



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

October 20, 2024

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

We Gather

We Gather

Prelude *Partita on "All Are Welcome": III. Capriccio* Charles Lenz

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Rebecca Guzman

The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**

Moment for Mission David Wooley

Introit *Live into Hope* No. 772 (stanza 3)
(All sing together)

***Call to Worship** Elizabeth Gentry

One: Come! Let us give thanks to God!

Many: We give thanks for all the times God has made a way out of no way, providing for us in body, mind, and spirit.

One: Come! Let us give thanks to God!

Many: We give thanks for the times when we think there is no hope, yet God offers us healing love and makes all things new again.

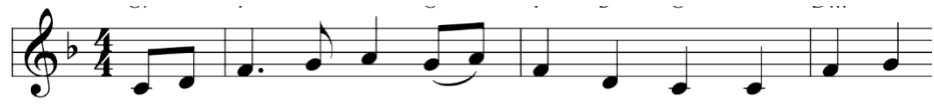
One: Come, let us celebrate the love of God!

Many: We give thanks for the ways God weaves us together as a community of love and care, supporting one another in our everyday lives.

One: Let us come into God's presence with grateful praise!

Many: Come! Let us worship God together. Amen.

***Hymn 301** *Let Us Build a House* TWO OAKS



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rebecca Guzman

Wondrous God, we confess that at times our doubts and fears override our hope and faith. We confess that we have often believed we will have to take care of ourselves, forgetting your promise and your call. When it seems life is unraveling, we look for ways to defend ourselves and ensure our security and our desire, rather than following your way. Forgive us for our lack of trust and our inability to live into your steadfast love, hope, peace, and justice for all. Gift us with faith we need to repent and turn to you. This we pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Rebecca Guzman

***Response of Praise**

No. 376 (*stanza 1*)

***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. You may have noticed that we have special guests in worship today: The Fleurismas! SMPC supports Haiti through our work with [Friends Empowering Haiti](#) and [Ewo](#). Our support for Haiti includes financial donations for the school, medical clinic and special projects. SMPC members also can sponsor Haitian students. OFCB Ministries in Bayonnais was founded by Haitians, including Actionnel Fleurisma, SMPC charter member and our guest this Sunday! You can also watch this [youtube video](#) to learn more about this ministry. Sponsoring a child is a great family spiritual practice.
2. Listen to a [readaloud](#) of *I'm the Best* by Lucy Cousins. In our Gospel scripture for today, the disciples are arguing over who is the greatest. Jesus explains to the disciples that they have it all wrong! God honors the ones who serve the most, and the only way to become great is to serve one another. In the book, Dog wants to be the best, but he learns that being the best isn't what he thought it was after all.
3. Our [opening hymn](#), "Let Us Build a House," envisions a church where everyone serves God, one another, and the world. We hope that our church is like that. How can we build a church like the one in the hymn?
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a) What were the disciples arguing about? What does Jesus say?
 - b) What is a servant? Have you ever seen a show or read a book where there were servants? What was that like?
 - c) What does it mean to be a servant of God?



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

Rev. Lindsey Odom

First Reading

Psalm 104: 1-4; 31-34

Rev. Odom

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment. You

stretch out the heavens like a tent, you set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works—who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord.

Anthem

Hope in Me

Terre Johnson

Chancel Choir; Ann Carney, piano;

Tom LaJoie, violin; Avery Gray, clarinet

Have you not known me from the beginning? Have you not heard it since life began? I am the everlasting Creator, Heaven and Earth sprang forth from my hand. Hope in me and you will be strengthened; run every race and I will revive. Walk without fainting, mount up as eagles; hope in me, for I am God. Look at the sky and try to imagine Who could have formed the stars and the sun. All you can see, and more that is hidden, I chose their orbits, I named each one. Although it seems your pathways are hidden, I will bring peace to the future you dread. I made the earth, the seas, and the heavens; I can give strength for what lies ahead. Hope in me, for I am God.

Second Reading

Mark 10; 35-45

Dr. Whitney Bayer

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

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

Sermon

Honor

Dr. Bayer

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

The Apostles' Creed

Rev. 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

Hope for Reconciliation

Lee Afdahl

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**

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**

Owen Bickett

Gracious God, in recognition of our devotion to Christ and our gratitude for all that you, O God, have given us, we give our gifts with joy and thanksgiving. Let us seek to show our love for God who relentlessly seeks us out and tenderly cares for us through the gift of our offerings and tithes. May we have the hope of Your calling and know the riches of Your glory! Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 299** *You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim*

HANOVER



1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,
 2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save,
 3 "Sal - va - tion to God, who sits on the throne!"
 4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right:

and pub - lish a - broad Christ's won - der - ful name.
 he still re - mains nigh; his pres - ence we have.
 Let all cry a - loud and hon - or the Son.
 all glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might,

The name all vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex - tol,
 The great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,
 The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,
 all hon - or and bless - ing, with an - gels a - bove,

whose king - dom is glo - rious, who rules o - ver all.
 as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus our King.
 fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
 and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fi - nite love!

***Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Bayer

*** Response Hymn 765**

May the God of Hope Go with Us

ARGENTINA

(Choir sings once then all repeat)

Postlude

Partita on "All Are Welcome"

Charles Lenz

I. Maestoso, V. Final - Dance

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Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

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, Chancel Ringers, Ann Carney, piano; Tom LaJoie, violin;
Avery Gray, clarinet
Owen Bickett, Elizabeth Gentry, liturgists

A/V Team: Chris Wilcox, Joe Wilcox

Ushers: Bob Cushman, George Elledge, Mary Elledge, Dick Engle, Curtis Guy, Kara Guy

Welcome Team: Kathy Galati

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 17, 2024)

Remember in Prayer

- Austin Lackey and Nina McIntosh, who were married in the Bahamas on October 18th. Austin is the son of Leisa and Clint Lackey.
- Jeff Brockman and Allene Young, who were married on Hilton Head Island on October 19th.
- The Sandeen and Colson families, as they grieve the death of their son and oldest brother, Jon Sandeen, of New Jersey.
- 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

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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!

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.



Other tangible ways you can help:

- Donate blood to the American Red Cross (details of SMPC's blood drive are on back)
- Volunteer at Camp Grier, a Presbyterian camp in Old Fort, NC. Details on how to volunteer are on Camp Grier's website, campgrier.org.
- Go to supportingwnc.com to find real-time volunteer and donation needs in Western North Carolina.

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 have been mailed. Make a pledge by returning your pledge card or via the QR code.



Commitment Sunday is October 27.

THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today

OCT 20

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 with peers. We end with a pizza dinner and free play time. Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

today

OCT 20

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

SMPC Youth Operation Sandwich

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.

monday

OCT 21

12:00 p.m. -
1:00 p.m.

Conversations Around Race Equity (C.A.R.E.) Group Zoom

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.

tuesday

OCT 22

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

OCT 22

7:30 p.m.

Men's Evening Study

Chapel 206

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

wednesday
OCT 23
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 24
9:30 a.m.

**Men's Breakfast Group
Big View Diner, 6637 Lancaster Hwy**

This group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays each month to enjoy breakfast and conversation. Contact: Bob Tyler, Btyler@unitedskates.com.

thursday
OCT 24
7:30 p.m.

**Making Space Mom's Group
Chapel 206**

Moms of all ages are invited to join us for study, fellowship and service. Contact: Allison Reeves, allison.tarwater@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday Morning Men's Group, Friday, November 1, 7:30-8:30 a.m., 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.

American Red Cross Blood Drive, Saturday, November 2, 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., The Commons - The need for blood is imperative right now! Please consider signing up to donate blood (via QR code) or volunteer. Find more information on our website under Serve Our Community. Contact: Bill Ramsey, bill.john.ramsey@gmail.com.



DivorceCare Seminar, 'Surviving the Holidays', Sunday, November 10, 11:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., McQueen Room - When a marriage ends, the holiday season can be especially difficult. DivorceCare's Surviving the Holidays seminar will help participants face the challenges that come with life changes. Facilitated by SMPC members Janet and Jeff Goetz, this seminar will offer community, support and hope. Lunch will be provided, and childcare is available if needed. Contact: Janet Goetz, janetgoetz@carolina.rr.com.

UPCOMING SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

The Shelter Ministry, a group that fills empty prescription and medicine bottles with body wash for the men's homeless shelter, Roof Above, is in GREAT need of body wash! They also always need empty Rx bottles (labels removed, please!) Bring donations to the church office, M-Th, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. or to the next Shelter Ministry workday, Thursday, November 14, 9:00 a.m. in Mecklenburg Hall.



Donate Bagged Lunches for Roof Above, Saturday, November 9, 9:30 a.m.



Bring a Dessert for Center of Hope Guests, Sunday, November 10, 10:10 a.m.



Serve or Donate Breakfast to Center of Hope Guests, Saturday, November 19

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. Please reach out to Lindsey Odom if you have or know of a college student who needs specific support at this time. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.