



A Service of Worship
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
August 3, 2025
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

We Gather

Prelude *Come, Holy Ghost, Lord God* Dieterich Buxtehude

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Rev. Lindsey Odom
The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**

Introit *We Praise You, O God* Healey Willan

***Call to Worship** Rev. Odom

One: Our lives are in the care of God.

Many: God has given us abundance and hope.

One: We have come to praise and thank God for all that God has done for us.

Many: We gather to celebrate God's love and to offer our lives in service.

One: Come, let us open our hearts to the Lord!

Many: Let us rejoice in God's goodness and love. Amen.

***Hymn 612** *We Praise You, O God* KREMSER



1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
 2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and moth - ers;
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
 through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
 and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
 When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
 With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.

we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
 and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
 To you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Odom

God of forgiveness, we pray for new life as we confess our old ways. We hear your promise that the old passes away and that you make all things new, but we hear it amidst our self-doubt. We confess our desire for guarantees when what you offer us is even greater hope. When you call us to obedience, we set conditions. When you call us to follow, we ask "Where?" Forgive our reluctance to leave our false comforts in order to walk in your newness of life. Forgive our distrust, our anxiety, our fear. 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

Rev. Odom

1. **Read Aloud:** In today's story, Jesus reminds us that life is not about storing up stuff just for ourselves. *The Biggest House in the World* by Leo Lionni tells of a snail who keeps building a bigger and fancier shell until it's so heavy, he can't move at all. It's a story within a story—just like Jesus' parable—and it helps us think about what really matters. Watch the readaloud [here](#). (Thanks to Carolyn C. Brown at worshipingwithchildren.com)
2. **Game:** Play this simple online [game](#) to sort what we need versus what we want. Then talk as a family about what truly matters most to you.
3. **Try It:** Set up a simple obstacle course at home. Go through it once with empty hands and again while carrying bags full of "stuff." How did it feel different? This is like the story Jesus told—sometimes carrying too much can weigh us down. (Adapted from Shannon Kelly, lessonplans.episcopalchurch.org)
4. **Wonder Questions:**
 - I wonder what Jesus wants us to remember about what's most important.
 - I wonder how we can live with gratitude instead of worry.
 - I wonder what treasures in heaven might look like.



Children's Liturgy

Rev. Odom

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. Matthew S. Brown

First Reading

Psalm 49:12-20

Dr. Brown

Mortals cannot abide in their pomp; they are like the animals that perish. Such is the fate of the foolhardy, the end of those who are pleased with their lot. Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol; Death shall be their shepherd; straight to the grave they descend, and their form shall waste away; Sheol shall be their home. But God will ransom my soul from the

power of Sheol, for he will receive me. Do not be afraid when some become rich, when the wealth of their houses increases. For when they die they will carry nothing away; their wealth will not go down after them. Though in their lifetime they count themselves happy—for you are praised when you do well for yourself—they will go to the company of their ancestors, who will never again see the light. Mortals cannot abide in their pomp; they are like the animals that perish.

Second Reading

Luke 12:13-21

Dr. Brown

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

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

Sermon

Will and Anxiety

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

Beach Spring

Janet Linker

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.***

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

The Prayer after Communion

Rev. Odom

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 716**

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

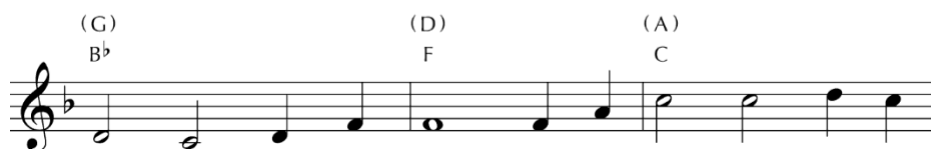
BEACH SPRING



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your



end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly
Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es
grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to



cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn
joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in



to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall
la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,
shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,



rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

***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

Trumpet Voluntary II

William Rowan

Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

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

Ann Carney, organist

Linda Thompson, Children's Worship

A/V Team: Kari Case, Xander Case

Ushers: Frank Graham, Bjorn Hansen, Judy Jones, Craig Parrish, Donna Podgorny, Bob Williamson

Welcome Team: Blair Choren, Brooke Choren, Marla Choren, Michael Choren, Kathy Rasimas

The flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Robert and David Dano by wife and mother, Kay Dano.

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, August 24, 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 31, 2025)

Remember in Prayer

- Nancy and Tim Maguire and their family, as Tim's father, James Maguire, entered the Church triumphant on July 25.
- Julie Boyes 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

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Mary Katheryne Zagora, Financial Administrator

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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

AUGUST 3, 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

today

AUG. 3

11:30 a.m. -
12:30 p.m.

The Third Thirty: "We Are What We Eat, And More!"

The Commons, Ages 60-90

All are welcome for the fifth session of The Third Thirty. We'll enjoy a light lunch, conversation and knowledge! Attend any or all sessions. Register on Realm. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.

monday

AUG. 4

6:00 p.m. -
7:00 p.m.

