



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *The Beatitudes* Roberta Rowland-Raybold
VI. Blessed Are the Pure in Heart

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

Introit *How Our Hearts with Joy Abound* Michael Morgan

Call to Worship Dr. Whitney Bayer

One: All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,

Many: and all your faithful shall bless you.

One: The Lord upholds all who are falling,

Many: and raises up all who are bowed down.

One: The Lord is just and kind,

All: The Lord is near to all who call on God.

Hymn 32 *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* ELLACOMBE

1 I sing the might - y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
 3 There's not a plant or flower be - low but makes thy glo - ries known.

that spread the flow - ing seas a - broad and built the loft - y
 God formed the crea-tures through the Word, and then pro-nounced them
 And clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from thy

skies. I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day.
 good. Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye,
 throne, while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care,

The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
 if I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
 and ev - ery-where that we can be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dr. Bayer

Merciful God, we confess that our words and actions do not always line up. We are quick to confess our faith, but slow to live it. Change us, O God. By your grace, transform us. Root out the selfishness that hardens our hearts, and replace it with compassion and generosity. Empower us by your Spirit that we might be doers of your word and not hearers only. All this we pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, 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. If you were going to write a list of rules for the world, what would they be? Make a poster or drawing that illustrates the kind of world that your rules would create. As you are making rules, consider what kinds of rules are important to Jesus—do your rules match up with the ones that you think Jesus would choose?
2. Listen to a [readaloud](#) of *Andrew's Angry Words* by Dorthea Lachner. Our words can have a huge ripple effect on our community. As you listen, think about what words and actions lead to right relations with God and others, and what words and actions harm those relationships. Thanks be to God that the grace extended to Andrew by the lady at the market is one extended to us through Christ again and again.
3. Another way to think about Jesus' words is that he was telling the Pharisees that they had to let go of certain things in order to become closer to God. For example, they needed to let go of fear, their need to control everything, and the not-nice words they were using. Those examples probably apply to us, too! What else do we need to let go of in order to get closer to God? Make a list or draw some of the things you need to let go of on a plain piece of paper, and then turn it into a paper airplane. Say a prayer and then, as an "Amen," throw your airplane as far as it will go!
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. What do you think is more important: following rules or treating people well? Can you do both?
 - b. Describe a time when someone's words had a big impact on you.
 - c. What stands out for you in this reading?



Children's Liturgy

Rebecca Guzman

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. Bayer

First Reading

Ezekiel 33:30-33

As for you, mortal, your people who talk together about you by the walls, and at the doors of the houses, say to one another, each to a

neighbor, "Come and hear what the word is that comes from the Lord." They come to you as people come, and they sit before you as my people, and they hear your words, but they will not obey them. For flattery is on their lips, but their heart is set on their gain. To them you are like a singer of love songs, one who has a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument; they hear what you say, but they will not do it. When this comes—and come it will!—then they shall know that a prophet has been among them.

Anthem

Assurance

John Ness Beck

Chancel Choir

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Air of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His spirit, washed in His blood.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all my life long.*

Second Reading

Mark 7:1-8, 14-23

Dr. Brown

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. He said to them, "Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, "It is what comes out of a person that defiles. For it is from within, from the

human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

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

Sermon A Question of Plumbing vs. Pollution Dr. Brown

The Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) The Nicene Creed
Dr. Bayer

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 *How Great Thou Art* arr. Lloyd Larson
Collin Sinclair, tenor

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. Brown

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer Dr. Bayer

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, Dr. Bayer

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

The Prayer after Communion

Dr. Brown

We Go Out to Serve

Hymn 804

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!
(stanzas 1-4)

MARION

1 Re - joi - ce, ye pure in heart! Re - joi - ce, give thanks, and sing!
 2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
 3 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as ye go,
 4 At last the march shall end; the wea - ried ones shall rest;
 5 Then on, ye pure in heart! Re - joi - ce, give thanks, and sing!

Your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
 send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
 from youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe:
 the pil - grims find their home at last, Je - ru - sa - lem the blest.
 Your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain

Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce, give thanks, and sing!
 Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce!

Charge and Benediction

Dr. Brown

Congregational Response

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!
(stanza 5)

MARION

Postlude

The Rejoicing

Charles Callahan

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Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

Dr. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Chancel Choir

Collin Sinclair, tenor

A/V Team: Kari Case, Xander Case

Ushers: Andrew Brown, Bjorn Hansen, Tom Klecker, Craig Parrish, Nancy Parrish, Jim Williams

Welcome Team: Michael, Blair, and Brooke Choren, Jack Hess

A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 15 at the close of the 10:10 a.m. worship service for the purpose of electing officers.

