bible School! This week: [Genesis 28:10-22](#)

1. Since our focus for the July Year of Justice is the anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act (July 2nd), we are going to do our July year of justice on this last day of June! [Here](#) is a link to the email with the full resource.
2. In our scripture for today, Jacob sees a ladder in his dream. That's where the name for the Jacob's ladder toy comes from! It is pretty complicated, but you can make your own Jacob's ladder using a cardboard box, scissors, ribbon, and glue. The instructions can be found [here](#).
3. Jacob built the stone altar to remind himself of what had happened there, in the place where he had felt so close to God. What are some places that you feel close to God? If you can, spend some time in a place this week where you feel close to God.
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. Have you ever had a dream that felt real? What was it like?
 - b. What do you think the dream meant?
 - c. Have you ever been sorry, like Jacob was?
 - d. Why do you think Jacob built the stone altar?



Children's Liturgy

Kaitlyn Gaul

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

1 Corinthians 12:26

If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Second Reading

2 Samuel 1:1, 12, 17-27

After the death of Saul, when David had returned from defeating the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag. They mourned and wept, and fasted until evening for Saul and for his son Jonathan, and for the army of the Lord and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. David intoned this lamentation over Saul and his son Jonathan. (He ordered that The Song of the Bow be taught to the people of Judah; it is written in the Book of Jashar.) He said: Your glory, O Israel, lies slain upon your high places! How the mighty have fallen! Tell it not in Gath, proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon; or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice, the daughters of the

uncircumcised will exult. You mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew or rain upon you, nor bounteous fields! For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, the shield of Saul, anointed with oil no more. From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan did not turn back, nor the sword of Saul return empty. Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely! In life and in death they were not divided; they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions. O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you with crimson, in luxury, who put ornaments of gold on your apparel. How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan lies slain upon your high places. I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; greatly beloved were you to me; your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

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

Sermon

Honoring Trauma

Dr. Brown

Hymn 614

Great Are You, Lord

GREAT IS THE LORD

(stanza 1: leader; stanza 2: all)

C Dm G C F G
Great are you, Lord: you are ho-ly and just; by your pow-er we trust in your

F C C Dm G C
love. Great are you, Lord: you are faith-ful and true; by your

F G F C B^b
mer-cy you prove you are love. Great are you, Lord, and

F C B^b G C
wor-thy of glo-ry! Great are you, Lord, and wor-thy of praise.

B^b D G E Am
Great are you, Lord. We lift up our voice; we lift up our voice:

Dm G Am Am/G Dm G C
great are you, Lord! Great are you, Lord!

God expressed love for all humankind through Israel, whom God chose to be a covenant people to serve him in love and faithfulness. When Israel was unfaithful, God disciplined the nation with judgment and maintained the covenant through prophets, priests, teachers, and true believers. These witnesses called all Israelites to a destiny in which they would serve God faithfully and become a light to the nations. The same witnesses proclaimed the coming of a new age, and a true servant of God in whom God's purpose of Israel and for humanity would be realized. Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. 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

Standing on the Promises
Summer Ringers

arr. Jason Krug

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

Katie Gravender

O God, all that we have comes from you. Receive this offering and with it, the offering of our lives, for we return to you only what you have so graciously given. Use us for the sake of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

Hymn 4

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

GROSSER GOTT

1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
 3 All a - pos - tles join the strain as your sa - cred
 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it:

bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim;
 above are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
 name they hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
 three we name you, while in es - sence on - ly one;

all in heaven a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
 in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heavens with
 and the bless - ed mar - tyrs fol - low, and from morn to
 un - di - vid - ed God we claim you, and a - dor - ing,

vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
 sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
 set of sun, through the church the song goes on.
 bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

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

March on "Lauda Anima"

Kevin Hildebrand

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
Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist
Kaitlyn Gaul, Children's Spiritual Formation committee
Fiona Mitchell, Katie Gravender, liturgists

A/V Team: Mary Katheryne Zagora, Michael Zagora

Summer Organ Sidekick: Fiona Mitchell

Ushers: Bob Cushman, Dick Engle, Jenny Gates, Bjorn Hansen, Charlie Metzler, Carol Watkins

Welcome Team: Barb and Pat Malo, Jane and Tom Klecker

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, July 28 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 June 27, 2024)

Remember in Prayer

- 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.

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South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

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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!

Please note the church office will be closed Thursday, July 4 for the holiday. We hope everyone has a wonderful and safe Fourth!

THIS WEEK

friday
JUL 5
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 *For the Glory: The Untold and Inspiring Story of Eric Liddell, Hero of Chariots of Fire* by Duncan Hamilton. All are welcome. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

UPCOMING CLASSES & EVENTS

sunday
JUL 7

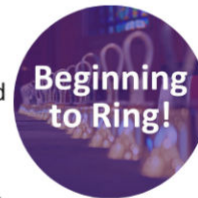
Youth Conference at Montreat
High Schoolers
Please pray for our high schoolers and adult chaperones and volunteers as they journey to Montreat Sunday, July 7- Saturday, July 13!

monday
JUL 8
6:15 p.m.

SMPC's Men's Softball
SMPC Fields
The SMPC Men's Softball team plays about twice a week through July. 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.

thursday
JUL 11
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.



saturday
JUL 13
9:30 a.m.

Bagged Lunches for Roof Above
In front of the Palmer Building
Each month, SMPC donates 100 bagged lunches for residents of Roof Above. Slots are available to donate in July! Go to smpchome.org > Serve our Community to sign up. Contact: Shelby Ullman, shelby.ullman@gmail.com.

saturday
JUL 13
10:30 a.m. -
12:00 p.m.

SMPC Family Playdate on the Playground
SMPC Playground, Ages 3-1st grade
Join us for fun on the playground! Snacks and drinks will be provided for the children. Siblings are welcome. Contact: Kaitlin Gaul, kaitlin.slanina@gmail.com.

sunday
JUL 14
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.

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!



UPCOMING SERVICE OPPORTUNITY



Breakfast for Center of Hope, Saturday, July 20 - 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 or scan QR code. Food and monetary donations and servers are needed! Contact: Bob Williamson, bobwill31@hotmail.com.

FACES OF FAITH

Enjoy getting to know longtime SMPC member Marge Kruse!



Name: Marge Kruse

Years at SMPC: My late husband, Dick, and I joined SMPC on May 13, 2012.

What brought you here? Dick researched churches online and found SMPC!

How have you found connection at SMPC? I've found connection in so many ways at SMPC. I've joined various committees - a couple that come to mind are Hospitality and Vacation Bible School. I'm also part of The Life Connection's Circle (TLC) and really enjoy the fellowship. Being a part of the choir is my love! What a wonderful group of friends and a great fun/challenge (in a good way!) under Zach's direction. I am also honored to be a Deacon in the church, and I enjoy playing mahjong with a group of SMPC friends weekly!

Vacation Bible School at SMPC!



Monday, July 22 -
Thursday, July 25
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
VBS: Ages 3-4th grade

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



OF NOTE

The **SMPC Golf Tournament** that was scheduled for Thursday, June 27 was postponed due to excessive heat. We will communicate the new date and time as soon as possible. If you need a refund for your registration, please contact Mary Katheryne Zagora, mkzagora@smpchome.org.



Conversations with Dr. Matt Brown is taking a six-week break for the summer. The group will resume on Wednesday, August 14 at 9:30 a.m. in the McQueen Room or Zoom. Contact: Matt Brown, matt@smpchome.org.