



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 15, 2024

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

We Gather

Prelude *Prelude on "Nyland"* John Behnke

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

Introit *Fanfare in G* Hal Hopson

***Call to Worship** Clara Guzman

One: Who do you say I am? Jesus' question echoes throughout the ages.

Many: Sometimes we struggle to find the answer for ourselves and share that answer with others.

One: Who do we say we are? Are we faithfully following Jesus and living like Jesus wants us to?

Many: The hesitation to answer this question might haunt us.

One: As people trying to be faithful, we reflect on the question and live out our faith in response.

Many: We can be reassured that God is with us in the questions, answers, and even in our doubts.

One: We know that God is a part of every piece of our lives. We trust that God helps us to find the Way.

ALL: So, we must go with God, walk with God, and trust God always and everywhere. Amen.

***Hymn 24** *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* HOLY MANNA



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi -
 2 Proud - ly rise our mod - ern cit - ies, state - ly
 3 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the
 4 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it

(Em7) (G) (Bm) (A) (Bm) (A)
 Gm7 B^b Dm C Dm C



nite in time and place, flung the suns in burn - ing
 build - ings row on row. Yet their win - dows, blank, un -
 child - hood of our race; known the ec - sta - sy of
 chal - lenge us a - new, chil - dren of cre - a - tive

(G) (F#m) (G) (A) (D)
 B^b Am B^b C F



ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space,
 feel - ing, stare on can - yoned streets be - low,
 wing - ing through un - trav - eled realms of space;
 pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - oring you.

(D) (Bm7) (G) (Em7) (G) (F#m7)
 F Dm7 B^b Gm7 B^b Am7



we, your chil - dren in your like - ness, share in - ven - tive
 where the lone - ly drift un - no - ticed in the cit - y's
 probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield - ing un - i -
 May our dreams prove rich with prom - ise, each en - deav - or

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dr. Whitney Bayer

Gracious God, we come before you today knowing that we often fall short of your call to love one another well. We allow ourselves to be blinded by wealth and power. We ignore those around us who suffer injustice, poverty, and rejection. We tune out the cries of the poor and those on the edges of our communities. Help us to see your great generosity, hear your word of mercy, and feel your great love for all who need your redemptive grace. Strengthen us to reach out in service to those who are in need and continue to help us grow in your grace. In Christ's name, 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. Write an introduction for Jesus. In today's Gospel reading, Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?" If you were going to introduce Jesus to someone who didn't know anything at all about him, what would you say? Considering writing out or recording your introduction. Maybe compare your introduction with others. What is most important about who Jesus is?
2. [Listen to a readaloud](#) of Elizabeth, Queen of the Seas by Lynne Cox. Notice how in the book, Elizabeth does not allow others to tell her who she is and where she belongs. Jesus does not allow others to do this either. Why do you think that's important?
3. Make a cross. In the Gospel, Jesus says that we will have to take up our own crosses to follow him. Of course, this does not mean that we actually have to pick up a cross. Instead, Jesus means that we will all have to face difficulties because we have chosen to live his way. Make a cross of some kind to remind yourself that Jesus is always with us, even in our challenging times.
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. What did the disciples mean by saying that Jesus is the Messiah?
 - b. Why didn't Jesus want the disciples to tell other people what they were noticing?
 - c. What does Jesus say is going to happen to him?
 - d. What do you think about the interaction between Jesus and Peter?



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

Isaiah 50:4-9

Dr. Bayer

Pew Bible p. 681; Spark Bible p. 792

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens— awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord

God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Anthem *Until I Reach My Home* arr. Brandon Boyd
Chancel Choir

Laura Black, soloist; Blythe Kinsey, piano; William Rose, percussion

*Lord, until I reach my home. Until I reach my home;
I never expect my journey over, 'til I reach my home.
I would not be a sinner I'll tell you the reason why;
I'm afraid my Lord might call my name and I wouldn't be ready to die.
I went up on the mountain I didn't go there to stay;
Then my soul got happy, then I stayed all day.
I got a crown up in a that kingdom ain-a that good news?
I got a crown up in a that kingdom ain-a that good news?
I'm a gonna lay down this world gonna shoulder up a my cross,
Gonna take it home to my Jesus, ain-a that good news?*

Second Reading Mark 8:27-38 Dr. Brown
Pew Bible p. 43; Spark Bible p. 1,110

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. 9 It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

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

Sermon Job Title/Job Description Dr. Brown

***The Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) The Apostle's Creed
Dr. 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 *Calypso on "He Leadeth Me"* Tammy Waldrop
Chancel Ringers

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** Mia Smigiel
Loving God, you have given us so much. Here we share that abundance with your world in need. May these gifts, the ones in the offering plate and the many other gifts of love we share every day be a visible sign of what we believe and why our faith matters. We give them in Jesus' name. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 725** *O Jesus, I Have Promised* NYLAND



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 O let me feel you near me! The world is ev - er near:
 3 O let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

(C) (Am7) (Dm) (G) (C) (G7) (C)
 E^b Cm7 Fm B^b E^b B^b7 E^b



be now and al - ways near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;
 I see the sights that daz - zle; the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will;
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.

