



A Service of Worship

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Youth Sunday

February 9, 2025

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

We Gather

Prelude *Prelude, Op. 28, No. 15* Frédéric Chopin
Alec White, piano

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Rev. Lindsey Odom

Energizer *Revolution* Kirk Franklin
Haley Davis, Elizabeth Glover, Caroline Guy,
Lily Claire Jacobus, Camdyn Sheeler

***Call to Worship** Shay Soderlund

Leader: We are God's chosen people. Called to bear with one another and support each other.

People: We are bound together.

Leader: We must clothe ourselves in virtues reflected by Christ in every situation that includes compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

People: We are clothed in Christ.

Leader: Above all, we must put on love, which binds us all together in perfect unity.

People: We are called to lives of peace and patience. We are called to live with grateful hearts.

Leader: Love unifies us. We will let the peace of God rule in our hearts.

ALL: Now let us worship our God who calls us chosen and beloved!

***Hymn 757** *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples* KINGSFOLD



1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing



Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till



plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may



Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Lanie Bolick

Leader: Gracious God, through the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, you have taught us to live as people of faith, hope, and love. We confess that we often choose a different way. We fail to fully clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience as outlined in Colossians 3:12-17.

People: The compassion and kindness we clothe ourselves with is conditional. We are also not nearly as generous with our love as we should be. The love we clothe ourselves with is limited as we hold back what we have, we take advantage of opportunities for ourselves and forget to see if someone else is in need.

Leader: Forgiveness, grace, gratitude, and gentleness are virtues with which we need to clothe ourselves in order to live in true community with one another, the kind of community you created us to live in, O' God.

People: However, we fail to forgive, show grace and gratitude, and be patient and gentle in our relationships with others. We ask that you clothe us anew, O' God and let the peace of Christ rule within our hearts.

Leader: May we outwardly show what we inwardly know: your love has no bounds and share that love with others. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Katie Powell

Response of Praise

Rondo in C

Michael Helman

Gaudete Ringers; Helen Castle, Gayle Ireland, co-directors

We Hear and Respond to the Word

Church Family Moment

Lacey Cook

1. Listen to a readaloud of [Peace is an Offering](#) by Annette LeBox. This book helps us understand what a concept like "peace" looks like in everyday life. As you listen, notice what kinds of things the friends do for each other and think about how you could do those things, too!
2. Sometimes, coloring is a good way to reflect and let God's word enter our hearts. Print out a copy of this reflective [coloring page](#) or get one from the worship bag cart and color it during or after the service.
3. Look up the definitions of some of the different words found in Colossians: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Do you notice anything surprising about any of these definitions? Which ones come most naturally to you? Which ones are more difficult?
4. Journal, considering the following questions:
 - a) I wonder what it means to "clothe ourselves" with kindness, love, and patience. How do we wear those things?
 - b) I wonder how it feels when someone is kind and patient with us.
 - c) I wonder how we can show love to our friends and family every day.
 - d) I wonder why being thankful is important. What are some things we can thank God for?
 - e) I wonder what it means to do everything in Jesus' name. How can we play, share, and help others for Jesus?

Children's Liturgy

Lacey Cook

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

Claire Latzke

First Reading

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

Claire Latzke

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. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Lanie Bolick, Dylan Davis, Aaron Eberhardt,
Natalie Guy, Claire Latzke, Emily Mitchell

. . . *(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.**

Invitation to the Offertory

Aaron Eberhardt, Nolan King

Offertory

Grand Chorus

Joel Raney

Exultate Ringers

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.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

Colin Lee

Gracious God, before you, we offer our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. We lay our gifts and offerings before you in praise and thanksgiving for your many blessings. Take these gifts and multiply them in your love. May these offerings continue the transforming work of your Spirit in and through our congregation and in our world. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray, Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 692**

Spirit, Open My Heart

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of

(Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7) (Bm) (D/A) (Em)
Dm F/C B^b C7 Dm F/C Gm

liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing

(D) (G) (Em7) (D) (G) (D)
F B^b Gm7 F B^b F *Fine*

and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

(D) (G) (D) (G)
F B^b F B^b

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

(A7) (Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7)
C7 Dm F/C B^b C7

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
sis - ter, broth - er. In the wel - come of

(Bm) (Em7) (D) (G2) (G)
Dm Gm7 F B^b2 B^b *to Refrain*

fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
Christ, may we wel - come one an - oth - er.

