



A Service of Worship
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 12, 2025
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

We Gather

Prelude *With a Joyful Heart* Susan Geschke
Exultate Ringers

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

Moment for Mission Greg Hobby

Introit
*Come, O people, God's great family, gathered in this holy place;
here we meet in joyful worship, here we stand in love and grace.
God receives us, God receives us, hearts renewed in hope's
embrace, hearts renewed in hope's embrace!*

***Call to Worship** Mia Smigiel

One: In Christ, the God of heaven has made his home on earth.

Many: Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

One: Highest of all creation, he lives among the least.

Many: He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.

One: Come now, all who thirst,

Many: and drink the water of life.

One: Come now, all who hunger,

Many: and be filled with good things.

One: Come now, all who seek,

Many: and be warmed by the fire of love.

***Hymn 363** *Rejoice, the Lord Is King!* DARWALL'S 148TH

4 Re-joyce in glo-rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

1 Re-joyce, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a-dore!
 2 Our Sav-ior, Je-sus, reigns, the God of truth and love;
 3 His king-dom can-not fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
 4 Re-joyce in glo-rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

and gath-er all the saints to their e-ter-nal home.

Re-joyce, give thanks, and sing, and tri-umph ev-er-more.
 when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a-bove.
 the keys of death and hell are to our Je-sus given.
 and gath-er all the saints to their e-ter-nal home.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a-gain I say, re-joyce!

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a-gain I say, re-joyce!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Lindsey Odom

Gracious Lord, you call us to come to you in the world, but we disobey you. We choose power and profit over acts of love, which you exemplify for us time and time again. We are content to work within systems that oppress instead of work to change things. We forget that everything comes from you, and that we are stewards of what you have given us. We seek out mountaintops instead of being among your people. Forgive us, Lord, for the times that we forget your call to fully follow your example in the world. Embolden us to live fully into your call, to love you and to love our neighbors. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Rev. Odom

***Response of Praise**

***Glory be to God, the Father, glory be to Christ, the Son,
Glory to the blazing Spirit, ever three and ever one!
God almighty, God almighty, may your work through
us be done, may your work through us be done!***

We Hear and Respond to the Word

Church Family Moment

Rebecca Guzman

1. **The Great Ends of the Church:** These are six guiding purposes that help us understand why the Church exists and what we are called to do together. Over the next few weeks, we'll explore each one. The first Great End is *"the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind."* This means sharing the good news of God's love in all that we say and do. Green Hill Presbyterian Church in Alabama has six [beautiful stained-glass windows](#) that illustrate each one and we will be looking at them in Children's Worship.
2. **Craft:** Make a "Good News Megaphone" using a paper cup and pipe cleaner handle like the one pictured here. Decorate it and write Luke 4:43 on the side: *"I must proclaim the good news of God's kingdom in other cities too, for I was sent for this purpose."* This craft reminds us that our voices and our actions can carry God's good news everywhere we go.
3. **Game:** Play a game of "Gospel Tag." One person is "Jesus," sharing the good news. When they tag someone, that person joins hands and becomes part of the growing "blob." The game continues until everyone is connected—just like God's love spreads when we share it!
4. **Wonder Together:**
 - a. I wonder why Jesus wanted to tell everyone about God's love.
 - b. I wonder how we can share good news in our daily lives.
 - c. I wonder what it means to show God's love through our actions.



Sacrament of Baptism

Fletcher Conine Earp, Cruz Ashby Earp

Children of Cheryl and Charles Earp

Grandchildren of Ruthie and Bill Earp

Representing the Session: Adrienne Jaquith

Representing the Children: Reese Earp

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

Rev. Odom

First Reading

Isaiah 40:7-9

Rev. Odom

The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

Anthem

Be My Church

David Lantz III

Chancel Choir; Mark Janney, tenor; Ann Carney, piano

Rejoice with the rejoicing, and weep with those who mourn. Be patient and forgiving; repair what has been torn. Remember the forgotten; invite the stranger in. Serve each other faithfully until I come again.

Love as I have loved you. Serve as I have served. Give as I have given.

Be my church. Be my hands and body moving in the world.

Live your life in blessing. Be my church. The outcast, the beloved; the powerful, the weak; the ones caught up in battle and those who sleep in peace;

The thriving and the struggling; the greatest to the least: my child, they are my children, so love each one of these.

