



A Service of Worship
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Graduate Sunday
June 1, 2025
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

We Gather

Prelude *Variations on Hyfrydol: I. Intrada* Albert Travis

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Dr. Matthew S. Brown

Introit *How Very Good and Pleasant* Barbara Boertje

***Call to Worship** Dr. Brown

One: Come, people of God, bringing your hopes and fears, your questions and your dreams.

Many: **We come to worship the One who knows us, leads us, and loves us.**

One: In every season of life, beginning, ending, and in between, God is faithful.

Many: **God's grace meets us where we are and guides us toward what we will be.**

One: So let us bring our whole selves into God's presence, with joy, with gratitude, with open hearts.

All: **We worship the God who is our strength, our shepherd, and our home.**

***Hymn 260** *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* HYFRYDOL

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter, his the
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in sor - row
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, here on earth our food, our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o - tent we

throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the vic - to -
 now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be - lieves nor
 stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to you from
 own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your foot - stool,

ry a - lone! Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on
 ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re - ceived him,
 day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners,
 heaven your throne. As with - in the veil you en - tered,

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dr. Brown

Merciful God, we confess that very often it is not safety or security that prevents us from talking to the stranger; it is the awkwardness of difference, the fear of association, or the illusion of superiority. We fail to seek the bridge between the differences that separate us. We fear being seen associating with someone subject to rumors. We assume the stranger is not worthy of our time. Forgive us for our timorous evasions, our reticence toward affiliation, and our denials of equality. Restore in us a spirit of hospitality and a heart for the stranger through the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Dr. Brown

*Response of Praise

Gloria Patri

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Amen. Amen.

We Hear and Respond to the Word

Church Family Moment

Rebecca Guzman

1. **Watch the Story:** Start by watching this short [video](#) of the story together. Notice how the woman is changed by her conversation with Jesus—and how she becomes a bold messenger of good news.
2. **Play a Game – “Fill the Cup”:** In this simple relay game, you’ll need a spoon, two cups, and a bowl of water. One person is the “well” holding an empty cup, and another is the “messenger” who runs between the bowl and the empty cup, spooning water as fast as possible for one minute. Afterward, talk together: How does it feel to carry water—like carrying God’s love? What does it mean to let that love overflow to others?
3. **Create Ripple Art:** Draw large ripple circles on a piece of paper, like water rings. In the center, write or draw one kind thing someone has done for you. In the next circle, describe how that act made you feel, and in the outer circle, show how it inspired you to help someone else. A simple example might be: “My friend helped me when I was nervous; it made me feel brave, and later I encouraged someone else.”
4. **Journaling or Conversation Questions:**
 - a. Why do you think Jesus decided to talk to the woman?
 - b. I wonder what it means to have “living water.”
 - c. How will you carry Jesus’ love into the world this week?



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 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.

Anthem

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

arr. Craig Curry

Chancel and Jubilate Choirs; Blythe Kinsey, piano

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice;

praise is His gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!

*He is our guide and friend, to us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!
Alleluia! Come, all Christians, join to sing: Alleluia!
Alleluia! Sing your praise to Christ, our King: Alleluia!
Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore His goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore: Alleluia! Sing Alleluia!
Alleluia! Amen! Christians join to sing: Alleluia, Amen!*

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Lindsey Odom

New Testament Reading John 4:5-42

Rev. Odom

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." Just

then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Living Water for the Journey Ahead

Rev. Odom

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

Dr. Brown

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of

sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offertory

Oh, Happy Morning

arr. Cathy Moglebust

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.***

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Odom

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Dr. Brown

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: **We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.** *(Pastor's prayer)*

. . . (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.**

The Words of Institution

Dr. Brown, Rev. Odom

The Bread and the Cup

You are invited to come forward (see diagram) to receive the elements of communion by intinction. When receiving the elements by intinction, you are invited to take a piece of bread, dip it into the cup, and return to your seat. If you are not able to come forward, you will be served at your seat. Servers with gluten-free elements are located at the back of the sanctuary.

