



**South
Mecklenburg**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Palm/Passion Sunday

April 13, 2025

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

We Gather

Prelude *Palm Sunday Procession* Phil Lehenbauer

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Rev. Lindsey Odom

Introit Hymn 196 *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN
(stanza 1)

*Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest,
the King and blessed One.*

***Call to Worship** Caroline Angerer

Leader: Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: Hosanna! Rejoice for the Lord is in our midst.

Leader: He comes with joy and hope.

People: He comes to set us free from fear.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna! Glory to God in the Highest Heaven!

***Hymn 197** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* ELLACOMBE

1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the joy - ful an - them rang.
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud;
 for Christ is our Re - deem - er; the Lord of heaven, our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,
 the Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
 O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.
 and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Odom

Triumphant God, we join the crowds of the ages in shouting your praises. While our lips give you glory, our lives do not reflect your purposes. We sing easily of your greatness, but living faithfully is often beyond us. Forgive our stubborn resistance to Christ's work and witness. Forgive what we have done and direct who we shall be. Inspire us by your Spirit to follow in his way, so that we might serve You faithfully. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In your name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Rev. Odom

***Response of Praise**

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King!
All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!*

We Hear and Respond to the Word

Church Family Moment

Rebecca Guzman

- 1. Fold Palms into a Cross:** Today is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. We remember Jesus riding into Jerusalem while the crowd cheered, waved branches, and shouted “Hosanna!” Later in the week, the story becomes harder, which is why we also call this Passion Sunday. You can remember both the joy and the journey by folding your palm into a cross. Here’s a [video](#) to help you learn how.
- 2. Create a Praise Parade:** Jesus’ arrival into Jerusalem was full of celebration. Make your own “praise parade” at home by crafting palm branches from paper or using real leaves. Write or draw things you want to thank or praise God for. Then walk around your home or yard, waving your branches and saying “Hosanna!”
- 3. He Is Risen: Telling the Story with Rocks:** The book *He Is Risen* by Patty Rokus tells the story of Holy Week using only rocks. Watch it [here](#), then try making your own version of a Holy Week story scene using rocks, sticks, or other natural materials. Which part of the story do you know best? Which part do you want to learn more about?
- 4. Wondering Together:**
 - a. What does it mean that today is both Palm and Passion Sunday?
 - b. Why do you think the Pharisees wanted Jesus to quiet the crowd and why didn’t he?
 - c. How will you and your family observe Holy Week this year?



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. 399):*

***God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God’s love is strong and it never ends.***

(sing twice)

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 118:1-2, 19-29

Rev. Odom

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Anthem*Jazz Hosanna*

Pepper Choplin

Chancel Choir; Ann Carney, piano

*Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes
in the name of the Lord!*

*Come and praise Him, and give a joyful shout,
give a shout unto the Lord.*

Come and praise Him.

*Before the rocks cry out,
praise the Lord, come and praise Him!
Hosanna to the Lord!*

Second Reading

Luke 19:29-40

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this, "The Lord needs it." So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Limited Imprint — Massive Implication Dr. Brown

***The Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) The Confession of 1967 - 9.08
Rev. Odom

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.

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 *And Can It Be?* Dan Forrest
Chancel Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano

*And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain — for me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be, that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
He left His Father's throne above so free, so infinite His grace—
Emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for O my God, it found out me!
No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne, and claim the crown,
through Christ my own. Amazing love!
How can it be, that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love, how can it be? Amazing love!*

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.

***Lenten Doxology** FINLANDIA

***O suffering Jesus, in these forty days.
We view your sorrow, share in your distress.
Our Lenten songs are filled with muted praise;
Yet by your passion, we are truly blessed.
Praise to our God, and praise to you, the Son!***

Praise to the Spirit, our God, Three in One.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Reid Cook

O God, all that we have comes from you. Receive this offering and with it the offering of our lives, for we return to you only what you have so graciously given. Use us for the sake of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 198**

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty

MARYTON

1 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! all the
2 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
3 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! The hosts of
4 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly

tribes ho - san - na cry; thy hum - ble beast pur -
pomp ride on to die; O Christ, thy tri - umphs
an - gels in the sky look down with sad and
pomp ride on to die; bow thy meek head to

sues its road with palms and scat - tered gar - ments stowed.
now be - gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
won - dering eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
mor - tal pain; then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

***Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Brown

***Congregational Response**

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*All glory, grief, and honor to Thee, O Christ, we bring,
Who through the cross and suffering didst reign as wounded King.
O Lamb so meek and lowly, yet King of boundless might,
Your love shines pure and holy through darkest,*

death-filled night. Now go where Christ has led us, through sorrow, pain, and strife; His cross and love compel us to walk the way of life.

Postlude

Passion Chorale

harm. J. S. Bach

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

Ann Carney, piano; Blythe Kinsey, piano

Caroline Angerer, Reid Cook, liturgists

A/V Team: Brad Alford, Luke Estes

Ushers: Curt Ireland, Tom Klecker, Jonathan Mangels, Evan Mangels, Brett Thompson, Linda Thompson

Welcome Team: Kathy Galati, Jack Hess

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of the wedding of Natalie Gaines and John Ellis; Natalie is the daughter of Terry and David Gaines.

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, April 27 at 11:30 a.m. To learn more, contact Melissa White, Director of Hospitality and Connection, melissa@smpchome.org or 704-887-7488.

