



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship
Second Sunday of Lent
March 1, 2026
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

We Gather

Prelude *Make Me A Servant* Kelly Willard

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Dr. Sandy Hull
The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**

Moment for Mission Clara Guzman

Introit *For the Life That You Have Given* Carl Daw Jr.

Call to Worship Rev. Lindsey Odom

One: People of God, why are we here today?

All: We are called by God to love, to serve, and to follow Christ.

One: God has gifted each of us for the work of love in our world.

All: We each have gifts to offer in service to God and to our neighbors.

One: When we serve others, we catch a glimpse of God's kingdom among us.

All: Open our eyes, O Lord, to see where we are needed.

One: God calls us to lives shaped by hope, peace, justice, and love.

All: Help us to use our gifts faithfully and joyfully.

One: Let us prepare our hearts to serve in Christ's name.

All: With grateful hearts, we go where God sends us. Amen.

***Hymn 314** *Christ, Be Our Light* CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

(stanza 1: all, stanza 2: high voices, stanza 3: low voices,
stanzas 4-5 all; refrain: all each time)

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
 dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dr. Hull

Lord Jesus, you came not to be served, but to serve, and you have called us to be like you. But we resist serving; we would much rather be served. Serving is hard and inconvenient and messy. We don't always like the people we're called to serve. Sometimes we think they don't deserve to be served. Forgive us, by your mercy. Take away our distorted perspective so that we can see with the eyes of Jesus and serve as the hands of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace (Isaiah 44:22)

Dr. Hull

One: "I have swept away your transgression like a cloud," says the Lord, "and your sins like the morning mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you." Friends, hear and believe God's good news!

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
(sing twice)***

We Hear and Respond to the Word

Church Family Moment

Rebecca Guzman

- 1. Story Connection:** Listen to a [readaloud](#) of *Last Stop on Market Street*. In this story, CJ feels bored and frustrated about spending his Sunday afternoon helping at a soup kitchen with his Nana. But along their bus ride, Nana gently helps him see beauty, possibility, and connection all around him. By the end of the story, CJ takes his place behind the serving table with a joyful heart. When Nana says, “Sometimes when you’re surrounded by dirt, CJ, you’re a better witness for what’s beautiful,” what do you think she means? Why do you think CJ was glad they came to serve? (Credit Beth Lyon-Suhring with [StoryPath](#)).
- 2. Learning Compassion:** For older children, teens, or adults, try the online [Poverty Simulator](#) developed by Urban Ministries of Durham. Part of what helps us grow in compassion is learning what it feels like to live without enough. As you explore this activity, reflect on what you learn and how Jesus might invite you to respond.
- 3. Craft:** Print the mini book about serving others [here](#). First, fold the paper in half, lengthwise. Then fold it back and forth like a fan to form the book. Color in the pictures and keep it somewhere to remind you to love God by serving others
- 4. Wonder Together:**
 - a. I wonder what it means to be “moved with compassion.”
 - b. I wonder why serving sometimes feels hard at first.
 - c. I wonder what Jesus noticed when he looked at people in need.
 - d. I wonder how our actions can bring healing and hope to others.



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 welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God’s love is strong and it never ends.
(sing twice)***

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. Hull

First Reading

Isaiah 58:6–12

Dr. Hull

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Anthem *Children of God* Mark Hayes
Chancel Choir; Kyle Gavagan, trumpet; Blythe Kinsey, piano; William Rose, percussion

*Children of God, children of God, we shall be called the children of God.
Loving the world, sharing God's peace, we shall be called the children of God.
With eyes full of compassion for the multitudes, hands to touch the lepers
and the lame, arms to hold the hurting and the prodigals, offer love and
peace in Jesus' name! Listen to the empty cries of loneliness, souls imprisoned,
yearning for release. Drawing from the fullness of the Savior's love,
offer gifts of fellowship and peace. Speak a word of love to the wounded
heart; to the troubled spirit whisper peace. Happy are the ones who share
the love of God, knowing that God's love will never cease!
We are God's children, yes, we are God's children!*

Second Reading Mark 1:40–45 Rev. Odom
A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

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

Sermon Moved with Compassion Rev. Odom
The Spiritual Practice of Serving

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

A Brief Statement of Faith

Rev. Melissa White

In life and in death, we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Offering Invitation

Rev. White

Offertory

God Has Work for Us to Do

Mark Miller

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.

***Lenten Doxology**

FINLANDIA

*O suffering Jesus, in these forty days.
We view your sorrow, share in your distress.
Our Lenten songs are filled with muted praise;
Yet by your passion, we are truly blessed.
Praise to our God, and praise to you, the Son!
Praise to the Spirit, our God, Three in One.*

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Dr. Hull

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. White

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. White, Dr. Hull

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

At the Table, All Are Equal

David Bjorlin

The Prayer after Communion

Dr. Hull

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 761**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life

we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.

May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,

e-equal part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.

***Charge and Benediction**

Rev. Odom

***Congregational Response**

No. 700, stanza 1

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

Postlude

The Beatitudes

Roberta Rowland-Raybold

VII. Blessed are the Peacemakers

Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

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

Dr. Sandy Hull, Transitional Pastor

Rev. Melissa White, Parish Associate for Congregational Care & Connection

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Chancel Choir; Kyle Gavagan, trumpet; Blythe Kinsey, piano; William Rose, percussion

A/V Team: Kari Case

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

Welcome Team: David Gaines, Lorri Hattenhauer, Bill Ramsey, Austin Stockstill, Blake Stockstill

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, March 22, 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 February 26, 2025)

Remember in Prayer

- Nancy Guy, 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 abundant love, grace, and mercy would bring peace and protection, provide daily bread, and grant safety, justice and hope amidst ongoing crisis in their country
- That God would guide us to serve others with compassion within our church, our community, and our world; to seek justice, mercy, and love in all that we do.

