



# South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 21, 2024

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

## We Gather

**Prelude**                      *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*                      arr. Roger C. Wilson

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

**Introit**                      *Dona Nobis Pacem*                      arr. Dorothy Wells

**Call to Worship**                      Julia Greeson

One: Even though it is summertime, our lives are busy and crowded.  
So, come out of your busy lives to a quiet space and a sanctuary  
for all.

**Many: Our souls thirst for some peace and quiet.**

One: Come and rest in the Lord, who will restore your souls.

**Many: We need to rest in God's Word.**

One: God's love is with you. God will give you rest and refresh your  
souls.

**All: Thanks be to God who offers to us a sanctuary and a peaceful  
place to worship. Amen.**

**Hymn 12**                      *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*                      ST. DENIO



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:  
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.  
 Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;  
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.  
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

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

Rev. Lindsey Odom

**Holy God, we know that you call us to do great things. We confess that we are tired and need rest. We feel like we are out of ideas. We wonder if the effort is worth the cost. There are days when we simply cannot believe a God like you could use people like us for your purposes within our world. Forgive us for our feeble faith. Show us the way, O God. Make us hopeful enough to greet each day with hope. Grow in us a commitment to peace, even when it seems impossible. And when we doubt ourselves or doubt you, which will happen time and time again, give us grace. Help us trust your call and your claim on our lives. 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

We are focusing on scriptures that we will explore at Vacation Bible School! This week: [Mark 4:35-41](#)

1. Watch a video of the story. Use [this link](#) and skip to 17:31.
2. Make a storm in a bottle. You will need an empty water bottle, water, food coloring and oil. Fill the bottle about halfway with water, add a few drops of food coloring, mix it up, and then add oil. Screw the top on tightly. Shake the bottle and watch the storm!  
You can add other items such as tiny shells, sequins, etc. You can also add a layer of glue to the cap to be sure it won't leak.
3. Create a storm using your body as a percussion instrument! Rub your hands (wind). Pat your thighs (light rain). Snap your fingers (rain showers). Clap your hands (heavy rain). Stomp your feet and clap your hands (thunder). Now do it all in reverse, but with a little twist: Clap your hands (heavy rain). Now say, "Peace, be still!" Snap your fingers (rain showers). Pat your thighs (light rain). Rub your hands (wind). Silence. You could also do this as you act out the story.
4. Did you know that "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" is the official hymn of the United States Navy? Sing along with [this version](#) that includes the words. How does verse 2 relate to the story?
5. Journal, considering the following:
  - a. Have you ever been in a boat? What was it like?
  - b. Have you ever been scared of a storm? Or slept through a storm? What feelings does thinking about storms give you?
  - c. Have you ever prayed for Jesus to be with you when you were scared?



### 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. Whitney Bayer

### First Reading

Psalm 104: 1-4; 10-13

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a tent, you set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, giving drink to every wild animal; the wild asses quench their thirst. By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches. From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

**Second Reading**

Mark 6:30-34; 53-56

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

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

**Sermon**

"Come away..."

Dr. Bayer

**Hymn 803**

***My Shepherd Will Supply My Need***

RESIGNATION

1 My shep-herd will sup - ply my need; Je - ho - vah is his name.  
 2 When I walk through the shades of death your pres-ence is my stay;  
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;

In pas - tures fresh he makes me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.  
 one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.  
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

He brings my wan - dering spir - it back when I for - sake his ways,  
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;  
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;

and leads me, for his mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.  
 my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows; your oil a - noints my head.  
 no more a strang - er, or a guest, but like a child at home.

**The Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*)

The Apostle's Creed

Dr. Brown

**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. Brown

**... (*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**

*Fugue in C Major*

Dieterich Buxtehude

*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**

Jordan Booker

**Gracious God, with our gifts, we give you thanks, O God. We bless your generous, loving spirit and ask that you bless these gifts with the same generous, loving spirit, so that all who receive these gifts might also receive your love, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**We Go Out to Serve**

**Hymn 320**

***The Church of Christ in Every Age***

WAREHAM

*(stanzas 1-4)*

1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by  
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims  
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing  
 4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the  
 5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -

change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its  
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for  
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's  
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to  
 be - dience to our Lord: to care for all, with -

her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.  
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.  
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.  
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.  
 out re - serve, and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.

**Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Bayer

**Congregational Response**

No. 320

***We have no mission but to serve  
 in full obedience to our Lord:  
 to care for all, without reserve,  
 and spread Christ's liberating word.***

**Postlude**

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

arr. J. Bert Carlson

## **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

Julia Greeson, Jordan Booker, liturgists

**A/V Team:** Chris Wilcox, Joe Wilcox

**Ushers:** Dan DeChant, Gena DeChant, Linda Nagle Hanson, Brett Thompson, Linda Thompson, Gwen Volker

**Welcome Team:** Curt Ireland, Gayle Ireland, Jane Klecker, 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](mailto: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](mailto:nancy@smpchome.org) or 980-265-2839.

### **Congregational Notes** (as of July 17, 2024)

#### **Remember in Prayer**

- Ray Tyler, as she recovers from 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](mailto:prayer@SMPChome.org).

