



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Scout Sunday

September 22, 2024

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

We Gather

Prelude *"Jesus Loves the Little Children"* arr. Janet Linker

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

Moment for Mission Ben Bickett, Aaron Eberhardt

Introit *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* Ken Medema

***Call to Worship** Ben Bickett

One: We have gathered in this space,

Many: welcomed like a prodigal child back into our sanctuary and home.

One: We have gathered in this space,

Many: embraced like children greeted by Jesus when others turn them away.

One: Jesus reminds us that whoever receives a child in his name, receives Jesus.

ALL: So, let us worship God as beloved children, heirs to God's beloved kingdom of peace.

***Hymn 645** *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* MIT FREUDEN ZART

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all
 2 What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -
 3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief
 4 Thus all my toil - some way a - long I sing a - loud

cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,
 cy keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
 dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,
 thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song

the God of our sal - va - tion. With
 God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -
 our peace and joy and bless - ing, as
 my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be

heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less
 in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Odom

Gracious God, we confess that we do not trust your abundance. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us. Through your love, renew us. And in your Spirit, lead us, so that we may live and serve you in the newness of life. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Rev. Odom

***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. [Listen to a readaloud](#) of *The Pain and the Great One* by Judy Blume. This story is kind of like a version of the disciples' discussion about who is the greatest. We all want to be special and the most loved, but Jesus is telling us that those feelings are dead ends. We need to stop worrying about ourselves and start paying attention to people around us. The surprising thing is that when we do that, we are happier.
2. In 1993, the PC(USA) adopted "A Vision for Children and the Church." [Here is a link](#) to the document. What can we learn from this? Do you think we're doing a good job of living it out?
3. Pay special attention to the Offertory song today and the way that it relates to the Gospel scripture. [Here is a link](#) to a video and lyrics in case you missed worship (but go watch our soloist on the [livestream!](#)). What do you notice about the words in this song? What can they teach us about God?
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a) Why do you think Jesus does not want anyone to know what he is teaching?
 - b) Why don't you think the disciples wanted to talk about Jesus' death and resurrection?
 - c) What do you think he means when Jesus says, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and a servant to all"?
 - d) To what extent would we say that children are valued in our community and in our culture?



Sacrament of Baptism

**Skye Austin Palmer, Eamon Beck Palmer,
Sacha Dennis Palmer, Taika Lewis Palmer**

Children of Kristina & Jim Palmer

Representing the Session: Jon Myers

Representing the children: Colin Lee

Baptismal Response

*Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.
Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you: live as one who bears Christ's name.*

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

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Odom

First Reading

Deuteronomy 4:9-14

Rev. Odom

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children—how you once stood before the Lord your God at Horeb, when the Lord said to me, "Assemble the people for me, and I will let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me as long as they live on the earth, and may teach their children so"; you approached and stood at the foot of the mountain while the mountain was blazing up to the very heavens, shrouded in dark clouds. Then the Lord spoke to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of words but saw no form; there was only a voice. He declared to you his covenant, which he charged you to observe, that is, the ten commandments; and he wrote them on two stone tablets. And the Lord charged me at that time to teach you statutes and ordinances for you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy.

Anthem*Children of the Heavenly Father*

arr. Eric Nelson

Chancel Choir

Ann Carney, piano

*Children of the heavenly Father safely in his bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.
God his own doth tend and nourish; in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them; in his mighty arms he bears them.
Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;
Unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.
Praise the Lord in joyful numbers, your Protector never slumbers;
At the will of your Defender ev'ry foe then must surrender.
No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.
Children of the heavenly Father safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.*

Second Reading

Mark 9:30-37

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his

arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

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

Sermon Value Dr. Brown

***The Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) The Apostles' Creed
Graeme Mitchell

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. Whitney 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 *Lord of the Small* Dan Forrest
Steve Williams, bass

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** Fiona Mitchell

Merciful God, You reach out to us in healing love and compassion and grant us with so many gifts. Help us use our gifts of hope and healing to reach out to others, not with thought of importance or gain, but in love and compassion, truly caring for each person we meet. Bless these offerings given this day to further your kingdom and help us live a life of love and humility. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 738** *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee* MARYTON

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with thee
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move
 3 Teach me thy pa - tience, still with thee
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray

in low - ly paths of ser - vice free;
 by some clear, win - ning word of love;
 in clos - er, dear - er com - pa - ny,
 far down the fu - ture's broad - ening way;

tell me thy se - cret; help me bear the
 teach me the way - ward feet to stay, and
 in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in
 in peace that on - ly thou canst give, with

strain of toil, the fret of care.
 guide them in the home - ward way.
 trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.
 thee, O Mas - ter, let me live.

