

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our
 3 O en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with
 4 For why? The Lord our God is good; his mer - cy

Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his
 aid he did us make; we are his folk; he
 joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
 is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times

praise forth tell. Come ye be - fore him and re - jice.
 doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
 name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
 firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dr. Whitney Bayer

Merciful God, we confess that we have often acted out of selfish ambition and vain conceit. We have allowed envy and self-interest to guide our actions, rather than the wisdom that comes from above. Forgive us for the times we have caused conflicts and quarrels among ourselves and others. Help us to submit ourselves to you and draw near to your grace. In Jesus' name we pray. 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. Make a salt crystal yarn. You can find instructions [here](#). Mina Munns, who writes the blog in the link, says this, “to grow as salty disciples, we need to cling to Jesus like the crystals are clinging to the string. We can do this by Bible reading, praying and being with other Christians (look at all the crystals growing together on the string!). The saltier the water, the more the crystals will eventually grow, but it takes time and being a disciple is something we grow into over time.”
2. **Listen to a readaloud** of *Mr. Tiger Goes Wild* by Peter Brown. Mr. Tiger learns that to be fully himself, he will have to let go of some things. Jesus teaches the disciples the same thing in this passage.
3. Get in the kitchen and discover the importance of salt! Find something in your pantry that is salted, like a cracker. Remove the salt and taste it. Now taste one with salt. Why is salt so important? Use the internet to look up all the different functions of salt. Why do you think Jesus said Christians should be salty?
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. What have you learned from Jesus about being at peace with others, especially those who set us on edge?
 - b. What do you think a stumbling block is?
 - c. What do you think Jesus means when he says we will all be salted with fire?



Sacrament of Baptism

Gabriel Matthew Zimmer

Child of Charen & Justin Zimmer

Representing the Session: Rich Fuller

Representing the children: Olivia Overcash

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

Dr. Bayer

First Reading

Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29

Dr. Bayer

So the Lord said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you. I will come down and talk with you there; and I will take some of the spirit that is on you and put it on them; and they shall bear the burden of the people along with you so that you will not bear it all by yourself.

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!"

Anthem

The Call

Z. Randall Stroope

Chancel Choir; Ann Carney, organ

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:

Such a Way, as gives us breath:

Such a Truth, as ends all strife:

Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, My Light, my Feast, my Strength:

Such a Light, as shows a feast:

Such a Feast, as mends in length:

Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:

Such a Joy, as none can move:

Such a Love, as none can part:

Such a Heart, as joys in love.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life.

Second Reading

Mark 9:38-50

Dr. Brown

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you

to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

49 "For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

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

Sermon

Not One of Us?

Dr. Brown

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

The Apostles' Creed

Rev. Lindsey 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

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

arr. Joel Raney

Ann Carney, piano; Zach Bowyer, organ

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**

Judah Estes

Loving God, you have given us so much. Here we share that abundance with your world in need. May these gifts, both the ones in the offering plate and the many 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 432**

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

REPTON



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
2 But if, for-get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
3 We mar - vel how your saints be-came in hin-dranc-es more sure:
4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,

(G) (Em) (A) (F#m) (Bm) (G) (Em)
A^b Fm B^b Gm Cm A^b Fm



to live ac-cord-ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re-freshed, re -
if world-ly pres-sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un -
whose joy - ful vir-tues put to shame the ca-sual way we wear your
in old rou-tines or ven-tures new, may we not cease to look to

(A7) (D) (A7)(B) (Em) (G)(A7) (D)
B^b7 E^b B^b7 C Fm A^b B^b7 E^b



stored, that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
wind its tan-gled skein of care: our in-ward life re - pair.
name, and by our faults ob - scure your power to cleanse and cure.
you: the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav-ored, done.

***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

Postlude on "Old Hundredth"

Fred Bock

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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, organ and piano

Judah Estes, Olivia Overcash liturgists

Acolytes: Reese Earp, Caroline Trimmer

A/V Team: Chris Wilcox, Denise Wilcox

Ushers: George Elledge, Mary Elledge, Dick Engle, Brett Thompson,
Linda Thompson

Welcome Team: Elizabeth Rose, William Rose, Harrison Rose, Lydia
Rose

In lieu of flowers, a donation to the sanctuary fund has been made by
Alan Chadd to the glory of God and in memory of his parents, Charles and
Beverly Chadd.

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

Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church? Our
Session will gather to welcome new members on Sunday, October 27 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 26, 2024)

Remember in Prayer

- Emily Williams, as she 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.

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 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
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.

tuesday
OCT 1
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.

wednesday
OCT 2
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
OCT 4
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 every 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.

sunday
OCT 6
2:00 p.m.

CROP Hunger Walk
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.



sunday
OCT 6
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
OCT 6
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 will be collecting food for Nourish Up (previously known as Loaves and Fishes). See a list of items and register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

SUN., OCT. 6
5:00 p.m. -
6:00 p.m.
OR
MON., OCT. 7
12:00 p.m. -
1:00 p.m.

**Conversations Around Race Equity (C.A.R.E.) Group
Sundays in Chapel 206 or Mondays via Zoom**

C.A.R.E. is starting back up this fall will meet on select Sundays and Monday and is open to all. 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A Caregiver's Journey, Tuesday, October 8, 1:00-2:30 p.m., McQueen Room - Finding meaning and purpose as you care for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. Facilitated by SMPC member Kathy Garner (Alzheimer's Association). Contact: Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.

Men's Evening Study Group, Tuesday, October 8, 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.

Shelter Ministry, Thursday, October 10, 9:00 a.m., Mecklenburg Hall - This ministry meets monthly to fill empty Rx bottles with body wash for our neighbors at Roof Above. Contact: Carol Morgan, morgancc43@aol.com.

Men's Breakfast Group, Thursday, October 10, 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.

Parents' Morning Out, Saturday, October 12, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 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

Family Playdate on the Playground, Saturday, October 19, 1:00-2:30 p.m., 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. .

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 Saturday, 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.