***Charge and Benediction** Rev. Odom

***Congregational Response** Hymn 692, refrain

***Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.***

Postlude *Jubilate* Fela Sowande

Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Rev. Lindsey Odom, Associate Pastor of Youth and Missions/Outreach
Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist

Senior Speakers: Davis Lee, Lillian McAnally, Brett Parrish

Liturgists: Lanie Bolick, Lacey Cook, Dylan Davis, Haley Davis, Alex Earp, Aaron Eberhardt, Elizabeth Glover, Caroline Guy, Natalie Guy, Lily Claire Jacobus, Nolan King, Claire Latzke, Colin Lee, Emily Mitchell, Katie Powell, Camdyn Sheeler, Shay Soderlund

Jubilate Choir

Judah Estes, soloist

Alec White, piano

Blythe Kinsey, piano

Exultate Ringers

Gaudete Ringers; Helen Castle, Gayle Ireland, co-directors

Art Group: Alexa Cannon, Haley Davis, Elizabeth Glover, Caroline Guy, Lily Claire Jacobus, Camdyn Sheeler

Acolyte: Jones Woodard, Ryan Wooley

A/V Team: Brad Alford, Kari Case, Braxton Kasmer

Ushers: Hannah Angerer, Lanie Bolick, Greyson Elliott, Caroline Guy, Natalie Guy, Courtney Kuszmar, Katherine Kuszmar, Emily Mitchell, Tuuli Ritchie, Jake Zagora

Welcome Team: Alex Earp, Aaron Eberhardt, Logan Elliott, Clara Guzman, Wells Hefner, Nolan King, Colin Lee, Claire Overcash, Elise Ullman, Jake Zagora

Children's Worship Leaders: Adeline Bayer, Madilyn Boyes, Siena Carr, Lacey Cook, Lilly Hall, Katie Powell, Lilliana Smigiel, Elowen Smith

Cookies and Lemonade Hosts: Hannah Angerer, Livi Bates, Brynn Latzke, Claire Latzke, Harper Leigh Woodard

In celebration of Black History Month, we will hear music from composers of African descent each Sunday in February. Today, our postlude is an original composition by a Nigerian composer from the 20th century. It is constructed on the melody of a Christian hymn "Oyigiyigi l'Olorun wa" (Our God is immortal) which had been adapted from a Yoruba traditional song for the river goddess Osun, entitled "Oyigiyigi, ota omi" (The sea pebble is immortal).

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 Adrienne Jaquith, Office and Database Manager, adrienne@smpchome.org. Also, find us on Instagram: [@southmeckpres](https://www.instagram.com/southmeckpres) and Facebook: [@southmecklenburgpresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian).

A note to parents: We are so delighted that you and your children are here! Children are an integral part of our faith community, and we strive to support parents during worship. Here are some helpful things to know:

- Children are welcome in worship. We understand that means wiggles!
- We provide blue worship totes in the narthex to help children engage in worship. Please return the totes after the service.
- There is a nursery located in the Palmer Building with dedicated staff who are happy to keep your infant - three-year-old safe.
- Children's worship is provided for children ages 4 through 3rd grade. The children gather after the Church Family Moment and return after the sermon. During this time, they will explore the story interactively and engage with their peers.
- During worship, the service is broadcast to the parlor, where there is more space to move around if your little one becomes restless.

Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church? Our Session will gather to welcome new members on Sunday, February 23 at 11:30 a.m. To learn more, contact Melissa White, Director of Hospitality and Connection, melissa@smpchome.org or 704-544-0404, ext. 103.

Congregational Notes (as of February 6, 2025)

Remember in Prayer

- Charlie Metzler, as he recovers from surgery.
- All those affected by the wildfires in Southern California.
- All those involved in the continued hurricane recovery efforts.
- All those living with uncertainty in the Middle East.
- 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.

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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 in the narthex. 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!

THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today
FEB. 9
10:10 a.m.

Souper Bowl Sunday and Youth Sunday Sanctuary/Narthex

We are collecting canned goods and monetary donations for Nourish Up in our annual Souper Bowl of Caring initiative, and we are celebrating the blessings of our amazing Youth Ministry during Youth Sunday! Our Youth will lead us in worship and will be hosting an important fundraiser for its scholarship program. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



today
FEB. 9
4:00 p.m. -
5:00 p.m.

