



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

All Saints' Sunday

November 3, 2024

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

We Gather

Prelude *Elegy* Nicholas Bowden

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Rev. Lindsey Odom

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

Introit *Love the Lord Your God* Jean Strathdee

***Call to Worship** Rev. Odom

One: Come, let us worship God and rejoice!

Many: We have come to praise God for God's steadfast love!

One: We are people of God, created to love.

Many: We will love the Lord our God with heart, soul, mind and strength, and love our neighbors, too!

One: We must let our love of God be known to all!

**ALL: For God's love and blessings have been showered upon us.
May we use the blessings which God has given us to benefit others. Amen.**

***Hymn 326** *For All the Saints* SINE NOMINE



1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might;
 3 O blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!
 4 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,
 5 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through



thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
 thou, Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight;
 We fee - bly strug - gle; they in glo - ry shine; yet
 steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, and
 gates of pearl streams in the count - less host,



name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
 thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.
 all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 hearts are brave a - gain, and arms are strong.
 sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Odom

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. Many times, we have only thought of our own wants and desires and ignored the needs of others. We have not loved you with our whole heart, mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Help us to truly understand the commandments to love you with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. Let us care for our neighbors both far and near. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways. Bring us back to your loving light. For we ask these things in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Rev. Odom

***Response of Praise**

No. 582 (stanza 1)

*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. Today is All Saints' Day and a Communion Sunday. Look at this [piece of art](#) by Jan Richardson called "The Best Supper". What makes each figure unique? What holds the people together? What do they share and what do they gain from being together at the table?
2. Cut out a large heart. On one side write, "Love God", and on the other side write, "Love Neighbor". On each side, write down or draw specific ways that you can obey both of these commandments. What does it mean to love God and love neighbor?
3. Listen to a [readaloud](#) of *Biblioburro* by Jeannette Winter. Noell Rathbun-Cook [writes](#), "Love can look like many things, but at its heart, perhaps to love another as you love yourself is to share the thing that brings you joy. In Winter's story, this is exactly what Luis does. Because books bring Luis such joy, he is determined to share that joy with children in the faraway hills". What is it that brings you joy that you want to share with others?
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a) What stands out to you from this passage?
 - b) Why do you think the "teachers of the law" or "scribes" asked Jesus what the greatest commandment is?
 - c) The answers that Jesus gives are simple, but do they seem easy? What makes them easy or difficult?



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

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Rev. Odom

Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, so that you and your children and your children's children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised

you. Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Anthem

Do You Believe This?

James Biery

Chancel Choir

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in me, even though they die will live,

And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?"

Second Reading

Mark 12:28-34

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

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

Sermon

Détente

Dr. Brown

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

Rev. Odom

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

Meditation

Cécile Chaminade

Laura Schelhammer, flute

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**

*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.*

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Dr. Brown

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer Rev. Odom

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 203

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love


CHEREONI




Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love; show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and
3 These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should
4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, will - ing to wash oth - ers'



feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
race; neigh-bors are near us and far a - way.
love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
feet; this is the way we should live like you.

*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

Fantasy on "Sine Nomine"

Michael Bedford

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Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

Rev. Lindsey Odom, Associate Pastor of Youth & Missions/Outreach

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Chancel Choir

Laura Schelhammer, flute

A/V Team: Kari Case

Acolytes: Miles Ullman, Rue Woodard

Ushers: Andrew Brown, Dan DeChant, Gena DeChant, Frank Graham, Curt Ireland, Craig Parrish

Welcome Team: Susan Hicks, Emery Hicks, Crystal Myers, Jon, Myers, Grayson Myers, Caeden Myers

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 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, November 24 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 31, 2024)

Remember in Prayer

- 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.

To join the prayer chain or send a prayer request:

prayer@SMPChome.org.



South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

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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

Scan the QR code or go to our Newsroom on our website (smpchome.org/newsroom) to find tangible ways to help our neighbors in Western North Carolina, including making a financial donation to Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, volunteering at Camp Grier and donating blood at an American Red Cross Blood Drive.



