



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship
25th Sunday after Pentecost
November 10, 2024
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

We Gather

Prelude *Strong Deliverer!* Phil Lehenbauer

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

Introit *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* Ken Medema

***Call to Worship** Miles Ullman

One: Siblings in Christ, we are loved by God.

Many: The creator of heaven and earth knows us by name.

One: God hears and answers our cries for help.

Many: God shows compassion and kindness to us, so that we may show the same to others.

One: With our lives, may we praise and magnify our awesome God!

ALL: Let us come to worship the One who loves us, without condition!

***Hymn 307** *God of Grace and God of Glory* CWM RHONNDA

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Odom

Gracious God, we confess that many things keep us from fully trusting in your love. We are often distracted by our own desires and disappointments. We cling to anger. We fear for the future rather than seek signs of hope. Forgive us. Shine your love upon us so that your glory may be seen in us. Give us courage to follow Jesus wherever he leads. Help us as forgiven and renewed people to reflect the love and life of Jesus Christ into our world, for this we pray in Jesus' name. 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. Watch [this video](#) of the story. What do you notice?
2. Today's story is about a coin! Or two coins, really. Get a coin out and play some games with it. [Here](#) are some ideas about what to play!
3. In the story, a widow gives two coins, which is all she has. This woman is ALL IN for Jesus. Do the Hokey Pokey. When you get to the end and put your "whole self in," add the words, "for Jesus!"
4. Print out [this page](#) and color it. While you color, think about what it might mean to be a "Cheerful Giver."
5. Journal, considering the following:
 - a) What are the "scribes" doing?
 - b) I wonder why Jesus says that is not good.
 - c) What does Jesus notice about the poor widow?
 - d) Why do you think Jesus told this story?



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 127:1-5

Rev. Odom

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved. Sons are indeed a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them. He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

Anthem

Have You Heard God's Voice?

Frederick Chatfield

Chancel Choir; Ben Bickett, soloist

Have you heard God's voice; has your heart been stirred? Are you still prepared to follow? Have you made a choice to remain and serve, though the way be rough and narrow? Will you use your voice; will you not sit down when the multitudes are silent? Will you make a choice to stand your ground when the crowds are turning violent? Will you walk the path that will cost you much and embrace God's love and sorrow? Will you trust in One who entrusts to you the disciples of tomorrow? Will you watch the news with the eyes of faith and believe it could be different? Will you share your views using words of grace? Will you leave a thoughtful imprint? In your city streets will you be God's heart? Will you listen to the voiceless? Will you stop and eat, and when friendships start, will you share your faith with the faithless? We will walk the path that will cost us much and embrace God's love and sorrow. Will you trust in One who entrusts to you the disciples of tomorrow?

Second Reading

Mark 12:38-44

Dr. Whitney Bayer

As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation." He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

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

Sermon

Community

Dr. Bayer

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

Brief Statement of Faith PC (USA)

Rev. Odom

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless

life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

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

There Is So Much Work for Love to Do

Cynthia Gray

Jubilate Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano

There is so much work for love to do. Brother, take a stand: "No more hate!" We can't delay, there's so much work to do. Sister, lift your voice:

"No more lies!" Just break the ties, there is so much work to do. Everybody shout, "No more pain!" It is a shame, there's so much work to do. Can you hear us? "No more fear!" The time is here. There's so much work to do. So much crying, so much dying, love be in our hearts. Love be in our hearts, be in our hands. Be in our thoughts, in our words. Love be in our hearts. There is so much work for love to do.

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**

Emily Mitchell

Gracious God, may the offering of our whole lives be a living witness to your unconditional love as revealed in the way, truth, and life of Jesus Christ. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 376**

When All Is Ended

YOGANANDA

(stanzas 1-5)



1 When all is end - ed, time and trou - bles past,
 2 As in the night, when light - ning flick - ers free,
 3 A - gainst all hope, our wea - ry times have known
 4 Then do not cheat the poor, who long for bread,
 5 With earth - y faith we sing a song of heaven:
 6 With all cre - a - tion, pain and an - ger past,

(D) (Bm) (Em) (B) (Am) (B)
 F Dm Gm D Cm D



shall all be mend - ed, sin and death out - cast?
 and gives a glimpse of dis - tant hill and tree,
 wars end - ed, peace de - clared, com - pas - sion shown,
 with dream - worlds in the sky or in the head,
 all life ful - filled, all loved, all wrong for - given.
 e - vil ex - haust - ed, love su - preme at last,

(Em) (C) (D) (G) (C) (Am) (Em)
 Gm Eb F Bb Eb Cm Gm



In hope we sing, and hope to sing at last:
 each flash of good dis - clos - es what will be:
 great days of free - dom, ty - rants o - ver - thrown:
 but sing of slaves set free, and chil - dren fed:
 Christ is our sign of hope, for Christ is risen:
 a - live in God, we'll sing an un - sur - passed

(D) (G) (D) (Em) (Am7) (Dsus) (D) (G)
 F Bb F Gm Cm7 Fsus F Bb



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

***Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Bayer

***Hymn 376**

When All Is Ended
(stanza 6)