Second Reading

Luke 4:40-44

Dr. Brown

As the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various kinds of diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on each of them and cured them. Demons also came out of many, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Messiah. At daybreak he departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowds were looking for him; and when they reached him, they wanted to prevent him from leaving them. But he said to them, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose." So he continued proclaiming the message in the synagogues of Judea.

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

Sermon

The Six Great Ends of the Church

Dr. Brown

I. The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind

***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. Melissa White
... (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 *Ubuntu* Mark Hayes
Jubilate Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano
*I am me because of you and you are you because of me.
I need you and you need me, we are one big family.
I am human just like you, but we have differences, it's true.
I will see the best in you, and I know that you will see the best in me.
I will guard your dignity, we will live in harmony.
I will lift your spirit high, wipe the teardrops from your eyes.
As a chorus we are strong when everyone of us sings along.
So lift your voice and sing your part, let us hear what's in your heart.
Let us sing in harmony, show the world our unity.*

Ubuntu is a philosophy from South Africa that celebrates the human spirit and focuses on people's allegiances and relationships with each other. It means, "A person is a person through other people."

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 the Source of every blessing, praise to Christ who sets
us free, praise the Spirit, ever calling, shaping us in unity.
God of glory, God of glory, all our thanks we give to Thee,
All our thanks we give to Thee!***

***Prayer of Dedication** Lilliana Smigiel
Holy God, we appreciate the many blessings that you have provided us with. Empower us to bless others through our actions, words, resources so that we may support and love others just as you have loved us. May we use this offering to reflect you in our world. 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.

Congregational Meeting

Dr. Brown, Jon Myers, Rev. Odom

*Charge and Benediction

Dr. Brown

* Congregational Response

*Called to serve in love and justice, sent to share the hope
 we know, we will live as Christ has taught us, shining light
 where'er we go. Go in Spirit, go in Spirit, let God's grace
 and mercy show, let God's grace and mercy show!*

Postlude

Postlude on "Darwall's 148th"

Brenda Portman

Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

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

Rev. Melissa White, Parish Associate for Care & Connection

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Chancel Choir, Jubilate Choir, Exultate Ringers

Mark Janney, tenor

Ann Carney, Blythe Kinsey, piano

Lilliana Smigiel, Mia Smigiel, Reese Earp, liturgists

A/V Team: Luke Estes, Chris Wilcox

Ushers: Bob Cushman, Dan DeChant, Gena DeChant, Dean Elledge,
 Andrew Gaul, Jon Myers

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

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Jon Sandeen by Kristin and Jeff Colson.

We light a candle celebrating the birth of Jacob “Jake” Daniel Schardt on October 3. Congratulations to Erin and Josh Schardt and big brother, Will.

A Congregational Meeting will be held today at the close of the worship service for the purpose of electing officers and to act upon Dr. Matthew S. Brown’s request to conclude his call at South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church for the purpose of his retirement from ministry. Matt’s retirement is effective December 1, 2025, and his last Sunday in worship is November 23, 2025.

Today, we begin a sermon series highlighting The Six Great Ends of the Church comprised of six mission statements that define the life and work of the Presbyterian Church (USA). For decades, these axioms have helped establish the course for mission and ministry, and present basic works to our denomination that are the heart of who the church is and what the church is called to do. The Six Great Ends of the Church are: 1) The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; 2) The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; 3) The maintenance of divine worship; 4) The preservation of the truth; 5) The promotion of social righteousness; and 6) The exhibition of the kingdom of heaven to the world.

All service music in today’s worship service is originally written by Zach Bowyer and set to the tune CWM RHONDDA by John Hughes.

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, October 26, at 11:30 a.m. To learn more, contact Rev. Melissa White, Parish Associate, melissa@smpchome.org or 704-887-7488.

Congregational Notes (as of October 9, 2025)

Remember in Prayer

- The Schardt family, Erin, Josh, Will and Jake.
- Tom Robinson as he recovers from surgery.
- Amanda and Brad Alford and their family, as Amanda's father, Curtis Price, entered the Church triumphant on October 4.
- 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

WELCOME!

After worship, we hope you'll join us for lemonade and cookies outside. Come meet friends old and new! Registry pads are located in your pews. Please sign and pass to your neighbor and perhaps introduce yourself to someone new!