Congregational Notes (as of April 10, 2025)

Remember in Prayer

- Don Thacker who is under hospice care.
- Sarah Tezzi as she recovers from surgery.
- The Boyes family as Julie recovers from surgery and Madilyn continues to undergo medical testing.
- All those affected by conflict, displacement, and unrest around the world and at home.
- Our mission partners in Bayonnais, Haiti, as they navigate the chaos and challenges engulfing their country.

To join the prayer chain or send a prayer request:

prayer@SMPChome.org.

SMPC STAFF

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

matt@smpchome.org

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

lindsey@smpchome.org

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Tammy Winchip, SMPC Preschool Director

tammy@smpchome.org

Mary Katheryne Zagora, Financial Administrator

mkzagora@smpchome.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friday: Closed

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South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

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smpchome.org




SMPC WEEKLY

APRIL 13, 2025

WELCOME!

After worship, we hope you'll join us for lemonade and cookies outside. 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

-
- tuesday**
APR. 15
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, jgjameson@gmail.com.
-
- wednesday**
APR. 16
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**
APR. 17
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- "From Wilderness to Glory" - Lenten Adult Study**
Chapel 204 or Zoom
Join us Thursdays OR Sundays (or go between the two!) for a seven-week Lenten study of *From Wilderness to Glory* by N.T. Wright. Register on Realm. Note there is no class on Easter Sunday. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.
-
- thursday**
APR. 17
12:30 p.m.
- Food for Thought Book Group**
McQueen Room
This group is reading *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. All are welcome. Contact: Kathy Paquette, khesspaquette@aol.com.
-
- thursday**
APR. 17
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Maundy Thursday Supper & Communion**
Mecklenburg Hall
Join as we continue our journey through Holy Week. We will share supper and communion and remember our Lord's gathering with His disciples on the night of His arrest when they broke bread together. Register on Realm or via QR code. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org
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- friday**
APR. 18
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 *Amazing Grace* by Bruce Hindmarsh. All are welcome. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.
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- friday**
APR. 18
7:30 p.m.
- Good Friday Tenebrae Service**
Sanctuary & Livestream
Scripture, Taizé Music, and Extinguishing Candles
- 
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- saturday**
APR. 19
- Center of Hope Breakfast**
Meet at SMPC 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, April 17. Monetary donations are always welcome. Sign up via QR code. Contact: Bob Williamson, bobwill31@hotmail.com.
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EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP - APRIL 20

9:00 AM - CHANCEL CHOIR & CHANCEL RINGERS

11:00 A.M. - CHANCEL CHOIR, CHANCEL RINGERS, YOUTH CHOIR & CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Sanctuary & Livestream | Childcare provided for ages 3 and under



Download a digital invitation to send to family and friends via QR code!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's Evening Study Group, Tuesday, April 22, 7:30 p.m., Chapel 206 - This group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month. New faces are always welcome! Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

Men's Breakfast Group, Thursday, April 24, 9:30 a.m., 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.

Bag Lunches for Roof Above, Saturday, April 26, 9:30 a.m., Drop off in front of the Palmer Building - On the fourth Saturday of each month, SMPChome provides 100 bag lunches for Roof Above to help feed those in need. Sign up to bring bag lunches via QR code. Contact: Julie Durham, julierdurham@gmail.com.



SUNDAY CLASS - "From Wilderness to Glory" - Lenten Adult Study, Sunday, April 27, 9:00-10:00 a.m., McQueen Room or Zoom - Join us for the last Sunday class of our Lenten Adult Study, *From Wilderness to Glory* by N.T. Wright. Register on Realm. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.

Making Space Mom's Group, Thursday, May 1, 7:30 p.m., Chapel 206 - This group meets on the first and third Thursdays of every month. All moms are welcome! Please note this group will not meet Thursday, April 17 due to Maundy Thursday Supper & Communion. Contact: Allison Reeves, allison.tarwater@gmail.com.

American Red Cross Blood Drive, Saturday, May 3, 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., The Commons - Donations are needed now more than ever! Sign up to donate or volunteer at the drive on our website, smpchome.org > Serve Our Community. Contact: Bill Ramsey, bill.john.ramsey@gmail.com.

Third Thirty: A Candid Spiritual Exploration of Realities and Challenges We Face in the Years 60-90, Sunday, May 4, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., The Commons - This 12-week study will meet one Sunday a month over a light lunch after worship. Come to as many sessions as your schedule allows! More information and register Realm. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.



Lunch on the Grounds, Sunday, May 18, 11:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall - Everyone is welcome! Join us after worship for a delicious lunch on the grounds catered by Brown Bag. We'll enjoy sliced grilled chicken breast, spinach salad with berries and mandarin oranges, mac 'n cheese, rolls, brownies, tea and lemonade. Register on Realm or via QR code. Adults: \$12; Ages 4-11: \$6; Ages 3 and under: Free. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.

GRADUATE SUNDAY! We're celebrating the high school and college Class of 2025 on Graduate Sunday, June 1, during 10:10 a.m. worship. Graduates (or parents), please complete the form via QR code for the bulletin High school graduates are also invited to Senior Breakfast before worship (9:00-10:00 a.m.) on June 1 in Mecklenburg Hall. Link to sign up is also via QR code. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



SMPC'S HYMN MADNESS! IT'S THE LAST WEEK!
"Jesus Christ is Risen Today" vs. "Here I am, Lord"
THE HEAVENLY HYMN WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON EASTER SUNDAY!