



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 13, 2024

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

We Gather

We Gather

Prelude *Improvisation on "Grosser Gott"* Brenda Portman

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

Moment for Mission Lisa Kuszmar

Introit *Live into Hope* No. 772 (stanza 2)
(All sing together)

***Call to Worship** Maddy Vechnak

One: Shout to God with songs of great joy!

Many: Great is God and greatly is God to be praised!

One: God has made us whole.

Many: God has called us to a ministry of hope and love.

One: Come, let us celebrate the love of God!

Many: Let us praise God's name and serve God joyfully. Amen.

***Hymn 4** *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name* GROSSER GOTT



1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
 3 All a - pos - tles join the strain as your sa - cred
 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it:



bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim;
 bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
 name they hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
 three we name you, while in es - sence on - ly one;



all in heaven a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
 in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heavens with
 and the bless - ed mar - tyrs fol - low, and from morn to
 un - di - vid - ed God we claim you, and a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
 sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
 set of sun, through the church the song goes on.
 bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.



Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dr. Whitney Bayer

Gracious God, we often wonder what we must do to be right with you. We establish rules and try to follow them to win your love. We strive for security by piling up the things of this life. Lord, forgive our self-centeredness that seeks our well-being while we ignore the needs of others. Forgive our relying on ourselves rather than accepting fully Jesus's call to discipleship. Help us to seek your kingdom and righteousness first in our lives. Through Jesus Christ, amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Dr. Bayer

* **Response of Praise**

No. 376

When all is ended, time and troubles past,

*shall all be mended, sin and death out-cast?
In hope we sing, and hope to sing at last: Alleluia! Alleluia!*

We Hear and Respond to the Word

Church Family Moment

Rebecca Guzman

1. Check out [The Message version](#) of our scripture from Ephesians. Compare it with [the NRSVUE version](#). You can even look at them side by side [here](#). This is one great way to think about what a passage really means. The basis of our 2024 Operating Campaign theme is this part from Ephesians: “But I do more than thank. I ask—ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers, oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him—endless energy, boundless strength!” What does looking at the two versions of the passage reveal to you about the meaning? What, particularly, do you notice in the passage quoted?
2. Listen to a [readaloud](#) of *The Most Thankful Thing* by Lisa McCourt. What are you most thankful for? Is it a thing? Why is it important to remember what we are thankful for? Thankfulness is Paul’s gift of love to the Ephesians, of this mother to her little girl, and for us to one another.
3. At Big Youth Group on Sunday, the youth did this activity with an outline of the human body. It works very well for this passage too! [Print it out](#) and label the ways that you can be Jesus’ eyes, heart, hands, feet, etc. in the world.
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a) What does it really mean for the church to be the body of Christ?
 - b) Where do we get power? What does the Scripture say?
 - c) What does it mean to know God personally?
 - d) How do we learn what God is calling us to do?



Sacrament of Baptism

Micah Alexander Gadaire

Child of Andrew and Cecily Gadaire

Grandson of Jennifer and Paul Basquin

Representing the Session: Terry Gaines

Representing the Children: Lilliana Smigiel

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

Psalm 28:6-9

Dr. Bayer

Blessed be the Lord, for he has heard the sound of my pleadings. The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him. The Lord is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed. O save your people, and bless your heritage; be their shepherd, and carry them forever.

Anthem

No Other Hope

Michael Bryson

Chancel Choir; Ann Carney, piano; Amanda Turner, violin

O gracious Lord, whose name is Love, You know our future and our past, From the beginning to the end. We are Your priceless treasure.

O Giver of all perfect gifts, You have a plan to prosper us, A plan for good and not for harm; With blessings beyond measure.

So let us ever sing for joy, all who take refuge in Your name,

What You have planned is for our good, and for Your glory.

O God of mercy and of grace, You are the rock we stand upon.

We have no other hope but You. No hope but You.

