



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

14th Sunday after Pentecost

August 25, 2024

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *Jesus Loves Me* arr. Jason D. Payne

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

Moment for Mission Shelby Ullman

Introit *God Is So Good* Anonymous

***Call to Worship** James Martin, Sumner Martin

One: Friends, find strength in the Lord.

Many: Though storms rage around us, we are called to clothe ourselves with the armor of God.

One: We are armed with truth, love, justice, and the good news of peace.

Many: So, let us put on the whole armor of God.

One: Fasten the belt of truth, carry the shield of faith, and let the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit accompany you on our journey of faith!

Many: Let us be strong in the Lord who provides for every need of ours.

ALL: We will place our confidence and trust in God always. Amen.

***Hymn 307** *God of Grace and God of Glory* CWM RHONDDA

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dr. Whitney Bayer

Mighty One of Israel, we walk in paths well trodden by generations of fellow believers. We love to claim you as our God and to be known as your people. We love to hear the great deeds of the saints who went before us. We love to count ourselves in their mighty company. Forgive our hesitancy to claim your importance in our lives. Forgive our reluctance to follow in your ways. Renew our hearts, O God, that we may truly serve you by serving others. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Dr. Bayer

*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

Rebecca Guzman

1. Today is our blessing of the backpacks! Many times, students and teachers set educational goals for the year, and those are great. I wonder if we might think about spiritual goals for the year. We've gotten off to a great start by packing backpacks for Smithfield Elementary to ensure every child has the supplies they need to start the year off well! What kinds of spiritual practices could we incorporate into our year? Could we start the day with a prayer? The blessing we are using is linked in the online Church Family Moment, which you can access with the QR Code.
2. Psalm 27, our scripture for today, provides a wonderful backdrop for the beginning of the school year! God is always with us and gives us courage. Read the CEB version here or listen to this dramatic video reading, maybe before you leave for school in the morning!
3. Make sure you get a "Live Into Hope" sticker to put somewhere you'll see it this school year—water bottle, laptop, notebook. When you look at your sticker, remember that God is with you, and that you are loved beyond measure by God and by your church family. You are never alone, and in this you can find hope!
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. What does it mean for God to always be with you?
 - b. How does God make us courageous?
 - c. What makes a person trustworthy?



Blessing of the Backpacks

Rebecca Guzman

As the children four years old through third grade gather for the Blessing of the Backpacks, 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.***

The children will return to join their families following the sermon.

Anthem *For All Who Craft Their Words with Skill* Karen Marrolli

Chancel Choir; Laura Schelhammer, flute; Blythe Kinsey, piano

*For all who craft their words with skill to make your story heard,
For those who study, write, and preach: we thank you, Christ our Word.
And we rejoice in those whose speech extends the Spirit's breath
To build a shelter for the lost and summon life from death.
For all who host the holy meals to keep the faithful fed,
For those who bless and break and share: we thank you, Christ our Bread.
And we rejoice in those whose feasts defy each fence and wall,
Where hunger is the only fee and room is made for all.
For all who lead your hymns of praise to make weak voices strong,*

*For those who practice, tune, and sing: we thank you, Christ our Song.
And we rejoice in those whose ears are trained by love and care
To help all find their note of hope in seasons of despair.
For all who live the words they preach, and practice what they sing,
For all whose lives are raised to you, a living offering.
For all who hear your holy call and will not be deterred,
We thank you Christ, the source of life: our Song, our Bread, our Word.*

Prayer for Illumination

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

Scripture Reading

Psalm 27

Dr. Brown

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh— my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall. Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident. One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord. Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, Lord, do I seek. Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation! If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up. Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence. I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

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

Sermon

A Place Where Trust Is Practiced

Dr. Brown

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

The Apostles' Creed

Rev. Odom

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

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

The Gift of Love

arr. Joel Raney

Laura Schelhammer, flute

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**

Eliabeth Glover

God of goodness and mercy, we bring you our offerings. We praise you with thanksgiving for the many blessings you bestow upon us. You fill us with hope, and we give you our commitment. You instill in us confidence and we offer you our trust. You teach us how to serve, and we seek to be faithful. All that we have, we place before you this day. Use our gifts and offerings and mold us to conform to your will. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 269**

Lead On, O King Eternal!

LANCASHIRE

1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
 2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
 3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,

hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents shall be our home.
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
 for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears;

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong,
 for not with swords' loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums;
 your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light.

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
 with deeds of love and mer - cy the heaven-ly king-dom comes.
 The crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

Commissioning of the Confirmation Class of 2024

Lindsey Odom

Lilly McAnally

One: Confirmands, we bless you on your journey, and pray that you will create and discover new ways of living out what it means to be faithful Christ-followers.

One: Just as we promised you in baptism, we walk alongside you on this journey. As you go through confirmation we pray that you will come to know God more fully and are able to do God's mission in the world. We speak this prayer over you:

All: **Faithful and loving God, we lift up these confirmands as they seek a deeper relationship with you. We pray that they will be bold in their questions, give voice to their doubts, share their**

challenges and celebrate their joys. We lift up their mentors and families as they continue to nurture these youth. In response to your love, O God, we commit ourselves to journeying with these confirmands, their mentors and families. May your love continue to light the way for all of us, together. Amen.

*Charge and Benediction

Dr. Brown

*Congregational Response

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face.
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. Amen.*

Postlude *Processional and Trumpet Tune on "Cwm Rhondda"* W.L. Wold

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

Laura Schelhammer, flute

Blythe Kinsey, piano

James Martin, Sumner Martin, Elizabeth Glover, liturgists

A/V Team: Mary Katheryne Zagora, Michael Zagora

Ushers: Dick Engle, Craig Parrish, Donna Podgorny, Gwen Volker, Bob Williamson, David Wooley

Welcome Team: Curt Ireland, 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.

