



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

World Communion Sunday

October 6, 2024

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

We Gather

Prelude *Song of Hope* Brenda Austin
Gaudete Ringers

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Dr. Whitney Bayer
The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**

Moment for Stewardship Greg Hobby

Introit *Live into Hope* No. 772 (stanza 1)
(All sing together)

***Call to Worship** Rev. Lindsey Odom

One: We gather this day to hear and learn from God's Living Word!

Many: For God's Word is alive and active, sharper than any two-edged sword.

One: We have a great High Priest who has soared to the heights of heaven, and his name is Jesus, the Son of God!

Many: Let us hold fast to our faith in him.

One: Let us go boldly to his throne of grace.

Many: We want to receive Christ' mercy.

One: For the grace of God is abundant for all.

ALL: O' God in Christ, we praise you for your compassion and your love. Accept our grateful praise as we come to worship you today.

***Hymn 624** *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art* TOULON

1 I greet thee, who my sure Re - deem - er art,
 2 Thou art the King of mer - cy and of grace,
 3 Thou art the life, by which a - lone we live,
 4 Thou hast the true and per - fect gen - tle - ness;
 5 Our hope is in no oth - er save in thee;

my on - ly trust and Sav - ior of my heart,
 reign - ing om - ni - po - tent in ev - ery place;
 and all our sub - stance and our strength re - ceive;
 no harsh - ness hast thou and no bit - ter - ness.
 our faith is built up - on thy prom - ise free;

who pain didst un - der - go for my poor sake;
 so come, O King, and our whole be - ing sway;
 sus - tain us by thy faith and by thy power,
 O grant to us the grace we find in thee,
 Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,

I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.
 shine on us with the light of thy pure day.
 and give us strength in ev - ery try - ing hour.
 that we may dwell in per - fect u - ni - ty.
 that in thy strength we ev - er - more en - dure.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Odom

Almighty God, you call us to live in faith and freedom, but we live with tightness in our chests. You call us to be the light of the world, but we have often covered our light in the presence of others. You call us to move in new directions, but we cling to the paths that we know. You call us to reach outward to each other in love, but we draw inward to ourselves for protection. You call us to live with abandon, in trust, but we live carefully, in fear. Forgive us, O' God. Open our hearts to know that the riches of the kingdom are in service to you. Help us to understand the call you have given us to service, and having heard and understood that call, may we be about the work of the kingdom. For we offer this prayer in Jesus' Name. Amen.

*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. It is World Communion Sunday, which means that Christians all over the world will be celebrating Communion today. We sometimes call Communion the Lord's Supper. Here are some basic things that Presbyterian believe about the Lord's Supper:
 - a. It's more than a symbol, but we don't believe the bread actually becomes Jesus' body.
 - b. Jesus is mysteriously present with us.
 - c. We are united with "all the saints of every time and place," or all Christians who are alive and the ones who are no longer with us.
 - d. It fills us up with what we need to go out and serve in the world!
 - e. Everyone is welcome at the table, regardless of age or faith background.
2. Print and color this reflective [coloring page](#). As you color, think and pray about what Communion means to you and what it means to be part of a worldwide family of people who follow Jesus.
3. Listen to a readaloud of the book [We Gather at This Table](#). What did you learn about Communion today?
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. Have you seen people take food, give thanks to God for the food, and share it with others? Share about your experience.
 - b. Who makes the food you eat most days?
 - c. Have you seen someone who was hungry? What was it like?
 - d. When did you use something God gave you to help somebody else?
- e. Have you thought about how your food grows or gets made and comes to your table?



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. Odom

First Reading

Psalm 8

Rev. Odom

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Anthem*God Gives Us a Future with Hope*

Pepper Choplin

Jubilate Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano

Surely I know the plans I have for you, plans for your welfare and not for harm. Surely I know the plans I have for you, plans for a future that's full of hope. Our God lives, our God loves, and gives us a future with hope.

Our God hears, our God cares, and gives us a future with hope.

Our God gives a future. If you call Me, I will answer. If you pray to Me, I will hear. When you search for Me, I will be there. When you seek Me with all your heart, you'll find Me. So look to the future, embrace the future, God gives the future, God gives us hope!

Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Dr. Brown

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, subjecting all things under their feet." Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call

them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

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

Sermon

The Exact Imprint

Dr. Brown

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

The Nicene Creed

Dr. Bayer

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offertory

Come Before the Table

Karen Marrolli

Chancel Choir; Laura Black and Brett Parrish, soloists

Come before the table, O come before the Lord. O come, come and share the love that makes us one. O Come, come with one spirit, come with one hope, come with one song. O come, come as you are, knowing we all belong. Come and share the blessing, O come and share the promise, O come and share the love. O Come, come with one mission, come with one love, come with one voice. Come all, all near and far, let all the world rejoice! Come before the table, O come before the Lord! Thee we adore, O hidden savior thee, Who at this blessed feast art pleased to be. Come and share the blessing, O come and share the promise, O come and share the love. Come before the table, O come.