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

(The Message Translation)

That's why, when I heard of the solid trust you have in the Master Jesus and your outpouring of love to all the Christians, I couldn't stop thanking God for you - every time I prayed, I'd think of you and give thanks. But I do more than thank. I ask - ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory - to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for Christians, oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him - endless energy, boundless strength! All this energy issues from Christ: God raised him from death and set him on a throne in deep heaven, in charge of running the universe, everything from galaxies to governments, no name and no power exempt from his rule. And not just for the time being, but forever. He is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything. At the center of all this, Christ rules the church. The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence. This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Endless Energy, Boundless Strength

Dr. Brown

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

A Brief Statement of Faith (52-76)

Rev. Odom

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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 *My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less* John Behnke
Exultate 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** No. 755 (stanza 2)
***Alleluia! God sustains us; matchless are the gifts we share:
light in darkness, hope in conflict, answers to our deepest prayer.
Ours to give as we are given: arms to lift when others fall;
images of God's great goodness, faithful servants to God's call.***

***Prayer of Dedication** Lilliana Smigiel
Loving God, we are so grateful for the ways in which you have encouraged us within our various ministries here at SMPC. You have strengthened us to serve in this community, to help others in need, and to be in constant prayer for our neighbors, near and far. Help us to live into hope and spread hope through the giving of our gifts and offerings presented today. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 363** *Rejoice, the Lord Is King!* DARWALL'S 148TH

4 Re - joi - ce in glo - ri - ous hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

1 Re - joi - ce, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore!
 2 Our Sav - ior, Je - sus, reigns, the God of truth and love;
 3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
 4 Re - joi - ce in glo - ri - ous hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

and gath - er all the saints to their e - ter - nal home.

Re - joi - ce, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more.
 when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove.
 the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus given.
 and gath - er all the saints to their e - ter - nal home.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re - joi - ce, a - gain I say, re - joi - ce!

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re - joi - ce, a - gain I say, re - joi - ce!

***Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Brown

*** Response Hymn 765**

May the God of Hope Go with Us

ARGENTINA

(Choir sings once then all repeat)

May the God of hope go with us ev - ery day, fill - ing all our
¡Dios de la es - pe - ran - za, da - nos go - zo y paz! Al mun - do en

lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of jus - tice speed us
cri - sis, ha - bla tu ver - dad. Dios de la jus - ti - cia, mán - da -

on our way, bring - ing light and hope to ev - ery land and race.
nos tu luz, luz y es - pe - ran - za en la os - cu - ri - dad.

Pray - ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our joy with all;
O - re - mos por la paz, can - te - mos de tu a - mor.

work - ing for a world that's new, faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.
Lu - che - mos por la paz, fie - les a ti, Se - ñor.

Postlude

Postlude on "Darwall's 148th"

Brenda Portman

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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, Exultate Ringers

Ann Carney, piano; Amanda Turner, violin

Maddy Vechnak, Lilliana Smigiel, liturgists

Acolytes: Mia Smigiel

A/V Team: Brad Alford

Ushers: Mitchell Davis, Jenny Gates, Bjorn Hansen, Judy Jones,

Charlie Metzler, Gwen Volker

Welcome Team: Justin Smigiel, Katie Smigiel, Lilliana Smigiel, Mia Smigiel, Zoe Smigiel, Eli Smigiel

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 October 10, 2024)

Remember in Prayer

- Ron Wise, as he recovers from surgery.
- All those affected by the path of destruction left by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton.
- 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.



South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

8601 Bryant Farms Road, Charlotte, NC 28277, 704-544-0404

PO Box 79321, Charlotte, NC 28271

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!

HELP FOR WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

We are raising funds for our sister church, Black Mountain Presbyterian, a congregation that is heavily engaged in response efforts. By making a monetary donation to SMPC through the QR code (also in Realm), all funds go directly to BMPC.



Another opportunity to help: Sign up to donate blood at SMPC's next American Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday, November 2, 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in The Commons. Sign up at smpchome.org > Serve our Community. You can also go to redcrossblood.org.

2025 OPERATING FUND CAMPAIGN: LIVE INTO HOPE

At South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church, we live into the hope of God's promises for us and rejoice in the gifts God has given to us. We respond with intention, seeking to do God's will as we worship, connect, and serve. Stewardship packets for those who were unable to pick them up in person last Sunday have been mailed. Make a pledge by returning your pledge card or via the QR code.



THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today

OCT 13

11:30 a.m. -
12:30 p.m.

Believing and Belonging McQueen Room

For all who are considering membership and/or would like to know more about being Presbyterian and SMPC. Lunch will be served and childcare will be available. Contact: Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org

today

OCT 13

5:00 p.m. -
6:30 p.m.

TCBY Night TCBY at Blakeney, Middle and High Schoolers

Join us for frozen yogurt and fellowship! Please bring money to purchase yogurt. Friends are welcome! Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

tuesday

OCT 15

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 16

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

OCT 17

12:30 p.m.

Food for Thought Book Group McQueen Room

This group is reading *The Many Lives of Mama Love: A Memoir of Lying, Stealing, Writing, and Healing* by Lara Love Hardin. All book lovers are welcome. Contact: Kathy Paquette, khesspaquette@aol.com.

thursday

OCT 17

6:00 p.m.

Breaking Bread, An Evening of Fellowship and Conversation SouthPark Church, 3151 Apex Dr., Charlotte

Fellowship & conversation with Actionnel & Yolande Fleurisma, Friends Empowering Haiti and Ewo. Drinks & Haitian rice & beans will be served. Participants are asked to bring a salad, dessert, side dish or bread. Meet in the SMPC parking lot at 5:00 p.m. to carpool. Contact Donna Podgorny, d_podgorny@yahoo.com, for the signup /carpool link or see church email.

thursday
OCT 17
6:00 p.m.

International Dining Group
Oggi Ristorante Italian, 16646 Hawfield Way Drive, Charlotte,
This group meets for food and fellowship! All are welcome. Please RSVP by Monday, October 14 to Alice Tyler, rrt1317@aol.com.

friday
OCT 18
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.

saturday
OCT 19
1:00 p.m. -
2:30 p.m.

Family Playdate on the Playground
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.

sunday
OCT 20
9:00 a.m. -
10:00 a.m.

Haiti Mission Update and Q&A Session with Actionnel
Chapel
Actionnel and Yolande Fleurisma will be at SMPC and will provide an update on our mission work and the community life in Bayonnais, Haiti. They will also have a Q&A session. Contact: Donna Podgorny, d_podgorny@yahoo.com.

sunday
OCT 20
11:15 a.m. -
1:00 p.m.

BBQ Lunch on the Grounds
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. Find costs and register on Realm or via QR Code. Contact: Kathy Graham, kathyspeech@carolina.rr.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS

BAM! Bible and Music, Sunday, October 20, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Meet in Narthex, Children in Kindergarten-5th Grade - During BAM!, children sing, creatively engage with Bible stories, and explore various musical instruments with peers. We end with a pizza dinner and free play time. Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

SMPC Youth Operation Sandwich, Sunday, October 20, Mecklenburg Hall, Middle and High Schoolers - Join us as we make sandwiches for our neighbors at Roof Above, a men's homeless shelter. Register and see link to sign up to bring ingredients on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

Conversations Around Race Equity (C.A.R.E.) Group, Monday, October 21, 12:00-1:00 p.m. via Zoom - IMPORTANT UPDATE: This group is only meeting on Mondays (it was previously advertised that they would meet on Sundays OR Mondays). We are using the book *Anti-Racism As Daily Practice* by Jennifer Harvey to spark our conversation. Register on Realm. All are welcome. Contact: Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.

SMPC Lunch Bunch's October Gathering, Tuesday, October 22, 11:15 a.m., Tap and Vine Restaurant, 8426 Park Road, Charlotte, NC 28210 - All are welcome - invite a friend! RSVP by Saturday, October 19 to Ruth Ann Engle, raengle22@gmail.com.

Important Update from SMPC's College Ministry

Due to Hurricane Helene, focusing our resources and efforts on the devastation in the Carolinas, specifically Western North Carolina, is so critical. We will continue to support our college students in our thoughts and prayers but at this time we are pausing this new program. Please reach out to Lindsey Odom if you have or know of a college student who needs specific support at this time. More info to come. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.