(Am) (D) (G) (F) (G)
 Cm F B^b A^b B^b



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

(C) (Am7) (F) (G) (C) (Dm) (G) (C)
 E^b Cm7 A^b B^b E^b Fm B^b E^b



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, draw still near - er and shield my soul from sin.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, true guard - ian of my soul.
 now give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

Congregational Meeting

Adrienne Jaquith

***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

Psalm 19

Benedetto Marcello

Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

Dr. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Chancel Choir

Chancel Ringers

Laura Black, soloist

Blythe Kinsey, piano

William Rose, percussion

Clara Guzman, Mia Smigiel, liturgists

Acolytes: Adeline Bayer, Oliver Bayer

A/V Team: Mary Katheryne Zagora, Michael Zagora

Ushers: Curtis Guy, Kara Guy, Linda Nagle Hanson, Jon Myers, Craig Parrish, Carol Watkins

Welcome Team: Lina and Chuck Griffiths; Geena, Mike, Harper Leigh, Rue and Jones Woodard

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](#).

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 September 12, 2024)

Remember in Prayer

- Phil Eatherton as he recovers from surgery.
- 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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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

-
- tuesday**
SEPT 17
10:00 a.m.
- Handiworkers Group**
Palmer 104
All knitters, needlepointers, quilters, cross-stitchers and crocheters are invited. Meets weekly. All levels. Contact: Judy Jameson, jgjameson@gmail.com.
-
- tuesday**
SEPT 17
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 12:00 p.m. and a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. More info and register on Realm. Contact: Brett Thompson, bathomp1971@yahoo.com, or Ron Morgan, colronmorg@gmail.com.
-
- wednesday**
SEPT 18
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**
SEPT 19
12:30 p.m.
- Food for Thought Book Group**
McQueen Room
We are reading *The Piano Maker* by Kurt Palka. All book lovers welcome! Contact: Kathy Paquette, khesspaquette@aol.com.
-
- thursday**
SEPT 19
6:00 p.m.
- International Dining Group**
Ming Fu, 8139 Kensington Dr., Waxhaw, NC 28173
Join us for good food and great fellowship! RSVP to Alice Tyler, rrt1317@aol.com, by tomorrow, September 16.
-
- friday**
SEPT 20
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 the month. They are reading the book *He Leadeth Me: An Extraordinary Testament of Faith* by Daniel L. Flaherty. All are welcome. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.
-
- saturday**
SEPT 21
- Breakfast for Center of Hope**
Meet in church parking lot at 5:15 a.m., back at church by about 9:00 a.m.
Every month we cook and serve a hot breakfast to the women and children that temporarily call Center of Hope home. Servers, food donations and monetary donations are needed. Please go to smpchome.org > Serve our Community to sign up. Contact: Bob Williamson, bobwill31@hotmail.com.
-
- sunday**
SEPT 22
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. We are in the second week - jump in any time! Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

sunday
SEPT 22
3:15 p.m.

Blessing of the Animals
In Front of the Palmer Building

Furry and feathery friends are welcome to join us for this special blessing! Please make sure your pets are on leashes or in crates or cages and are OK with fellow animals! You are welcome to bring a photo of your pet to be blessed. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

sunday
SEPT 22
5:00 p.m. -
6:30 p.m.

BAM! Bible and Music
Meet in Narthex, Children in Kindergarten-5th Grade

During BAM!, children sing, creatively engage with Bible stories, and explore various musical instruments in peer age groups. We end with a pizza dinner and free play time. Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

sunday
SEPT 22
5:00 p.m. -
6:30 p.m.

BYG (Big Youth Group)
Mecklenburg Hall, Middle and High Schoolers

BYG is held on the first Sunday of each month during the school year and provides an opportunity for youth to grow in faith and love through Bible study, small group time, good food, fun games, and amazing company. We'll have S'mores and play kickball! Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

Men's Breakfast Group, Thursday, September 26, 9:30 a.m., Big View Diner, 6637 Lancaster Hwy. - This group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month for food and informal conversation. All are welcome. Contact: Bob Tyler, Btyler@unitedskates.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! This group is a combination of study, social, and service. New and returning faces are welcome! Register on Realm (for restaurant headcount). Contact: Allison Reeves, allison.tarwater@gmail.com.

SMPC Youth Mini Golf, Sunday, September 29, 5:00-6:30 p.m., High Seas Mini Golf, 10001 Charlotte Hwy, Fort Mill, SC 29707 - Come join us for a night of mini golf at High Seas Miniature Golf! Drop off and pick up will be at High Seas. Transportation to and from will be provided by each family. Cost is \$12.00 per person. Please bring extra cash to enjoy a snow cone after golf. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



CROP Hunger Walk, Sunday, October 6, Meet at 1:45 p.m., Walk at 2:00 p.m., Start in SMPC Parking Lot - We hope you'll join the SMPC team and walk to end hunger! Benefits Nourish Up, the Crisis Assistance Ministry and Second Harvest Food Bank. Scan QR code to donate or join the team! Contact: Leisa Lackey, leisa.lackey@atriumhealth.org, or Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

Smithfield Elementary Tutoring - If you 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! Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



Scout Troops 119 and 219 BBQ & Veggie Chili Sale - There are a couple of different ways to place an order: Scouts are here today taking 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.