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



## 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 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!

## 'FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH 2020-2025 SANCTUARY FUND' CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We have completed year FOUR of our five-year *From Strength to Strength 2020-2025 Sanctuary Fund* capital campaign, and our goal of paying off our sanctuary mortgage is within reach! Remaining mortgage payments total \$982,688, and Sanctuary Fund cash on hand PLUS expected receipts on pledges over the next year total \$958,362, leaving a shortfall of \$24,326—less than 1% of our campaign goal of \$3.25 million!



Thank you to the 220 SMPC families that have pledged to this campaign, and the additional 47 families that have made unpledged gifts. To join these families in supporting the campaign:

- Scan the QR code to make an online gift and select the "Strength to Strength" fund.
- Contribute via check with "Strength to Strength" on the memo line.
- To gift stock or securities, contact Mary Katheryne Zagora, [mkzagora@smpchome.org](mailto:mkzagora@smpchome.org) for transfer instructions.



Thank you for prayerfully considering supporting this campaign. Our goal of paying for our beautiful sanctuary and being mortgage-free is in sight!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL/MISSION POSSIBLE STARTS TOMORROW!

We are excited to have children, youth and volunteers on campus this week! Thank you to everyone who is helping decorate after worship today and to all of our leaders and volunteers. It's going to be a great week!

## THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

**tuesday**  
**JUL 23**  
**5:00 p.m. -**  
**6:30 p.m.**

### SMPC Youth Pool Party at the Estes' House Middle and High Schoolers

Please bring a snack or dessert to share. Pizza will be provided. It's OK to be a little late if your parents are just getting off work! We would love to have you join in on the fun! Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, [lindsey@smpchome.org](mailto:lindsey@smpchome.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SMPC Youth Serving at Crisis Assistance Ministry, Tuesday, July 30, 1:00-3:00 p.m., 500-A Spratt St, Charlotte, NC 28206, Rising 6th Graders-Graduated 12th Graders** - We hope you will join us for this mission project. Drop off and pick up at Crisis Assistance. High schoolers can drive and meet us there if their parent approves. Please register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, [lindsey@smpchome.org](mailto:lindsey@smpchome.org).

**Beginning to Ring, Thursday, August 1, 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary** - After taking a week off for VBS, we will reconvene for Beginning to Ring! Learn to play the handbells! Every Thursday this summer. All are welcome. No RSVP or experience required. Contact: Zach Bowyer, [zach@smpchome.org](mailto:zach@smpchome.org).

**Friday Morning Men's Group, Friday, August 2, 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 *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](mailto:irelandcurtis00@gmail.com).

## FACES OF FAITH

Enjoy getting to know SMPC member Xander Case! For more information on the SMPC Youth Ministry, go to our website, [smpchome.org/youth](http://smpchome.org/youth) or contact Lindsey Odom, Associate Pastor of Youth Ministry and Missions/Outreach, [lindsey@smpchome.org](mailto:lindsey@smpchome.org).



**Name:** Xander Case

**Family:** My parents, Kari and Cullen Case, and my brother, Harrison Case

**Age and School:** I'm 18 years old and am attending Central Piedmont Community College

### **You're a youth representative for the Missions/Outreach Committee. Why is service important to you and what are some of your favorite ways for youth to get involved in service at SMPC?**

Service is important to me because service opportunities act as a way to connect with and help all types of people around me. Service allows me to connect with new faces in the church, people in the community in need, and with the people that help make our church services come to life. My favorite ways for youth to get involved in service at SMPC are three of my favorite events that help the community. These three events are Operation Sandwich, in which youth can spend time with each other while making sandwiches for the homeless; the Crop Walk, which helps raise money to help hungry people; and finally caroling at Legacy Heights, which allows people in retirement homes to enjoy the sounds of music, and even gives them a chance to connect with the youth.

### **What's been the most impactful experience for you during your time with the SMPC Youth program?**

The most impactful experience for me during my time with the youth program was the fall beach trip with the high school youth this past year. The trip spans a couple days, and the youth get to play at the beach, play games inside, and visit a massive candy store. The most impactful part, however, was the Sunday morning service we had on the beach. We sang hymns, had communion, and read about the word of God, all while watching the sun rise on the beach. This experience was unlike any other, and it was beautiful.

### **What's your advice for other youth who want to get involved with SMPC Youth?**

My advice to youth who would like to get involved with the program is to attend youth groups every Sunday evening. This may sound like a very simple thing, but the youth that attend these youth groups are very caring and open, so in no time you will find yourself being accepted and included by many different people from the youth family. Another thing that may help is to bring a friend if you are nervous or shy. Anyone and everyone is welcome to youth group, and we encourage youth to bring friends!

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**American Red Cross Blood Drive, Saturday, August 10, 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., The Commons** - The American Red Cross is in great need of blood. Registration encouraged but not required! Please bring your donor ID card or driver's license. Go to [smpchome.org/serve-our-community](http://smpchome.org/serve-our-community) to donate blood or volunteer at the drive. Contact: Bill Ramsey, [bill.john.ramsey@gmail.com](mailto:bill.john.ramsey@gmail.com).



## STAY CONNECTED TO SMPC

Sign up for our weekly emails! You'll hear from SMPC twice a week - we promise they'll be worth the read.

- Tuesday Mornings: **Dr. Matt Brown's Weekly Devotional** offers a thoughtful reflection on a Bible verse.
- Thursday Mornings: **SMPC Now** gives you all the news and events at church.

Scan the QR code or email Nancy Metzler, [nancy@smpchome.org](mailto:nancy@smpchome.org), to be added to the list.

