



A Service of Worship

Trinity Sunday

June 15, 2025

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

We Gather

Prelude *Partita on "Azmon"* Alfred V. Fedak

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

Introit *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* John B. Dykes

***Call to Worship** Lacey Cook

One: How precious is God's steadfast love!

Many: We will find refuge in the shelter of God's wings.

One: Come and feast on God's abundance.

Many: We will drink from the river of God's delights.

One: For with God is the fountain of life;

Many: And in God's light we will see light.

One: Let us worship God with joy and thanksgiving!

All: We will bring God our prayers and our praise with hearts full of love.

***Hymn 1** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!* NICAEA

4 Ho - ly,

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

ho - ly,

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Rev. Odom

Merciful God, we come to you with humble hearts to confess our sins. We have heard your call to reach out to the people around us in a manner of love, but we have been hesitant to get involved in the lives of other people. We are afraid of saying the wrong thing or being rejected. We have listened to the negative influences around us and in the process, we have hidden our hearts from the ever-present voice of your Spirit. Forgive us, Lord God. Teach us a new way of living. Guide us by your Spirit to be ambassadors of Christ within our broken world. Change our hearts, that we might be your messengers of the good news of hope, love, justice, and joy that your Gospel news conveys to us. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Rev. Odom

*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

Lacey Cook

1. The Log Cabin Church by Ellen Howard: In this story, Elvirey learns that church isn't just a building—it's the people who love and follow God together. Paul reminds us that we are the Church, a beloved community, and we share God's love through our relationships. (Source: [Storypath, Union Presbyterian Seminary](#), Noell Rathbun)



2. Explore the PC(USA) Seal: Can you find the cross, dove, open Bible, pulpit, flames, and triangle in the PC(USA) seal? The triangle reminds us of the Trinity—Creator, Christ, and Spirit. Use this link to find and understand the symbols: pcusa.org/resources/pcusa-seal

3. Rejoice Freeze Dance: Put on a joyful song and play freeze dance! When the music stops, everyone freezes in a silly or joyful pose. Afterward, talk about how we can live joyfully and in peace like Paul encouraged.

4. Make a Trinity Symbol: Draw or trace a triangle on paper. Inside each point, write one part of the Trinity: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit. Then decorate it with colors or symbols that remind you of each one (like sun, cross, dove, water, etc.). Hang it where you can see it as a reminder of God's presence in every part of life.

5. Wondering Questions:

- I wonder what Paul meant when he said, "Live in peace."
- I wonder how the Holy Spirit helps us be friends with one another.
- I wonder how we can show God's love to each other this week.
- I wonder what it means to be the Church together, even when we're apart.

Sacrament of Baptism

Harrison Reed Klecker

Son of Julianne and Jack Klecker, brother of Thomas
and the grandson of Jane and Tom Klecker

Representing the Session: Brett Thompson

Representing the Children: Rue Woodard

Baptismal Response

No. 482, stanza 3

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our King;
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praises we sing.*

The children will return to join their families following the sermon.

Prayer for Illumination

Dr. Brown

First Reading

Proverbs 8:1-14

Dr. Brown

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside

the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: "To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live. O simple ones, learn prudence; acquire intelligence, you who lack it. Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right; for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them. They are all straight to one who understands and right to those who find knowledge. Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her. I, wisdom, live with prudence, and I attain knowledge and discretion. The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. I have good advice and sound wisdom; I have insight, I have strength.

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Dr. Brown
Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

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

Sermon How Will You Leave It? Dr. Brown

***The Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) The Apostles' Creed
Rev. 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 *This is My Father's World* arr. Jason Payne

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** No. 606
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**

Rue Woodard

Gracious God, all that we are and all that we have are yours alone. We ask that you accept our joyful offerings as a token of our abiding love. Breathe your Spirit into it and into us. Use our gifts and offerings to bring peace, justice and comfort to your beloved world now, and all the days to come. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 372**

O for a World

AZMON

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

***Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Brown

***Congregational Response**

No. 748

*Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.*

Postlude

Festival Piece on "Nicaea"

Jerry Westenkuehler

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Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Lacey Cook, Rue Woodard, liturgists
Will Hollingsworth, Summer Organ Sidekick

A/V Team: Chris Wilcox, Joe Wilcox

Ushers: Andy Burke, Richard Franseen, Bjorn Hansen, Curt Ireland,
Donna Podgorny, Gwen Volker

Welcome Team: Donna Brown, Jack Hess

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of Harrison Reed Klecker's baptism by the Klecker family.

There are several options to remember or honor a loved one with the SMPC Flower Ministry! Find more details and sign up to reserve a Sunday via the QR code. Contact: Karen Malmut, karenmalmut@yahoo.com.



