



A Service of Worship
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
July 6, 2025
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

We Gather

Prelude *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* arr. Brenda Portman

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

Introit *Come, Labor On* T. Tertius Noble

***Call to Worship** Rev. Lindsey Odom

One: We gather to worship God,

Many: who creates us and loves us,

One: who gifts us with diversity and connects us through
community;

Many: who gives us Jesus Christ to teach us how to live,

One: who inspires children, youth, and people of all ages,

**Many: to work towards the wholeness and well-being for all God's
people,**

One: by faithfully following Christ, whose presence, grace, and love
sustain us in our living.

**Many: We gather to worship God! To God be all glory, honor, and
praise!**

***Hymn 645** *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* MIT FREUDEN ZART

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all
 2 What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -
 3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief
 4 Thus all my toil - some way a - long I sing a - loud

cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,
 cy keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
 dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,
 thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song

the God of our sal - va - tion. With
 God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -
 our peace and joy and bless - ing, as
 my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be

heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less
 in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Odom

God of mercy, your command for us to love one another across all differences opens us to new horizons. Yet we often respond with suspicion, fear, and judgment that hinder us from loving in the ways in which you call us to love. Forgive us, we pray, and give us a right heart, so that we might embrace you and our neighbors. Help us to place our trust in you and serve you by working with others for peace, justice, and hope for all. May we swim in your healing waters, resting in the fullness and truth that we are your beloved children. 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

Rebecca Guzman

1. **Read-Aloud:** Listen to the story *Bloom* [here](#). In this book, a muddy fairy named Bloom is rejected by a kingdom that doesn't want her kind of help. But later, she teaches an ordinary girl how to use "muddy magic" to save the kingdom. As Noell Rathbun points out, this helps us understand Jesus' words: sometimes people won't welcome our message, and when that happens, we can "shake the dust from our feet" and keep going. (Source: [Storypath, Union Presbyterian Seminary](#))
2. **Activity:** Jesus sent his followers out two by two. As a family, make a list of things that are easier with a partner—like folding a blanket, carrying groceries, or picking up toys. Talk about how following Jesus is something we do *with* others, not just by ourselves. Who are your helpers in sharing God's love?
3. **Reflection Hymn:** We'll be singing *Taste and See* in worship today, and we'll also be taking communion. Listen to the song [here](#). It reminds us that Jesus invites everyone to the table, and that when we taste the bread and the cup, we're also tasting the goodness of God. How does today's story of Jesus sending his disciples connect with what we experience at the table?
4. **Journal, considering the following:**
 - I wonder why Jesus wanted the disciples to go in pairs.
 - I wonder how it felt to be welcomed—and how it felt to be rejected.
 - I wonder what it means to "shake the dust" and keep going.
 - I wonder how we share Jesus' love with others, even when it's hard.



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.

Prayer for Illumination

Dr. Brown

First Reading

Psalm 66:5-9, 16-20

Dr. Brown

Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds among mortals. He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There we rejoiced in him, who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations— let the rebellious not exalt themselves. Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard, who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me. I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue. If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer. Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

Second Reading

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Dr. Brown

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near."

"Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me." The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Liaisons of Peace

Dr. Brown

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

The Nicene Creed

Rev. Odom

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 *People Get Ready and Oh Freedom Medley* Mayfield/Spiritual
Mark Janney, tenor

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

Dr. Brown

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Odom

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

Rev. Odom, Dr. Brown

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

Communion Hymn

Taste and See

No. 520, refrain

(Please join in singing when able)

***Taste and see, taste and see
the goodness of the Lord.***

***O taste and see, taste and see
the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.***

The Prayer after Communion

Dr. Brown

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 298**

Lord, You Give the Great Commission
(stanzas 1-4)

ABBOT'S LEIGH



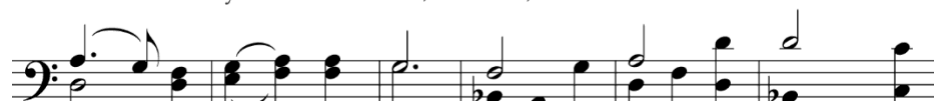
1 Lord, you give the great com-mis-sion: "Heal the sick and
2 Lord, you call us to your ser-vice: "In my name bap-
3 Lord, you make the com-mon ho-ly: "This, my bod-y;
4 Lord, you show us love's true mea-sure: "Fa-ther, what they
5 Lord, you bless with words as-sur-ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne-glect its mis-sion, and the
tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom-ise, life a-
this, my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo-ry, dai-ly
do, for-give." Yet we hoard as pri- vate trea- sure all that
to the end." Faith and hope and love re- stor-ing, may we



gos-pel go un- heard, help us wit- ness to your
bun- dant meant for each, give us all new fer- vor,
lift life heav- en- ward, ask- ing that the world a-
you so free- ly give. May your care and mer- cy
serve as you in- tend, and, a- mid the cares that



***Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Brown

***Congregational Response**

No. 298, stanza 5

Lord, you bless with words assuring:

"I am with you to the end."