Communion of the People

The Prayer after Communion

Rev. Odom

We Go Out to Serve

Recognition of our Graduating Seniors

Rev. Odom

One: Families of these graduates, at baptism, the Church promised to help you guide and nurture your children by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful disciples as they grow in ministry. We upheld that

promise when, at Confirmation, we watched your sons and daughters move beyond the faith you gave them to claim their own faith journey.

One: Graduates, you have grown up here on the stories of God. We have told them to you, sung them to you, acted them out—hoping to teach them to you. With gratitude, we have listened to you tell them to us, sing them, act them out — teaching us in return.

All: We have prayed for you more than you know, both in frequency and in urgency. Amidst our prayers, we give thanks for you. And today we celebrate your achievement, with pride in what you’ve done, and in what we see you becoming.

One: We pray that the stories of God’s truth and grace, of God’s love, and of the redeeming of all creation will continue to sustain you, encourage you, challenge you, and transform you, wherever you go, whatever you do. These are the stories we pray you will continue to hear, continue to live toward, continue to live into.

All: Each one of you is a special part of this congregation. We are proud of you, and we promise to support you with our love, our counsel and prayers, and to continue to walk with you on your journey of faith.

Blessing of the Graduates (*unison*)

Rev. Odom

May God’s blessing rest on each one of you. May God’s light shine on you and make your path clear. May you ever grow more fully into the person God wants you to be, and may you discover the incomparable joy of living lives that bring honor and glory to God. Carry this blessing with you, as a sign of the unwavering care and support of this congregation and the steadfast love of Christ. Amen.

Hymn 543 *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

GREEN TYLER



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness-
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

***Charge and Benediction**

Rev. Odom

Benediction Response

Remember Who You Are

Mark Burrows

Chancel Choir; Ann Carney, piano

*We give you thanks, O God of peace,
for our companions on the way.*

*May blessings flow and love increase
within and through their lives, we pray.*

As they depart remind us all that we belong to you.

Remember who you are:

a ransomed sinner saved by grace.

Remember who you are: a pilgrim seeking Jesus' face.

A child at home in God's embrace; remember who you are.

*And now we say farewell, dear Lord, hold these,
our friends, in your strong hand.*

*May they achieve your high reward when
at the final day they stand.*

*Until we meet again, we pray,
remind us whose we are.*

Postlude

Postlude on Hyfrydol

Jason Payne

Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

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

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Chancel and Jubilate Choirs

Exultate Ringers

Ann Carney and Blythe Kinsey, piano

A/V Team: Kari Case, Xander Case

Ushers: Andrew Brown, Frank Graham, Judy Jones, Craig Parrish, Donna Podgorny, Bob Williamson

Welcome Team: Kathy Rasimas, Josh Schardt, Shelby Ullman, 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 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).

Congregational Notes (as of May 29, 2025)

Remember in Prayer

- 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

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South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

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smpchome.org

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

today
JUNE 1
11:30 a.m. -
12:30 p.m.

Third Thirty: A Candid Spiritual Exploration of Realities & Challenges We Face in the Years 60-90 The Commons

This 12-week study meets one Sunday a month over a light lunch after worship. This is Session 3: "Being Parents to Parents." Come to any session! More information and register on Realm or scan QR code. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.



today
JUNE 1
4:00 p.m.

Ordination of Melissa White Sanctuary & Livestream

Join us as Director of Hospitality and Connection Melissa White becomes an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament! Please stay for a reception following the service in the narthex.

wednesday
JUNE 4
9:30 a.m.

Conversations with Dr. Matt Brown McQueen Room or Zoom

Join us as we discuss the scripture for the coming week's sermon. All are welcome! Contact Matt Brown, matt@smpchome.org, for Zoom info.

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JUNE 4
9:30 a.m.

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Join us as we discuss the scripture for the coming week's sermon. All are welcome! Contact Matt Brown, matt@smpchome.org, for Zoom info.

thursday
JUNE 5
7:30 p.m.

Making Space Mom's Group Chapel 206

This group meets on the first and third Thursdays of every month. All moms are welcome! Contact: Allison Reeves, allison.tarwater@gmail.com.

friday
JUNE 6
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 Life Is Hard. God Is Good. Let's Dance.: Experiencing Real Joy in a World Gone Mad by Brant Hansen. All are welcome. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

sunday
JUNE 8
11:30 a.m. -
12:30 p.m.