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 and Facebook: @southmecklenburgpresbyterian.

Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church? Our Session will gather to welcome new members Sunday, June 22 at 11:30 a.m. To learn more, contact Rev. Melissa White, Director of Hospitality and Connection, melissa@smpchome.org or 704-887-7488

Congregational Notes (as of June 12, 2025)

Remember in Prayer

- Will Bates as he recovers from a fall while traveling in France.
- Sandi Buchanan and her family as Sandi's mother, Sarah Buchanan, entered the Church triumphant on June 9.
- Nancy Guy as she recovers from surgery.
- Karen Keough as she recovers from surgery.
- All those affected by conflict, displacement, and unrest around the world and at home.
- Our mission partners in Bayonnais, Haiti, that God's peace, protection and justice may prevail amid the crisis, chaos, and despair 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

Laura Black, Ministry Associate for Children and Music

laura@smpchome.org

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

zach@smpchome.org

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

rebecca@smpchome.org

Adrienne Jaquith, Office and Database Manager

adrienne@smpchome.org

Cheryl Perry, Director of Communications

cheryl@smpchome.org

Steve Stevenson, Facility Administrator

steve@smpchome.org

Rev. Melissa White, Director of Hospitality and Connection

melissa@smpchome.org

Dr. 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

8601 Bryant Farms Road, Charlotte, NC 28277, 704-544-0404

PO Box 79321, Charlotte, NC 28271

smpchome.org

SMPC WEEKLY

JUNE 15, 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
JUNE 17
6:00 p.m. -
7:30 p.m.

Pickleball and Popsicles with the Pastor
Thornhill Tennis Club, Middle and High Schoolers
Rising 6th graders through graduated 12th graders are invited to join us for a fun evening of pickleball and popsicles with Rev. Lindsey Odom! RSVP to Lindsey, lindsey@smpchome.org.

wednesday
JUNE 18
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.

wednesday
JUNE 18
11:00 a.m. -
12:00 p.m.

SMPC Youth - Worship Wednesday
Legacy Heights Senior Living Community, Middle and High Schoolers
Rising 6th graders through graduated 12th graders are invited to join us as we worship with seniors at Legacy Heights! Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

friday
JUNE 20
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.

saturday
JUNE 21
5:15 a.m. -
9:15 a.m.

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. They are back to the church around 9:15 a.m. Food donations are due Thursday, June 19. Monetary donations are always welcome. Sign up via QR code. Contact: Bob Williamson, bobwill31@hotmail.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Organ Sidekick (SOS)
Various Sundays, Rising 2nd Grade to Rising 6th Grade
Children are invited to sit next to Director of Music and Organist Zach Bowyer at the organ to experience what it's like to lead music during worship! Please arrive by 9:50 a.m. We'll have one "sidekick" per Sunday. Please sign up for only one Sunday to allow everyone a chance to participate! Scan QR code for more information and to sign up. Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org



Middle School Retreat at Massanetta, Tuesday, June 24-Friday, June 27, Massanetta Springs, VA - While registration is closed for this event, we keep our middle schoolers and chaperones in our prayers as they head to Massanetta for the annual middle school conference. This year's theme is "Wholly Loved" and is based on 1 John 4. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

Food for Thought Book Group, Thursday, June 26, 12:30 p.m., McQueen Room - This group will discuss *Indigo Isle* by T.I. Lowe. All are welcome! Contact: Kathy Paquette, khesspaquette@aol.com.

**Bag Lunches for Roof Above, Saturday, June 28, 9:30 a.m.,
Drop off in front of the Palmer Building**

SMPC provides 100 bag lunches every month for Roof Above to help feed those in need. Sign up to bring bag lunches in June via QR code. Contact: Julie Durham, julierdurham@gmail.com.



High School Retreat at Montreat, Sunday, July 6-Saturday, July 12, Montreat, NC

- While registration is closed for this event, we keep our high schoolers and chaperones in our prayers as they head to Montreat for the annual youth conference. This year's theme is "Light My Path." Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

Desserts for Center of Hope, Sunday, July 13, Before 10:10

a.m. Worship - 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 via QR code. Contact: Terry Gaines, terryg@carolina.rr.com.



The Third Thirty - "Retirement Home, Your Home, or Your Children's Home," Sunday, July 13, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., The Commons, Ages 60-90 years old - The fourth session in a 12-session study! This study meets one Sunday a month over a light lunch after worship. Come to as many sessions as your schedule allows! Register on Realm. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.

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.



Join the SMPC Men's Softball team! 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.

SUMMER SERVICE

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.

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 on Sunday, May 27, 2025. His final Sunday preaching at SMPC will be November 23, 2025.



You can find Matt's message to the congregation via the QR code to the left, 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