As an alternative to the traditional offering plate, you may support the ministry of SMPC by giving online at www.smpchome.org/give 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.***

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Odom

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Dr. Bayer

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise . . .

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.

The Words of Institution

Rev. Odom, Dr. Brown

The Bread and the Cup

You are invited to come forward (see diagram) and receive the elements: cup your hands to receive a cracker, then take a cup. Communion cups may be placed in the cup-holders in the pews or the racks in the balcony. If you are not able to come forward, you will be served at your seat. Gluten-free elements are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Communion of the People

The Prayer after Communion

Dr. Brown

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 536**

Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen

SURGE ECCLESIA



1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en, from this
 2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low af - ter
 3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture God has
 4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion; cour - age



meal of love and grace; may we through such love en -
 Christ, though wound - ed, whole; bro - ken, shared, our lives are
 called us to re - ceive; pres - ent by God's lov - ing
 be our dai - ly breath; mer - cy be our des - ti -



vi - sion whose we are, and whose, our praise. Al - le -
 hal - lowed to re - lease and to con - sole. Al - le -
 nur - ture, Spir - it - ed then let us live. Al - le -
 na - tion from this day and un - to death. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: God, the won - der of our days.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: Spir - it, grace by whom we live.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

***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 *Toccata on "Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen"* Cherwien
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Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor
 Dr. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor
 Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist
 Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation
 Chancel Choir; Jubilate Choir; Gaudete Ringers, Helen Castle, conductor
 Blythe Kinsey, piano; Laura Black and Brett Parrish, soloists

A/V Team: Kari Case

Acolytes: Ellie Henriques, Sumner Martin

Ushers: Andrew Brown, Dan DeChant, Gena DeChant, Frank Graham,
 Craig Parrish, Carol Watkins

Welcome Team: Kathy Rasimas, Jennifer Hurlburt, Kasia Hurlburt, Terry
 Gaines

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

Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church? Our Session will gather to welcome new members 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 3, 2024)

Remember in Prayer

- All those affected by the path of destruction left by Hurricane Helene.
- David and Vonda Huss and their family as David's mother, Phyllis Huss, entered the Church triumphant on September 30.
- Howard Murphy 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.

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

Community is more important now than ever! We continue to pray for Western North Carolina and all those affected by Hurricane Helene while we raise funds for our sister church, Black Mountain Presbyterian, a congregation who is heavily engaged in response efforts, including feeding hundreds of people per day. By making a monetary donation to SMPC through the QR code (also in Realm), all funds will go directly to BMPC. As of Thursday, October 3, SMPC has raised \$3600 for BMPC. The need is ongoing and will last for months. We have been in touch with staff at BMPC and will continue to update you with more opportunities to respond.



The American Red Cross also tells us that the need for blood is imperative. You can sign up to donate at a blood drive near you at redcrossblood.org. (SMPC's next blood drive is Saturday, November 2, 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in The Commons.)

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. Over the next four weeks, we hope you'll join us in person during our 10:10 a.m. worship services or via livestream to see and hear how your pledge makes a difference. **Please pick up your campaign packet in the narthex.** Make a pledge by returning a pledge card or by scanning the QR code.



THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today
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.



today
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.

today
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.

today, OCT. 6
5-6 p.m.
OR
mon., OCT. 7
12-1 p.m.

Conversations Around Race Equity (C.A.R.E.) Group
Sundays in Chapel 206 or Mondays via Zoom
C.A.R.E. 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. Register for either day on Realm. Contact: Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.

monday
OCT 7
6:00 p.m. -
9:00 p.m.

Divan Center's Evening of Interfaith Dialogue
Caldwell Presbyterian Church, 1609 E. 5th Street, Charlotte

Our friends at the Divan Center, a cultural non-profit, are hosting a book talk and signing featuring Dr. Ori Z. Soltes, a Georgetown professor of Comparative Theology and an expert in Middle East Studies. The event is free to attend. Find more info and register via the QR code.



tuesday
OCT 8
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 8
1:00 p.m. -
2:00 p.m.

A Caregiver's Journey
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.

tuesday
OCT 8
7:30 p.m.

Men's Evening Study Group
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 9
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 10
9:00 a.m.

Shelter Ministry
Mecklenburg Hall

This ministry meets monthly to fill empty Rx bottles with body wash for our neighbors at Roof Above, a men's homeless shelter. Contact: Carol Morgan, morganc43@aol.com.

thursday
OCT 10
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.

friday
OCT 11
7:30 p.m.

Stateline Community Orchestra Concert
Mecklenburg Hall

The Stateline Community Orchestra will perform a free concert, "From Darkness to Discovery" and all are welcome (donations gratefully accepted). Reception to follow. Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.

saturday
OCT 12
9:00 a.m. -
12:00 p.m.

Parents' Morning Out
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.

sunday
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. 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