Congregational Notes (as of August 22, 2024)

Remember in Prayer

- Ryan and Lindsey DeFaber and their family, as Ryan’s mother, Karen DeFaber, entered the Church triumphant on August 19.
- Bart Whitlock, as he recovers from surgery.
- Pat Bryant, as she recovers from a recent hospitalization.
- Jeri Olsen, as she continues to recover from a fall.
- Students, parents, teachers, and administrators, as the school year begins.
- 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

BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY

AUGUST 25, 2024

Welcome to South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church! We hope you will consider joining one of our many classes, events, ministries or groups this fall. For the most up-to-date list of events, please subscribe to our weekly email or go to smpchome.org. Contact: Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org.

STUDY

Conversations with Dr. Matt Brown

Wednesday, August 28, 9:30 a.m. McQueen Room or Zoom

Join us every Wednesday as we discuss the scripture for the coming week's sermon. Contact for the Zoom ID#: Matt Brown, matt@smpchome.org.

How to Study the Bible - Adult Bible Study

Sundays, September 8-September 29, 9:00-10:00 a.m., McQueen Room

Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

SERVE

For more opportunities and to sign up, go to smpchome.org/serve

Tutor Interest Meeting for Smithfield Elementary School

Monday, August 24, 7:00-8:00 p.m., Zoom

For those interested in tutoring students at Smithfield elementary and returning tutors. Please contact Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org, for the Zoom ID.

Shelter Ministry

Thursday, September 12, 9:00 a.m., Mecklenburg Hall

This ministry meets on the second Thursday of every month to fill empty medicine bottles with body wash for Roof Above, a men's homeless shelter. Contact: Carol Morgan, morgancc43@aol.com.

Desserts for Center of Hope Shelter for Women and Children

Sunday, September 8, Drop Before 10:10 a.m. Worship

Bring desserts to worship on the second Sunday of every month for us to deliver to Center of Hope. Contact: Terry Gaines, terryg@carolina.rr.com.

Bagged Lunches for Roof Above

Saturday, September 14, 9:30 a.m. in front of the Palmer Building

SMPC provides 100 bag lunches a month. Contact: Shelby Ullman, shelby.ullman@gmail.com.

Breakfast for Center of Hope Shelter for Women and Children

Saturday, September 21, Meet at the Church at 5:15 a.m., Back by 9:00 a.m.

On the third Saturday every month SMPC prepares and serves breakfast for residents. Servers, food and monetary donations are always needed. Contact: Bob Williamson, bobwill31@hotmail.com.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, November 2, 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., The Commons

Sign up on smpchome.org > Serve our Community. Contact: Bill Ramsey, jonbillramsey@gmail.com.

EVENTS

SMPC Golf Tournament

Tuesday, September 17, 1:00-6:00 p.m., Sun City Carolina Lakes

For all levels, men, women & youth. More info and register on Realm. Contact: Bret Thompson, bathomp1971@yahoo.com, or Ron Morgan, colronmorg@gmail.com.

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, September 22, 3:15 p.m., SMPC Parking Lot

Bring your furry friend for a special blessing. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

Believing and Belonging

October 13, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., McQueen Room

Learn more about SMPC and being Presbyterian. Lunch will be served. Childcare available. Contact: Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org.

BBQ on the Grounds

Sunday, October 20, 11:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m., SMPC

Join us for fellowship and delicious food! Contact: Kathy Graham, kathyspeech@carolina.rr.com.

SMALL GROUPS

Friday Morning Men's Group

Friday, September 6, 7:30-8:30 a.m., Chapel 204

Meets on the first and third Fridays of the month. All are welcome. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

Handiworkers Group

Tuesday, September 10, 10:00 a.m., Palmer 104

All knitters, needlepointers, quilters, cross-stitchers and crocheters are invited. Meets weekly. All levels. Contact: Judy Jameson, jgjameson@gmail.com.

A Caregiver's Journey

Tuesday, September 10, 1:00-2:30 p.m., McQueen Room

For those caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. Meets monthly on the second Tuesday. Contact: Dr. Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.

Men's Breakfast Group

Thursday, September 12, 9:30 a.m., Big View Diner, 6637 Lancaster Hwy.

Meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. All are welcome. Contact: Bob Tyler, Btyler@unitedskates.com.

Food for Thought Book Group

Thursday, September 19, 12:30 p.m., McQueen Room

We'll discuss *The Piano Maker* by Kurt Palka. All are welcome. Contact: Kathy Paquette, khesspaquette@aol.com.

Men's Evening Study

Tuesday, September 24, 7:30 p.m., Chapel 206

This group meets on the the second and fourth Tuesdays every month and welcomes new participants. Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

Making Space Mom's Group Fall Kickoff

Thursday, September 26, 7:30 p.m., The Office Craft Bar & Kitchen, Stonecrest

Moms of all ages are invited to join us for fellowship as we gear up for fall! New and returning faces are welcome! Register on Realm (for restaurant headcount). Contact: Allison Reeves, allison.tarwater@gmail.com.

CHILDREN

BAM! (Bible and Music)

Sunday, September 8, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

BAM! is our Sunday evening program for children in kindergarten through 5th grade. We serve pizza! Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

SMPC Family Playdate

September Date & Time To Be Announced, 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.

YOUTH (MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL)

Big Youth Group (BYG)

Sunday, September 22, 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall

Bible study, small group time, good food, fun games and amazing company.

Youth Mini Golf

Sunday, September 29, 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m., High Seas Mini Golf

Join us for some hole-in-one fun!

More youth events: smpchome.org/youth. Contact for Youth Ministry: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

MUSIC

Do you enjoy leading worship through song? We have opportunities for children, youth and adults to be a part of the Music Ministry. Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL!



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