Faith and hope and love restoring,

may we serve as you intend,

and, amid the cares that claim us,

hold in mind eternity:

with the Spirit's gifts empower us

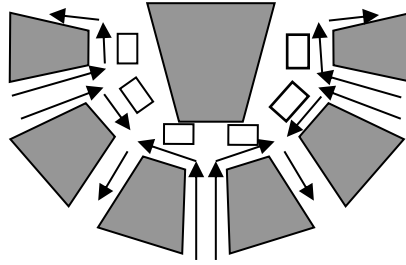
for the work of ministry.

Postlude

March on the Old Hundredth Psalm Tune

Brenda Portman

Communion Diagram



Main floor: Ushers will direct by row; please follow the arrows.

Balcony: Ushers will direct worshipers to a communion station.

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 and Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Mark Janney, tenor

Blair Choren, Summer Organ Sidekick

A/V Team: Mary Katheryne Zagora, Michael Zagora

Ushers: Andrew Brown, Dan DeChant, Gena DeChant, Frank Graham,
Judy Jones, Craig Parrish

Welcome Team: Donna Brown, Geena Woodard, Jones Woodard, Mike
Woodard, Rue Woodard

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 Sunday, July 27, 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 July 3, 2025)

Remember in Prayer

- 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

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South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

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smpchome.org

SMPC WEEKLY

JULY 6, 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!

Please note: The church office will be closed tomorrow, July 7, for the July 4th holiday.

THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

**today
JULY 6**

High School Retreat at Montreat

Today, 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.

**tuesday
JULY 8
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: Kathy Garner, kathygarner15@gmail.com.

**wednesday
JULY 9
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.

**thursday
JULY 10
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. They are always in need of body wash and Rx vials (please, no shampoo or conditioner!) Contact: Carol Morgan, morgancc43@aol.com.

**sunday
JULY 13
10:10 a.m.**

Desserts for Center of Hope 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.



**sunday
JULY 13
11:30 a.m. -
12:30 p.m.**

The Third Thirty - "Retirement Home, Your Home, or Your Children's Home," 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SMPC Youth Serve at Crisis Assistance, Tuesday, July 15, 1:00-3:00 p.m., 500-A Spratt St, Charlotte, NC 28206 - Our middle and high schoolers are invited to serve at Crisis Assistance! Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

Food for Thought Book Group, Thursday, July 17, 12:30 p.m., McQueen Room - This group is reading *Lady Tan's Circle of Women: A Novel* by Lisa See. All are welcome. Contact: Kathy Paquette, khesspaquette@aol.com.

Friday Morning Men's Group, Friday, July 18, 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 *Life is Hard. God is Good. Let's Dance: Experiencing Real Joy in a World Gone Mad* by Bruce Hindmarsh. All are welcome. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.



Center of Hope Breakfast, Saturday, July 19, 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, July 17. Monetary donations are always welcome. Sign up via QR code. 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.



American Red Cross Blood Drive, Saturday, August 9, 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., The Commons - Blood donations are needed now more than ever! Sign up to donate blood or volunteer at the drive on our website under "Serve Our Community" or via QR code.

SMPC Preschool is looking for a caring, enthusiastic lead teacher to join their three-year-old classroom team, Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (The school day is 9:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m.) - If you or someone you know loves working with young children and wants to be part of a supportive, faith-based preschool community, we'd love to hear from you! Contact: Tammy Winchip, tammy@smpchome.org.



UPDATES ON PASTORAL TRANSITION

Find updates on our website, smpchome.org/about/updates-on-pastoral-transition or via the QR code.

FACES OF FAITH

Welcome to our weekly summer series, *Faces of Faith*, where we spotlight SMPC members and friends and learn about how their faith and involvement in the church have impacted their lives. Enjoy getting to know SMPC member Rose Weinheimer and her family!



Name: Rose Weinheimer

Spouse: Kurt

Family: Our daughters, Jenny Gates, and her husband, Louis; Lisa Kuszmar and her husband, Ed; and Kristen Angerer and her husband, Marc; and our grandchildren, Hunter, Parker, Katherine, Courtney, Hannah and Caroline.

Years at SMPC: Nearly 8 years! We joined in July 2017.

What are some ways you've found connections at SMPC?

Kurt and I have always sung in choirs: high school, college and church. Our first church choir was Tower Hill Church in Red Bank, New Jersey, when our girls attended their nursery school, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. Now we sing in the Chancel Choir with Director of Music and Organist Zach Bowyer. Zach has created a culture in the choir where we not only practice on Wednesday night and sing on Sunday morning, but we connect through prayer and fellowship each week and sometimes through social events during the year. This year's Festival of Carols was especially meaningful because I had my daughters, Lisa Kuszmar and Kristen Angerer, on each side of me lifting our voices to the glory of God. My heart is full when the youth choirs are singing because I can see my granddaughters, Katherine Kuszmar, Courtney Kuszmar, Hannah Angerer and Caroline Angerer.



How has being involved at SMPC helped you grow your faith?

As an English major in college and an English teacher for twenty years, words have always been important to me. So prayers and hymns speak to me and help me speak to God. "Softly and tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me." Each stanza has meaning and helps me grow in my faith. Standing in the choir loft at the end of each service with Zach at the organ, I often tear up looking at the faces of the congregation because "Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place."