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 Instagram: [@southmeckpres](https://www.instagram.com/southmeckpres) and Facebook: [@southmecklenburgpresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian).

Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church? Our Session will gather to welcome new members Sunday, September 22 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 28, 2024)

Remember in Prayer

- Mike Lang, as he recovers from surgery.
- Jerrie Olson, as she continues to recover from a fall.
- 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.



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!

Of Note: The church office is closed Monday, September 2 for Labor Day.

THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

wednesday
SEPT 4
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#.

friday
SEPT 6
7:30 a.m. -
8:30 a.m. **Friday Morning Men's Group**
Chapel 206
Meets on the first and third Fridays of the month. They are reading a new book, *He Leadeth Me: An Extraordinary Testament of Faith* by Daniel L. Flaherty. All are welcome. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

saturday
SEPT 7-
sunday
SEPT 8 **Middle School Youth Fall Retreat**
Saturday, September 7, 6:30-9:30 p.m. at SMPC and Sunday,
September 8, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Camp Canaan
All middle school youth are invited! Please register on Realm by today, September 1. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

sunday
SEPT 8
9:00 a.m. -
10:00 a.m. **How to Study the Bible - Adult Bible Study**
McQueen Room or Zoom
All are welcome to join us as we dive into how to study the Bible in this approachable, four-session class led by Melissa White and Rebecca Guzman. Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

sunday
SEPT 8
10:10 a.m. **Desserts for Center of Hope Shelter for Women and Children**
Drop Off 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. Sign up on smpchome.org > Serve Our Community. Contact: Terry Gaines, terryg@carolina.rr.com.

sunday
SEPT 8
5:00 p.m. -
6:30 p.m. **BAM! Bible and Music Kickoff!**
Children in Kindergarten-5th Grade
During BAM!, children sing, creatively engage with Bible stories, and explore various musical instruments in peer age groups. They occasionally sing, play instruments, or display their creations during Sunday worship. We end with a pizza dinner and free play time. BAM! is a great way for children to form friendships with other kids at church. Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

Scout Troops 119 and 219 BBQ & Veggie Chili Sale!

The best BBQ and veggie chili in town are now on sale! There are a couple of different ways to place an order: Scouts will be at church next Sunday, September 8 and Sunday, September 15 accepting orders or you can order online via the QR code! Pick up is at the church on Saturday, September 21, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and Sunday, September 22, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Contact: Roy Bivens, troop119clt@gmail.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

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.

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.

High School Youth Fall Lake Retreat, Friday, September 13 to Sunday, September 15, Lake Tillery - All high school youth are invited! Please register on Realm by Sunday, September 8. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

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 for our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Sign up on smpchome.org > Serve Our Community. Contact: Shelby Ullman, shelby.ullman@gmail.com.

SMPC Golf Tournament, Tuesday, September 17, 1:00 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 12:00 p.m. and a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. \$50 per person. More info and register on Realm. Contact: Brett Thompson, bathomp1971@yahoo.com, or Ron Morgan, colronmorg@gmail.com.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

If you missed the Smithfield Elementary Tutor Interest meeting and are interested in learning more about this awesome service opportunity, please scan the QR code and complete the form so that we can connect with you! Tutoring at Smithfield Elementary is a rewarding way to share your time and talents. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



IMPORTANT SMPC STAFF UPDATE

On Tuesday, September 3, 2024, we will welcome Adrienne Jaquith to the SMPC staff as office and database manager and receptionist. Additionally, Mary Katherine Zagora, who has faithfully served as financial administrator and office manager, will once again focus on one role, financial administrator.

As office and database manager, Adrienne will be the welcoming presence in the SMPC office for members, visitors and guests. She will be responsible for all office administrative tasks, membership records and database management. In addition, she will support the Personnel Committee, Hospitality Committee and Session as needed. Adrienne joined SMPC in 2005. She has served as chair of both the Stewardship and Membership Committees, a VBS coordinator and volunteer and a Confirmation mentor and teacher. She currently serves as SMPC's wedding director. Professionally, Adrienne brings a wealth of office experience to SMPC and we look forward to having her on staff!

As part of this transition, the church office hours will be updated. Beginning Tuesday, September 3, the office will be open Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.