



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship
26th Sunday after Pentecost
November 17, 2024
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

We Gather

Prelude *Chanson Douce* John Dixon

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

Introit *Seek Ye First* Karen Lafferty

***Call to Worship** Graeme Mitchell

One: We are here to worship a remarkable God,
**Many: Who is able to accomplish far more than we can ever ask or
imagine.**

One: The love of God welcomes us,

Many: the grace of Christ awaits us,

One: and the joy of the Spirit enfolds us.

ALL: So, come let us worship God.

***Hymn 352** *My Lord! What a Morning* WHAT A MORNING

My Lord! what a morn - ing; my Lord! what a morn - ing;

O my Lord! what a morn - ing, when the stars be - gin to

Fine

fall, when the stars be - gin to fall. 1 You will hear the trum - pet
 2 You will hear the sin - ner
 3 You will hear the Chris - tian

sound
 cry, to wake the na - tions un - der ground,
 shout,

to Refrain

look - ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be - gin to fall.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dr. Bayer

Eternal God, too often we settle for the way things are. We embrace what is comfortable and disengage from the work of necessary change. We fail to hope for a new day and a new world because our present reality feels good enough. Forgive us. Have mercy upon us. Fill us with the passion to live and work towards a world made just and new. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Dr. Bayer

***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. In today's Gospel passage, Jesus talks about the temple. Take a look at this [website](#), which shows you what the temple looked like at that time. This [page](#) talks about the history of the temple, including the passage we read today where Jesus tells the disciples that the temple will be destroyed.
2. Listen to a [readaloud](#) of *The Little Yellow Leaf* by Carin Berger. The disciples are scared of what will happen when the temple is destroyed and when Jesus dies, but Jesus reassures them that even when scary things happen, God is somehow working for good. Like the disciples, the little leaf is afraid to let go. Are you nervous about what's going to happen next in your life?
3. Play with some blocks! How high can you stack them before they fall over? What do you do when something you are making falls down? Pretend you are making a temple or a church with your blocks. What does it look like?
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a) Why do you think that Jesus discouraged the disciples from placing too much importance on the temple?
 - b) What do you think Jesus meant when he talked about "false teachers"? Who do you consider to be a false teacher?
 - c) Does this passage give you peace and comfort or make you uneasy? Why do you think that is?



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

Dr. Bayer

First Reading

Jeremiah 7:1-4

Dr. Bayer

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: Stand in the gate of the Lord's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the

Lord, all you people of Judah, you that enter these gates to worship the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your doings, and let me dwell with you in this place. Do not trust in these deceptive words: "This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord."

Anthem

Come to Me

Dan Forrest

Chancel Choir; Paige Berkebile, cello;
Brett Parrish, tenor; Ann Carney, piano

Come to Me, all you who labor. Come to Me, and I will give you rest; come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened and you will find rest for your souls. Come, my child, learn my heart: for I am gentle and lowly. See how great my love for you that I have called you my child.

Second Reading

Mark 13:1-8

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down." When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

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

Sermon

Apocalyptic Hope

Dr. Brown

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

The Apostles' Creed

Rev. Lindsey 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 *I've Got Peace Like a River* arr. Gary Lanier
Paige Berkebile, cello

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** Sumner Martin
Abundant God, from the gifts and offerings we have given this day and the service opportunities present all around us, help us to be faithful disciples in all that we think, do and say, so that your great love may be revealed and offer healing and peace to all people. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 357** *The Days Are Surely Coming* LLANGLOFFAN



1 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says God to all the earth,
 2 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says Christ, the prom-ised one,
 3 The days are sure - ly com - ing when we will know at last



when you will see my prom - ise: sal - va - tion come to birth.
 when you will read my warn - ing in moon and stars and sun.
 the full - ness of God's pres - ence, God's prom - ise, come to pass.



My righ-teous-ness and jus-tice will spread through-out the land
 Though earth and heav - en trem-ble, stand up and do not fear,
 Then righ-teous-ness and jus-tice will spread through-out the land



and you will be de - liv - ered by my al - might - y hand.
 for I am your re - deem - er, and I am draw - ing near.
 and we will be de - liv - ered by God's al - might - y hand.