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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PO Box 79321, Charlotte, NC 28271

smpchome.org

WELCOME!

After worship, we hope you'll join us for lemonade and cookies near Coffee Grounds. 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!

THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today

MAR. 1

11:30 a.m. -

12:30 p.m.

Third Thirty - "Finding a New Purpose in Life and Celebrating SMPC's History," Mecklenburg Hall, Ages 60-90

This group meets once a month to discuss the realities and challenges of life in the "third thirty," ages 60-90. A light lunch will be served. Register on Realm. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.

today

MAR. 1

various

times

**Room in the Inn
Sardis Presbyterian Church**

Volunteers will help with dinner, overnight stays or breakfast and cleanup. Sign up via QR code. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



tuesday

MAR. 3

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.

wednesday

MAR. 4

9:30 a.m. -

10:30 a.m.

**Pastor's Wednesday Morning Bible Study
McQueen Room or Zoom**

Transitional Pastor Sandy Hull leads this study that meets weekly. The group is discussing the book of Ephesians. All are welcome! If you would like to join by Zoom, please contact Adrienne Jaquith, adrienne@smpchome.org.

wednesday

MAR. 4

10:00 a.m. -

12:30 p.m.

**Intro to Mahjong
Narthex**

Learn how to play mahjong, the Chinese tile-based game, or just come for mahjong fun with friends! Led by SMPC member Carol Morgan. All levels welcome. Contact: Carol Morgan, morgancc43@aol.com.

wednesday

MAR. 4

6:00 p.m. -

8:00 p.m.

**Interfaith Iftar Dinner with Mosaic of Charlotte
Mecklenburg Hall**

Join us for an interfaith Iftar family dinner with our Muslim neighbors from Mosaic of Charlotte, a local Turkish Islamic community. The Mosaic of Charlotte will provide traditional food for our dinner. We will celebrate diversity and pray for unity. Free to attend, but please register via QR code. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



thursday

MAR. 5

6:00 p.m.

**Gathering Together
SouthPark Church**

Our friends at Ewo and Friends Empowering Haiti are co-hosting an evening of fellowship, delicious food and drinks to support Bayonnais, Haiti. We hope you'll join other SMPC members at this special event! More info and buy tickets via QR code. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



thursday

MAR. 5

7:30 p.m.

**Making Space Mom's Group & Rain or Shine
Chapel 206**

These two small groups are combining until the end of May for a study called *Parables* by Josh Scott. Moms of all ages are invited to join in - new faces are always welcome at the table! Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

friday **Friday Morning Men's Group**
MAR. 6 **Chapel 206**
This group meets on the first and third Fridays of every month for study and fellowship. All are welcome. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

saturday **American Red Cross Blood Drive**
MAR. 7 **The Commons**
The need for blood is always great! Please consider donating or volunteering at the drive. Scan QR code to register. Contact: Bill Ramsey, bill.john.ramsey@gmail.com.
8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



sunday **Adult Study: 'Meeting Jesus at the Table'**
MAR. 8 **McQueen Room or Zoom**
A seven-week study with *Meeting Jesus at the Table*, which provides Biblical insights along with thought-provoking queries regarding our own time, such as whom we should invite to Sunday dinner and who is left out and left behind in our culture today. Register on Realm. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

sunday **Desserts for Center of Hope**
MAR. 8 **Narthex**
On the second Sunday of every month we provide sweet treats for the women and children that temporarily call Center of Hope home. Desserts can be store-bought or homemade. Sign up at smpchome.org > Serve Our Community. Contact: Terry Gaines, terryg@carolina.rr.com.
10:10 a.m.

sunday **BAM! Bible and Music**
MAR. 8 **Meet in Narthex, Ages K-5th Grade**
BAM! is our Sunday evening program for children in kindergarten through 5th grade. Please register on Realm so we know how much pizza to order! Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

sunday **SMPC Youth Sports Connection Bowling, Laser Tag and Arcade**
MAR. 8 **Sports Connection, Middle and High Schoolers**
We can't wait for an afternoon of fun together! Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.
5:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Believing and Belonging, Sunday, March 15, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., McQueen Room - For all who are considering membership and/or would like to know more about being Presbyterian and SMPC! Led by Rebecca Guzman and Rev. Melissa White, we will explore the history and beliefs of the Presbyterian church and how God uses our gifts to create community. Lunch will be served and childcare will be available. Register via QR code. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org

DivorceCare, Mondays, March 16-June 1, 6:30-8:00 p.m., SMPC - DivorceCare is a weekly seminar and support group that will help you heal from hurt. It's a warm, caring environment led by SMPC members Janet and Jeff Goetz. This group will meet for 12 sessions. Childcare available upon request. Register via QR code. Contact: Janet Goetz, janetgoetz@carolina.rr.com.



International Dining Group, Thursday, March 19, 6:00 p.m., Nora Mac's Irish Pub - Join this group that loves to eat out. Limited to 24 people due to restaurant space, so RSVP early via QR code or Realm. Contact: Carol Roan, candwroan@gmail.com.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Charlotte Presbytery Day of Mission, Saturday, March 21, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., CN Jenkins Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1421 Statesville Ave, Charlotte, NC 28206 - Choose from a variety of service options, and lunch is provided. All ages are welcome. More info and register via QR code. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