2026 OPERATING FUND CAMPAIGN

Last week we kicked off our 2026 Operating Fund Campaign, *Called to Community*, inspired by 1 John 4:7. The Operating Fund Campaign is SMPC's primary fundraising campaign and supports all our ministries and programs--everything you love about our church is funded by the annual Operating Fund Campaign. Stewardship packets for those who were unable to pick them up in person last Sunday have been mailed. Make a pledge via the QR code or by returning your pledge card.



THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today

OCT. 12
10:10 a.m.

Nourish Up Food Drive Bags Available Narthex

We are collecting canned and dry goods for the Nourish Up food pantry! Return bags through Sunday, November 2. Monetary donations also appreciated - donate via QR code. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



today

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

Believing and Belonging McQueen Room

For all who are considering membership and/or would like to know more about being Presbyterian and SMPC, join us for Believing and Belonging! Lunch will be served and childcare will be available. If you haven't had a chance to register, you are still welcome! Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.

today

OCT. 12
5:00 p.m. -
6:30 p.m.

SMPC Youth - Operation Sandwich Mecklenburg Hall

The youth will make sandwiches for Roof Above, a men's homeless shelter. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

monday

OCT. 13
10:00 a.m. -
12:30 p.m.

"Writing Your Legacy" McQueen Room or Zoom

This is the final session in this series! Led by SMPC member Melinda Ferguson. All are welcome. Register on Realm. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.

tuesday

OCT. 14
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.

tuesday

OCT. 14
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

tuesday

OCT. 14
7:30 p.m.

Men's Evening Study Group Chapel 206

The group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month. New faces are always welcome! Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

wednesday Conversations with Dr. Matt Brown

OCT. 15 McQueen Room or Zoom

9:30 a.m. 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 Food for Thought Book Group

OCT. 16 McQueen Room

12:30 p.m. This group is open to all book lovers! They are reading *Britt-Marie Was Here* by Frederik Backman. Contact: Kathy Paquette, khesspaquette@aol.com.

thursday Making Space Mom's Group

OCT. 16 Chapel 206

7:30 p.m. Moms of all ages are invited to join us on the first and third Thursdays of every month for study, service and fellowship. Contact: Allison Reeves, allison.tarwater@gmail.com.

friday Friday Morning Men's Group

OCT. 17 Chapel 206

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. This group meets on the first and third Fridays of every month. They are reading *Talking to Strangers* by Malcolm Gladwell. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

saturday Center of Hope Breakfast

OCT. 18 Meet at the Church at 5:15 a.m.

5:15 a.m. Food donations are due Thursday, October 16. Monetary donations are always welcome. Sign up at smpchome.org > Serve Our Community. Contact: Bob Williamson, bobwill31@hotmail.com.

sunday Words of Love: A Healing Journey with the Ten Commandments

OCT. 19 McQueen Room or Zoom

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. This ten-week, thought-provoking adult study reclaims the Ten Commandments not as a list of rules, but as a path toward healing, wholeness, and deeper love for God and neighbor. Register on Realm. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.

sunday CROP Hunger Walk

OCT. 19 Providence Baptist Church

2:00 p.m. - Walk with us or donate to our team to end world hunger! Please note, the CROP Hunger Walk will start and end at Providence Baptist Church! Scan QR code to sign up to walk with us or donate. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



sunday BAM! (Bible and Music), Sunday

OCT. 19 Meet in the Narthex, Kindergarten-5th Grade

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. During BAM!, children sing, creatively engage with Bible stories, and explore various instruments in peer age groups. Pizza is served. Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.



Updates on Pastoral Transition: We are excited to announce that Dr. Sandy Hull has accepted the Transitional Pastor position, effective Monday, December 1, 2025. His first Sunday at SMPC will be December 7, 2025. Find more information via QR code.

LET'S CELEBRATE PASTOR DR. MATTHEW S. BROWN'S RETIREMENT!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Parking Lot Party, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Food trucks, outdoor games, fellowship and fun for the whole family

Live Music in the Sanctuary, 6:30 p.m.

Featuring Rowan Junction, a bluegrass band

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

10:10 a.m. Worship with Dr. Matt Brown

Reception in Mecklenburg Hall, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Sweet and savory bites, punch, and live jazz music