



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship
Christ the King Sunday
November 24, 2024
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

We Gather

Prelude *"Coronation" Fanfares* Robert Lau

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Dr. Matthew S. Brown
The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**

Introit *Sing, Praise, and Bless the Lord* Jacques Berthier

***Call to Worship** Grace Wooley

One: We are members of the household of God.

Many: We are built upon the one firm foundation, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

One: For God's Kingdom is one of peace, of love, of grace, of hope, of joy, and of justice.

Many: God's Kingdom is one where everyone has a voice!

ALL: That is your kingdom, O God. To you, we bow down. Let us worship the Ruler of the Universe!

***Hymn 268** *Crown Him with Many Crowns* DIADEMATA

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;

hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 but down - ward bends his burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Lindsey Odom

Holy God, too often we trust in the promises of earthly rulers and the guidance of human leaders, instead of the power of your love. We give thanks for your steadfast love for us in spite of our failure to live as you have called us to live in your kingdom. Forgive our defiance, we pray, and restore in us a spirit of peace according to your graciousness. Additionally, restore us in your love and set us free to forgive as we have been forgiven by the grace and mercy of 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

Kathy Graham, Claire Latzke

1. It's Christ the King Sunday! You can watch this [video](#) that explains what it means for Jesus to be King. This is the last Sunday of our church year, when we recognize that Jesus should be the king of our lives. Next Sunday, we will begin the season of Advent! You can also make a crown and wear it to remind you that Jesus is king.
2. Check out this [coloring page](#), [word search](#), and [crossword puzzle](#) for the verse. As you complete them, think about the words from the Bible. What does it mean to make Jesus the king of your life?
3. Write a set of laws for Jesus' kingdom. What do you think the most important law is to Jesus? What would he say? Decorate your laws and post them somewhere that you can see them!
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. What clues tell us that this Sunday should be called Christ the King Sunday?
 - b. How does Jesus answer these questions from Pilate: Are you the king of the Jews? What have you done? So, you are a king?
 - c. What is different from most governments about the kingdom Jesus is describing?



Children's Liturgy

Kathy Graham, Claire Latzke

*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

Revelation 1:4b-8

Rev. Odom

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a

kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Anthem *Ride On, King Jesus* Moses Hogan
Chancel Choir; Alice Field, soloist; Blythe Kinsey, piano

Ride on, King Jesus, ride on, the conquerin' king. Oh, ride on, King Jesus, ride on. No man can a-hinder thee. I was but young when I begun. No man can a-hinder thee. But now my race is almost done. No man can a-hinder thee. King Jesus rides a milk white horse. No man can a-hinder thee. The river of Jordan he did cross. No man can a-hinder thee. He's the King and the Lord. No man can a-hinder thee. He's the first and the last. He's the Lord of Lords. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. No man can a-hinder thee. Oh, ride on, King Jesus, ride on, ride on, just ride on Jesus. Ride on, King Jesus, ride on. No man can a-hinder thee. Ride on, Jesus!

Second Reading John 18:33-38 Dr. Brown

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him.

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

Sermon Truth and Consequences Dr. Brown

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

A Brief Statement of Faith; lines 65-79

Dr. Whitney Bayer

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus"! With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Dr. Bayer

. . . *(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

Come Celebrate

Cynthia Dobrinski

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

*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

Luke Estes

Eternal God, you redeem us in Jesus Christ so we can boldly approach you. Sustained by your Word to us, we are enabled to serve. Impelled by your Spirit, we seek to accomplish your will. We bring our offerings, asking that you use them for your plan and purposes. All that we have, we present to you. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

*Hymn 269

Lead On, O King Eternal!

LANCASHIRE

1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
 2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
 3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,

hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents shall be our home.
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
 for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears;

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong,
 for not with swords' loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums;
 your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light.

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
 with deeds of love and mer - cy the heav - en - ly king - dom comes.
 The crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

***Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Brown

***Benediction Response**

No. 295 (stanza 4)

***Go to the world! Go as the ones I send, for I am with you
 till the age shall end, when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"
 Alleluia. Alleluia.***

Postlude

Nun danket alle Gott

Sigrid Karg-Elert

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
Chancel Choir; Chancel Ringers
Alice Field, soloist; Blythe Kinsey, piano
Luke Estes, Kathy Graham, Claire Latzke, Grace Wooley, liturgists

Acolytes: Miles Ullman, Ryan Wooley

A/V Team: Chris Wilcox, Joe Wilcox

Ushers: Phil Eatherton, Charlie Metzler, Jon Myers, Linda Nagle Hanson,
Jim Williams, Michael Zagora

Welcome Team: Jack Hess, Grace Wooley, Kari Wooley

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 today 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 21, 2024)

Remember in Prayer

- The family of Marianne Jones as she entered the Church triumphant on November 19.
- 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.