Believing and Belonging McQueen Room

For visitors, new members and anyone who would like to know more about being Presbyterian and SMPC. Lunch will be provided and childcare available. Register on Realm or via QR code. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.



sunday
JUNE 8
4:00 p.m.

"An Unsurpassed Alleluia," A Festival of Hymns Sanctuary & Livestream

The SMPC Music Ministry invites you to this special event that is part of the Charlotte Chapter of the American Guild of Organists' Summer Recital Series! Through robust congregational singing, thoughtful meditations, and stirring music, we will explore the deep truths of our faith. Come sing, reflect, and be renewed. Free to attend and all are welcome. Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join the SMPC Men's Softball team! The first game is Monday, June 2. Games are held on Mondays and Fridays throughout the summer and most are played on the SMPC field. The team won the championship last year and has moved up to the league's top division this summer (the 2024 trophy is in Chapel 206!). Contact: Michael Choren, michaelchoren@yahoo.com.

A Caregiver's Journey, Tuesday, June 10, 1:00-2:30 p.m. McQueen Room - Finding meaning and purpose as you care for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. Contact: Kathy Garner, kathygarner15@gmail.com.

SMPC Youth Summer Celebration at Starbucks, Tuesday, June 10, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Starbucks at Stonecrest, Middle and High Schoolers - Let's celebrate the start of summer! Drop in when you can! Please let Lindsey Odom know you're coming, lindsey@smpchome.org.

SMPC Youth River Tubing on the Catawba River, Thursday, June 12, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Catawba River Outdoors, Marion, NC, Middle and High Schoolers (Rising 6th Grade through completed 12th Grade) - Transportation, snacks, and ice cream are provided. We will meet at the church at 8:00 a.m. to drive together. Cost is \$20 to tube. Please bring extra money for lunch. Register and pay on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



SUMMER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



SMPC Ushers Needed! We are looking for new members to join our Usher Team! Usher responsibilities include arriving 30 minutes prior to worship, handing out bulletins before worship, collecting the offering, guiding church members up to communion and cleaning up after worship. Ushers typically work one time a month or every other month. This is a great way for all generations to serve. Contact: Nancy Parrish, cnparrish@bellsouth.net.



Calling All Graduated High School Seniors and College Students: Serve Breakfast at Center of Hope! Summer Opportunities: Saturdays, June 21, July 19, and August 16, Meet at SMPC at 5:15 a.m. - This ministry is encouraging graduated high school seniors and college students to serve with us this summer (Center of Hope requires all volunteers to be out of high school.)! Start your Saturday morning off right by serving our neighbors in need! Friends are welcome! Contact: Bob Williamson, bobwill31@hotmail.com.

Vacation Bible School, Monday, July 21-Thursday, July 24, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., VBS: Ages 3-4th grade; Mission Possible: Rising 5th and 6th Grade - Register on Realm or via QR code. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.



IMPORTANT STAFF UPDATE



We have been truly blessed to have Dr. Matt Brown serve as pastor of SMPC for 21 years! With both gratitude and sadness, we share that Matt announced his retirement, effective December 1, 2025. If you receive the church-wide weekly emails, you should have received Matt's email last Sunday. His final Sunday preaching at SMPC will be November 23, 2025.

You can find Matt's message to the congregation via the QR code above, along with a link to the letter from Personnel Committee Chair Janet Morgan, which expresses heartfelt thanks to Matt and his wife, Donna, and outlines our transition plan. If you would like to be added to the church's email list, please contact Director of Communications Cheryl Perry, cheryl@smpchome.org.

What's next?

We have compiled some frequently asked questions about the church's next steps, which can be found in the QR code on the right. We'll continue to update it as the process unfolds. We are blessed with a vibrant faith community and strong lay and clergy leadership at SMPC! We trust God's guidance and look forward with hope to what lies ahead!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:
Dr. Matt Brown, Pastor, matt@smcphome.org, 980-265-2834
Janet Morgan, Personnel Committee Chair, janetmackeymorgan@gmail.com, 704-577-3202
Gayle Ireland, Clerk of Session, gaylei93@gmail.com, 704-451-4706