YOGANANDA



1 When all is end - ed, time and trou - bles past,
 2 As in the night, when light - ning flick - ers free,
 3 A - gainst all hope, our wea - ry times have known
 4 Then do not cheat the poor, who long for bread,
 5 With earth - y faith we sing a song of heaven:
 6 With all cre - a - tion, pain and an - ger past,

(D) (Bm) (Em) (B) (Am) (B)
 F Dm Gm D Cm D



shall all be mend - ed, sin and death out - cast?
 and gives a glimpse of dis - tant hill and tree,
 wars end - ed, peace de - clared, com - pas - sion shown,
 with dream - worlds in the sky or in the head,
 all life ful - filled, all loved, all wrong for - given.
 e - vil ex - haust - ed, love su - preme at last,

(Em) (C) (D) (G) (C) (Am) (Em)
 Gm Eb F Bb Eb Cm Gm



In hope we sing, and hope to sing at last:
 each flash of good dis - clos - es what will be:
 great days of free - dom, ty - rants o - ver - thrown:
 but sing of slaves set free, and chil - dren fed:
 Christ is our sign of hope, for Christ is risen:
 a - live in God, we'll sing an un - sur - passed

(D) (G) (D) (Em) (Am7) (Dsus) (D) (G)
 F Bb F Gm Cm7 Fsus F Bb



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

Postlude

Trumpet Tune

Michael McCabe

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

Jubilate Choir

Ben Bickett, soloist

Blythe Kinsey, piano

Emily Mitchell, Miles Ullman, liturgists

A/V Team: Brad Alford, Luke Estes

Ushers: Dick Engle, Judy Jones, Donna Podgorny, Brett Thompson,

Linda Thompson, Bob Williamson

Welcome Team: Kathy Graham, Natalie Guy, Jack Hess, Claire Latzke, Amy Zagora

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 and Instagram: **@southmeckpres**.

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 November 7, 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, amid 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

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

On October 27, we celebrated Commitment Sunday for our 2025 Operating Fund Campaign, *Live into Hope*. Thank you to the 236 families who have made a financial commitment supporting our programs and ministries for 2025. Our goal is for 300 families to support this campaign. If you've never made a pledge before, please prayerfully consider responding this year—a pledge in any amount makes a difference! Pledges are not legally binding, and you can stop or edit your pledge at any time. You can support the campaign by pledging online via the QR code or by contacting Mary Katherine Zagora, mkzagora@smpchome.org.



THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today

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.



today

NOV. 10

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

PJ and Pancake Night Mecklenburg Hall, Middle and High Schoolers

Wear your pajamas and experience a time of fellowship and delicious pancakes! Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

tuesday

NOV. 12

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

NOV. 12

1:00 p.m. -
2:30 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 Kathy Garner (Alzheimer's Association). Contact: Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.

tuesday

NOV. 12

7:30 p.m.

Men's Evening Study Chapel 206

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

wednesday

NOV. 13

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
NOV. 14
9:00 a.m. **Shelter Ministry**
Mecklenburg Hall
This group meets monthly to fill empty Rx bottles with body wash for our neighbors at Roof Above, a men's homeless shelter. They are in GREAT need of body wash donations. Please bring donations by the church office, M-Th, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., or to their next workday. Contact: Carol Morgan, morgancc43@aol.com.

thursday
NOV. 14
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.

friday
NOV. 15
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
NOV. 16 **Center of Hope Breakfast**
Meet in the SMPC Parking Lot at 5:15 a.m.
On the third Saturday of each month, SMPC preps, cooks and serves breakfast for guests at the Center of Hope. Food donations are due Thursday, November 14. Monetary donations are always welcome. Sign up via QR code. Contact: Bob Williamson, bobwill31@hotmail.com.



sunday
NOV. 17
9:00 a.m. -
10:00 a.m. **Adult Bible Study: Just Jesus**
McQueen Room or Zoom
This will be week three of a four-week study that explores Jesus' justice-focused ministry and our call to follow his example. Please register on Realm. Contact: Melissa White, melissawhite1018@yahoo.com.

sunday
NOV. 17
5:00 p.m. -
6:30 p.m. **All Church Serves**
Mecklenburg Hall
Children, youth and adults are invited to 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.



UPCOMING ADVENT EVENTS!

Salvation Army Kettlebell Ringing, Saturdays, November 30, December 7, December 14, December 21, Two-Hour Shifts between 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., SouthPark Mall- Join SMPC's annual tradition of ringing the Red Kettle Bells for Salvation Army! On four Saturdays this Advent season, SMPC volunteers will serve as official bell ringers to bring joy to our neighbors in need. Ringers serve in groups of 6 or less in 2-hour shifts. This Salvation Army ministry has brought hope in the form of meals and gifts for more than 100 years! Sign up via QR code. Contact: Terry Gaines, terryg@carolina.rr.com.



Women's Advent Tea, Saturday, December 7, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall - This cherished annual gathering brings together women of all ages for music, meditation, food and fellowship time. This year we will enjoy chicken salad croissants and fruit catered by Chicken Salad Chick along with sweet treats and our delicious spiced tea. Please bring a special teacup or mug, as is the long-standing tradition, and share its story with friends. All dishes will be nut-free; a gluten-free option will be available. Option for children 11 and under will include half a turkey sandwich, chips and a cookie. Adults: \$15; Children 11 and under: \$8.00 Contact: Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org.