2025 OPERATING FUND CAMPAIGN: LIVE INTO HOPE

We celebrated Commitment Sunday for our 2025 Operating Fund campaign this past Sunday, but there is still time to make a pledge. 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. Thank you!



THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today

NOV. 3

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

NOV. 3

5:00 p.m. -

6:30 p.m.

BYG (Big Youth Group)

Mecklenburg Hall, Middle and High Schoolers

Please bring some canned goods for Thanksgiving Meal Kits that we will put together for Smithfield Elementary in our All Church Serves on Sunday, November 17. Find link for materials needed and register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

monday

NOV. 4

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

NOV. 5

10:00 a.m. -

1:00 p.m.

Advent Artist Workshop

Chapel 204, Ages 5-12 years old

Children are invited to drop in and create illustrations for SMPC's 20th annual daily Advent Devotional Guide. Contact: Terry Gaines, terryg@carolina.rr.com

tuesday

NOV. 5

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.

thursday

NOV. 7

7:30 p.m.

Making Space Mom's Group

Chapel 206

New Meeting Frequency! This group now meets on the first and third Thursdays of every month. Moms of all ages are invited to join us for study, fellowship and service. Contact: Allison Reeves, allison.tarwater@gmail.com.

saturday
NOV. 9
9:30 a.m.

**Bagged Lunches for Roof Above
In front of the Palmer Building**

SMPC provides 100 bag lunches a month for our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Sign up to drop off sandwiches via QR code. Contact: Shelby Ullman, shelby.ullman@gmail.com.



sunday
NOV. 10
9:00 a.m. -
10:00 a.m.

**Adult Bible Study: Just Jesus
McQueen Room or Zoom**

This four-week study explores Jesus' justice-focused ministry and our call to follow his example. Contact: Melissa White, melissawhite1018@yahoo.com.



sunday
NOV. 10
10:10 a.m.

**Desserts for Center of Hope
Narthex**

On the second Sunday of each month we provide desserts for Center of Hope, a shelter for women and children. Sign up to bring dessert via QR code. Contact: Terry Gaines, terryg@carolina.rr.com.



sunday
NOV. 10
11:45 a.m. -
2:00 p.m.

**DivorceCare Seminar, 'Surviving the Holidays'
McQueen Room**

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. Register on Realm or via QR code. Contact: Janet Goetz, janetgoetz@carolina.rr.com.



IMPORTANT SMPC STAFF UPDATE



Laura Black, a member of the Chancel Choir, has joined the SMPC staff as ministry associate for children and music. Working closely with the Music Ministry, she'll be leading the children's choirs on Sunday evenings as part of our Bible and Music (BAM!) program and will assist the Children and Youth Ministries during the week.

Laura is an accomplished performer in both musical theatre and opera. Originally from Gastonia, Laura relocated to the Charlotte area from New York City, where she was performing and teaching both voice and piano. She holds a Master of Music in Musical Theatre/Opera Performance from Arizona State University and a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the North Carolina School of the Arts. Laura and her husband, Ned, have two daughters, Maddie and Olivia. More on Laura can be found on our website, smpchome.org/staff. We are so excited to welcome Laura to our staff!

MORE EXCITING NEWS FROM THE MUSIC AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

With the expansion of our Children's Choirs, we're ordering new choir robes for the children! The robes are purple and will feature our logo on the white collar (see a sample hanging by the Connection Center). We hope to have the robes in by Festival of Carols (Sunday, December 15, 6:00-7:30 p.m.)! They will remain a part of our program for future members. If you would like to make a donation toward the purchase of the new robes, please scan the QR code, select the "Other" fund, and write "Children's Choir Robes" in the memo.



UPCOMING SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

**All Church Serves - Thanksgiving Meal Kits for Smithfield
Elementary, Sunday, November 17, 5:00-6:30 p.m.,**

Mecklenburg Hall - Children, youth and adults are invited to join us for our All Church Serves where we will make Thanksgiving Meal Kits for families at Smithfield Elementary School. Sign up to donate items and find a link to make a monetary donation on Realm or via QR code. Register on Realm or via QR code. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