BAM! Bible and Music Narthex, Children in Kindergarten-5th Grade NOTE DIFFERENT TIME DUE TO THE SUPER BOWL! WE WILL NOT HAVE DINNER DURING THIS BAM!

During BAM!, children sing, creatively engage with Bible stories, and explore various instruments in peer age groups. Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

tuesday
FEB. 11
10:00 a.m.

Handiworkers Group Palmer Building, Room 104

All levels of knitters, needlepointers, quilters, cross-stitchers and crocheters are invited. This group meets weekly to work on projects. Contact: Judy Jameson, jgjaxmeson@gmail.com.

tuesday
FEB. 11
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. Contact: Dr. Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.

tuesday
FEB. 11
7:30 p.m.

Men's Evening Study Group Chapel 206

The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month. New faces are always welcome! Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

wednesday
FEB. 12
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 Zoom info.

thursday
FEB. 13
9:00 a.m.

Shelter Ministry Mecklenburg Hall

This group meets on the second Thursday of every month to fill empty medicine bottles with body wash for Roof Above. Contact: Carol Morgan, morgancc43@aol.com.

thursday
FEB. 13
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.

saturday
FEB. 15

Center of Hope Breakfast

Meet in the church 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, February 13. Monetary donations are always welcome. Sign up on smpchome.org > Serve Our Community. Contact: Bob Williamson, bobwill31@hotmail.com.

saturday
FEB. 15
10:00 a.m. -
12:00 p.m.

Beginner Chrismon Ornaments Class

Chapel 202, Ages 10 and Up

Learn how to make Chrismon ornaments! Cost is \$5.00 to cover materials, and you will complete a dragonfly ornament during the class. Register on Realm. Contact: Donna Brown, donna matt89@gmail.com.

sunday
FEB. 16
9:00 a.m. -
10:00 a.m.

Adult Study: 'Wonder'

McQueen Room/Zoom

We are in week 2 of a four-week study where we'll explore how these two ways of understanding the world can complement and enrich one another. Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pizza and Paint Party, Sunday, February 16, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall, Middle and High Schoolers - Join us for pizza, snacks and a craft! We'll paint a ceramic heart ornament. Please note earlier meet time. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

Room in the Inn, Sundays, February 16 and March 2, Sardis Presbyterian Church - There are spots open for food donations and volunteers to help with dinner, overnight stays or breakfast and cleanup. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

WELCOME TO THE SMPC STAFF, MELISSA WHITE!

With great joy, we announce that Melissa White, a longtime SMPC member and frequent co-leader of our Adult Spiritual Formation classes, has joined our staff as director of hospitality and connection. Melissa brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the position, and we are thrilled that she will be using her God-given gifts in this way at SMPC. Today is her first Sunday in this new role!



As director of hospitality and connection, Melissa will help create a welcoming atmosphere at SMPC that encourages newcomers and promotes membership connection, assimilation, and engagement. She will help people identify their gifts, skills, and talents, and whether through a small group, a Bible study, a service project, or a ministry team, she will help our members and friends find their place at SMPC. She will also work with longtime members to explore new ways for them to connect and serve!

Melissa holds three graduate-level degrees, a Master of Education, a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Christian Education, and, with our Adult Ministry team, will use her deep knowledge of our faith to create curricula and teach engaging, fulfilling adult education opportunities. She will also collaborate with our Hospitality Committee to plan fellowship events centered on faith, connection, and friendship.



Melissa received a Bachelor of Science from Texas Christian University, a Master of Education from the University of Georgia, and a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Christian Education from Union Presbyterian Seminary. She also works part-time as the Curriculum Coordinator for the Center for Excellence in Christian Education at Union Presbyterian Seminary.

She and her husband, Kevin, have been members of SMPC since 2014. They have three sons, Jackson who is married to Chel and lives in Santa Fe, NM; Nicholas, a student at Northeastern University in Boston, MA; and Alec, who attends Ardrey Kell High School. In her free time, she enjoys reading and hiking.

Please join us in welcoming Melissa into her new position at SMPC! May she find joy and fulfillment in this ministry, and may we, as a congregation, support and encourage her in all that she does.