***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

Fanfare and Processional

Lynn Trapp

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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

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Chancel Choir

Ann Carney, piano

Steve Williams, bass

Ben Bickett, Fiona Mitchell, Graeme Mitchell, liturgists

Acolytes: Daniel Lee, Emily Mitchell

A/V Team: Kari Case

Ushers: Troop 119, Troop 219, Pack 119

Welcome Team: Amy Zagora, Jake Zagora, Shelby Ullman, Jack Hess

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 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 September 19, 2024)

Remember in Prayer

- Jeff House and Emily McCoy and their family as Jeff's mother, Kaye House, entered the Church triumphant on August 19.
- 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.

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

today
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.

today
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.

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

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

BYG 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.

tuesday
SEPT 24
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 24
7:30 p.m.

Men's Evening Study Group

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

wednesday
SEPT 25
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 26
9:30 a.m.

**Men's Breakfast Group
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.

thursday
SEPT 26
7:30 p.m.

**Making Space Mom's Group Fall Kickoff
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.

sunday
SEPT 29
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. This will be the last session - jump in even if you haven't come to the prior classes! Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

sunday
SEPT 29
5:00 p.m. -
6:30 p.m.

SMPC Youth Mini Golf
High Seas Mini Golf, 10001 Charlotte Hwy, Fort Mill, SC 29707,
Middle and High Schoolers

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS



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.

Conversations Around Race Equity (C.A.R.E.) Group, Beginning Sunday, October 6, 5:00-6:00 p.m. in Chapel 206 or Monday, October 7, 12:00-1:00 p.m. via Zoom - C.A.R.E. (Conversations Around Race Equity) is starting back up this fall and is open to all who would like to join in the conversation. We will be using the book *Anti-Racism As Daily Practice* by Jennifer Harvey to spark our conversation as we seek to broaden our understanding and learn how to work toward a more just world. Register for either day on Realm. Contact: Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.

Parents' Morning Out, Saturday, October 12, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Meet in the Narthex, Children ages 3 years through 5th grade - We will play games, do crafts, watch a Bible story movie, and have a fun snack! The cost is \$10/child to cover the materials. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

Believing and Belonging, Sunday, October 13, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., McQueen Room - For all who are considering membership and/or would like to know more about being Presbyterian and SMPC. Led by Rebecca Guzman and Nancy Metzler, we will explore the history and beliefs of the Presbyterian church and how God uses our gifts to create community. Lunch will be served and childcare will be available. Please register on Realm. Contact: Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org.

BBQ Lunch on the Grounds, Sunday, October 20, 11:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m., The Grounds at SMPC - Join us after worship for a BBQ lunch catered by The Q Shack. Barbecued chicken and pork with a choice of sauces along with mac and cheese, salad, buns, hushpuppies, tea and lemonade. Adults: \$13; Children ages 4 - 10: \$7; Children under 4: Free. Register on Realm or via QR Code. Contact: Kathy Graham, kathyspeech@carolina.rr.com.



SMPC Lunch Bunch's October Gathering, Tuesday, October 22, 11:15 a.m., Tap and Vine Restaurant, 8426 Park Road, Charlotte, NC 28210 - SMPC Lunch Bunch is an informal group that meets four times a year for lunch and fellowship. All are welcome - invite a friend! RSVP by October 19 to Ruth Ann Engle, raengle22@gmail.com.

NEW! COLLEGE MINISTRY

Become a College Freshman's 'Secret Saint'! Do you remember what it was like to be a college freshman? First time away from home, finding "your people," maybe a little homesick, juggling a lot. This might be our church family's college freshman students' struggles, as well! Please consider becoming a "Secret Saint" to an SMPC college freshman! Scan the QR code to learn more - the time and financial commitment are low. Contact: Debi Wheeler, erw7019@carolina.rr.com.