***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 every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race. Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all; working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Postlude

March in G

John Dixon

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; Paige Berkebile, cello; Brett Parrish, tenor; Ann Carney, piano

Graeme Mitchell, Sumner Martin, liturgists

Acolytes: Jones Woodard, Rue Woodard

A/V Team: Mary Katheryne Zagora, Michael Zagora

Ushers: Bob Cushman, Dean Elledge, Mary Elledge, Curtis Guy, Kara Guy, Bjorn Hansen

Welcome Team: Leanne Royster, Katie Powell, Geena Woodard, Harper Leigh Woodard, Mike Woodard

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 14, 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

Pledges are still coming in for our 2025 Operating Fund Campaign, but to date the response has been slower than expected. 243 families have supported the campaign—thank you! We need to hear from at least 57 more families to meet our campaign goal of 300 families. Currently, 2025 pledges and recurring gifts will fund 90% of our 2025 budget. Please help SMPC fund the remaining 10% of our planned programs and ministries for next year by making a pledge to this campaign. You can support the campaign by pledging online via the QR code or by contacting Mary Katheryne Zagora, mkzagora@smpchome.org. A pledge in any amount makes a difference! Pledges are not legally binding, and you can stop or edit your pledge at any time.



THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today
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.



today
NOV. 17
5:00 p.m. -
6:30 p.m.

BAM! Bible and Music Children in Kindergarten-5th Grade

Join us for a special joint mission project and BAM! Your whole family is invited to participate in All Church Serves. During this time, we will also pull the two BAM choirs for rehearsal, so please register for both BAM and the All Church Serves. An adult needs to plan to stay for this event, and we will not have our regular pizza dinner tonight. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

monday
NOV. 18
12:00 p.m.
-1:00p.m.

Conversations Around Race Equity (CARE) Group Zoom

We are using the book *Anti-Racism As Daily Practice* by Jennifer Harvey to spark our conversation as we seek to broaden our understanding and learn how to work toward a more just world. All are welcome. Register on Realm. Contact: Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.

tuesday
NOV. 19
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
NOV. 20
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 **Food for Thought Book Group**
NOV. 21 **McQueen Room**
12:30 p.m. We are reading *The Mostly True Story of Tanner & Louise* by Colleen Oakley. All booklovers welcome! Contact: Kathy Paquette, khesspaquette@aol.com.

thursday **International Dining Group**
NOV. 21 **6:00 p.m. Azucar Cuban Cuisine, 14825 Ballantyne Village Way, Suite 150, Charlotte, NC, 28277**
6:00 p.m. All are welcome to join us as we sample different cuisines! Please RSVP by tomorrow, November 18 to Alice Tyler, rrt1317@aol.com.

thursday **Making Space Mom's Group**
NOV. 21 **Chapel 206**
7:30 p.m. 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

sunday **Adult Bible Study: Just Jesus**
NOV. 24 **McQueen Room or Zoom**
9:00 a.m. - This will be week last session of a four-week study that explores Jesus justice-focused ministry and our call to follow his example. Please
10:00 a.m. register on Realm. Contact: Melissa White, melissawhite1018@yahoo.com.

UPCOMING 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.



BYG (Big Youth Group) and Christmas Party, Sunday, December 1, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall, Middle and High Schoolers - Join us for our Christmas party where we'll share an Advent Devotion, spend time in fellowship and decorate gingerbread houses and cookies. Please bring supplies to decorate cookies. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

SMPC Youth Christmas Crafting at Legacy Heights, Wednesday, December 4, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Legacy Heights, 11230 Ballantyne Trace Ct., Middle and High Schoolers - Please bring your favorite (nut-free) cookies to share with the rest of the group! Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



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.

SMPC Christmas College Party, Sunday, December 22, 6:00-8:00 p.m., the Wheeler's House, 7019 Turning Point Ln., Charlotte, NC 28277 - SMPC college students are invited to join us for an evening of Christmas fun, food and fellowship! We'll have a lasagna dinner, salad, and decorate Christmas cookies. Please wear your favorite ugly Christmas sweater! Sign up on Realm by Monday, December 16. Contact: Debbie Wheeler,