Message and Macaroons

Amelie's at Carmel Commons, Middle and High Schoolers

Grab a friend and join us for a short devotion and a sweet treat! Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

wednesday

AUG. 6

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.

saturday

AUG. 9

8:00 a.m. -
12:30 p.m.

American Red Cross Blood Drive
The Commons

Sign up to donate blood or volunteer at the drive on our website under "Serve Our Community" or via QR code. We also have signups in the Connection Center this morning. Contact: Bill Ramsey, bill.john.ramsey@gmail.com.



sunday

AUG. 10

9:00 a.m.

Summer Pickup Choir

During 10:10 a.m. Worship, Meet in the Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.
Ages 6th grade through Adult

No prior experience necessary—just show up, get your music, and sing in worship with us. An RSVP is appreciated but not required. Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.

sunday

AUG. 10

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 at smpchome.org > Serve Our Community. Contact: Terry Gaines, terryg@carolina.rr.com.

sunday

AUG. 10

4:00 p.m. -
5:30 p.m.

Faith, Pluralism, and Civic Responsibility: Lessons from Global Contexts for U.S. Society - An Inter-Faith Dialogue
Sanctuary

With our friends at Mosaic of Charlotte, a Turkish Muslim community, this program will feature Dr. Anwar Alam, Senior Fellow with Policy Perspectives Foundation, New Delhi, India. Dr. Richard Boyce, retired Dean of Union Theological Seminary, Charlotte, will facilitate a Q&A. Contact: Dr. Matt Brown, matt@smpchome.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A Caregiver's Journey, Tuesday, August 12, 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.

Shelter Ministry, Thursday, August 14, 9:00 a.m., Mecklenburg Hall - This group meets on the second Thursday of every month to fill empty prescription bottles with body wash for our neighbors at Roof Above. Contact: Carol Morgan, morganc43@aol.com.

Friday Morning Men's Group, Friday, August 15, 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, August 16, Meet at SMPC at 5:15 a.m. -

Food donations are due Thursday, August 14. Monetary donations are always welcome. Sign up at smpchome.org > Serve Our Community. Contact: Bob Williamson, bobwill31@hotmail.com.

All Church Serves: Backpacks for Smithfield Elementary School, Sunday, August 24, 9:00-10:00 a.m., Mecklenburg Hall -

All ages are welcome to join us as we sort school supplies and pack backpacks for Smithfield. Donate school supplies now through August 24. Collection bins are located in the narthex and church office. Register and find the school supply list on Realm or via QR code. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



Join the Music Ministry! SMPC offers dynamic music programming for all ages that focuses on praising God through joyous song, musical instruments and engaging fellowship. We start back up in late August. Scan the QR code for more details. Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.

Reminder! On Tuesday, August 5, all members with a Realm account will be able to see addresses, emails and phone numbers of other members like a true church directory. **On Tuesday, you will receive a privacy change notification email - there is no need to respond to that email.** If you have a question or want to adjust your privacy settings, scan the QR code or contact Adrienne Jaquith, adrienne@smpchome.org. Also, find her at the Connection Center this morning until 11:45 a.m. or in the office Tuesday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



Big News From Missions & Outreach: Friends Empowering Haiti has received a gift from a generous donor that will match any individual donation (outside of donations given through the church) up to a total of \$83,333 between now and December 31, 2025. For example, a \$50 gift will become \$100. Donate by check, mailed to Friends Empowering Haiti, P.O. Box 34563, Charlotte, NC 28234, or at friendsempoweringhaiti.org.

UPDATES ON PASTORAL TRANSITION



The Transition Committee posted the Transitional Pastor position in the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection (CLC) System and on our website. As a reminder, this Transitional Pastor will serve SMPC while we search for our new Senior Pastor.

FACES OF FAITH

Faces of Faith is our fun summer series where we introduce you to SMPC members and friends and share how being connected at SMPC has enriched their faith lives. Enjoy getting to know SMPC member Terry Gaines!

Name: Terry Gaines

Spouse: David

Family: Natalie Gaines Ellis (30) and John Ellis, Eric Gaines (27)

Years at SMPC: 21 years!



How you found connection at SMPC?

Over the last 20-plus years I've been a part of many small groups, both for study and service. By regularly meeting with SMPC members in a women's circle, Matt's Wednesday bible study, and Hospitality and Missions/Outreach committees, friendships feel like family. Now as an empty-nester, I intentionally seek out opportunities to serve with our youth and children so that I can stay connected to our younger family members - that's why you'll find me outside serving cookies and lemonade after church! The "Lemonade Parade" during the pandemic (when members drove through our parking lot to receive treats in their cars) was so emotional because I realized how much I missed those connections.

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

Serving in various hospitality roles - Coffee Grounds, Lemonade on the Lawn, church-wide picnics - has given me the opportunity and the desire to welcome the stranger, as our faith requires of us. SMPC's active Missions and Outreach ministry invites us all to love God through serving our neighbors. I am continually encouraged to reflect the love of Christ by making lunches for Roof Above, reading to Freedom School scholars, baking cakes for our Center of Hope neighbors, and supporting our neighbors who are food insecure through Nourish Up. Being in community with others who care so deeply about all of God's children gives me hope and I am grateful to worship and serve alongside my SMPC family.