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE,
License #A-735003. All rights reserved.*



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

Please 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 251 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 Katheryne Zagora, mkzagora@smpchome.org.



PLEASE NOTE: The church office will be closed Wednesday, November 27 and Thursday, November 28 for Thanksgiving!

THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

tuesday
NOV. 26
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.

sunday
DEC. 1
Advent Devotionals Begin
Sign up to receive Advent Devotionals, written by SMPC members and staff, and illustrated by the children and youth of SMPC. Delivered to your email inbox every morning during Advent! Devotionals will begin Sunday, December 1. Contact: Terry Gaines, terryg@carolina.rr.com.



sunday
DEC. 1
10:10 a.m. **Angel Tree Gift Tags Available**
Narthex, Chapel Buildings and Online
Angel Tree tags will be available on the tree in the narthex and chapel building. Available online now via QR code. Donations are due to the church by Monday, December 16. Contact: Kristin Colson, kscolson@carolina.rr.com.



sunday
DEC. 1
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. **BYG (Big Youth Group) and Christmas Party**
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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Conversations with Dr. Matt Brown, Wednesday, December 4, 9:30 a.m., 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#.

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.

Making Space Mom's Group, Thursday, December 5, 7:30 p.m., 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.

Friday Morning Men's Group, Friday, December 6, 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.

Salvation Army Kettlebell Ringing, Saturdays, November 30 (all slots full), 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! Ringers serve in groups of 6 or less in 2-hour shifts. 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, Women of All Ages - Join us for music, meditation, food and fellowship. Lunch will be catered by Chicken Salad Chick, and we'll enjoy sweet treats and our delicious spiced tea. You're welcome to bring a special teacup or mug! Adults: \$15; Children 11 and under: \$8.00. Register on Realm by Saturday, November 30. Contact: Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org.

Alternative Gift Market, Sunday, December 8, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Narthex (Online Shopping Available Now) - Agencies will be set up in the narthex to provide more information on how your gift will help those in need. Shop in person on December 8 or online until December 25 via the QR code. Hard copy brochures are available in the Connection Center. Contact: Donna Brown, donnamatt89@gmail.com.



New! Adult Bible Study: The Symbols of Advent, Sundays beginning December 8, 9:00-10:00 a.m., McQueen Room or Zoom - Join this three week study to explore the Advent symbols, such as the dove, wreath, and candle. We will explore what each symbol represents and the faith story behind them. Register on Realm. Contact: Melissa White, melissawhite1018@yahoo.com.

Center of Hope Desserts, Sunday, December 8, 10:00 a.m., Narthex - On the second Sunday of every month we provide sweet treats for the women and children that temporarily call Center of Hope home. Sign up at smpchome.org > Serve Our Community. Contact: Terry Gaines, terryg@carolina.rr.com

BAM! Bible and Music, Sunday, December 8, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Narthex, Children in Kindergarten-5th Grade - During BAM, children will sing, creatively engage with Bible stories, and explore various instruments in peer age groups. We end with a pizza dinner and free play time. BAM is a great way for children to form friendships with other kids at church. Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

Lunch Bunch Winter Gathering, Tuesday, December 10, 11:30 a.m., Burton's Grill, Blakeney Shopping Center - SMPC Lunch Bunch is an informal group that meets four times a year for lunch and fellowship. All are welcome! Please RSVP by Sunday, December 8 to Ruth Ann Engle, raengle22@gmail.com

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. Wear your favorite ugly Christmas sweater! Sign up on Realm by Monday, December 16. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR - ADVENT/CHRISTMAS



Festival of Carols: Sunday, December 15, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Sanctuary and Livestream

The Longest Night Service: Tuesday, December 17, 5:30 p.m., Chapel

Christmas Eve Worship: 3:00 p.m. - Family Worship; 5:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. - Candelight Communion. Childcare provided at all services.

Scan to see Advent info or go to smpchome.org/advent