



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

We Gather

Prelude *River of Peace (It Is Well with My Soul)* Maureen Howell

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Dr. Sandy Hull

The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**

Introit *Blest Be the Tie that Binds* arr. Lowell Mason

***Call to Worship** (Psalm 111:1-6) Alec White

One: Praise the Lord!

All: I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

One: Great are the works of the Lord,

All: studied by all who delight in them.

One: Full of honor and majesty is the Lord's work,

All: and the Lord's righteousness endures forever.

One: The Lord has gained renown by his wonderful deeds.

All: The Lord is gracious and merciful.

One: Let us worship God!

***Hymn 245** *Christ the Lord is Risen Today!* LLANFAIR

1 "Christ the Lord is risen to - day!"
 2 Love's re-deem-ing work is done,
 3 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,
 4 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!

All cre - a - tion, join to say:
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won,
 Where, O death, is now your sting?
 Praise to you by both be given,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
 Death in vain for - bids him rise,
 Je - sus died, our souls to save,
 Ev - ery knee to you shall bow,

Sing, O heavens, and earth re - ply,
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave?
 Ris - en Christ, tri - um - phant now.

Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Lindsey Odom

Gracious God, we celebrate that Jesus is alive, but too often we act as if he were still dead. We are fearful, even though Jesus has conquered all our enemies. We crave human approval and worldly success instead of nurturing the joyful freedom of resurrection life. We put ourselves first, forgetting that, in the kingdom of the risen Christ, the greatest will be servant of all. Forgive us, we pray, and fill us with your Spirit, that we may live always in the shining light of Easter.

Assurance of God's Grace (Isaiah 1:18)

Rev. Odom

One: "Come now, let us reason together,' says the Lord. 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow.'" Friends, hear and believe God's good news!

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***Response of Praise**

No. 582, stanza 1

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

We Hear and Respond to the Word

Church Family Moment

Rebecca Guzman

1. **Story Connection:** Listen to a [readaloud](#) of *The Boy Who Cried Bigfoot*. In today's scripture, Thomas believes when he sees and touches Jesus, proclaiming, "My Lord and my God!" In this story, the boy also comes to believe through seeing and is determined to share what he has experienced. But what about those of us who don't get to see? Our faith often begins by hearing the stories of others, yet we also experience Christ in our own ways. Wonder together about how you have come to know the risen Christ. [Source \(StoryPath\)](#)
2. **Art Connection:** Look at [this painting](#) of the moment when Thomas meets the risen Jesus (Caravaggio, *The Incredulity of Saint Thomas*). In this powerful image, Thomas reaches out to touch Jesus' wound, and his face shows deep surprise. The painting helps us feel the intensity of the moment, both the doubt and the belief. As you look, notice what stands out to you. How does this image help you understand Thomas's experience?
3. **Activity:** Watch [this video](#) retelling of today's scripture. As you watch, imagine what it might have been like to be in the room with the disciples. What would you have felt? What questions might you have had?
4. **Wonder Together:**
 - a. I wonder why Thomas needed to see and touch Jesus to believe.
 - b. I wonder what Jesus meant when he said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."
 - c. I wonder how we experience Jesus today, even though we cannot see him.
 - d. I wonder what questions you would ask Jesus if you were in that room.



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. 19):

***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

Rev. Odom

First Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

Rev. Odom

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Second Reading

John 20:19-31

Dr. Hull

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

Sermon

“Doubters Welcome!”

Dr. Hull

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

The Confession of 1967

Rev. Melissa White

The risen Christ is the Savior for all people. Those joined to him by faith are set right with God and commissioned to serve as God’s reconciling community. Christ is head of this community, the church, which began with the apostles and continues through all generations. The risen Christ is the judge of all people. His judgement discloses the ultimate seriousness of life and gives promise of God’s final victory over the power of sin and death. All who put their trust in Christ face divine judgment without fear, for the judge is their redeemer.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Rev. 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.**

Offering Invitation

Rev. White

Offertory

Jesus Paid it All

arr. Robert Sterling

Sarah Abushakra, mezzo soprano and piano

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**

Alec White

Risen and redeeming God, you have given us more than we could ever give you in return. You are gracious and generous in your love. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude. Bless our work on Christ’s behalf. May we love as Christ loved. May we serve as Christ served. Call us forth into your world, guided by Christ’s spirit. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 254**

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

PUER NOBIS

1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the sun shone
 2 He bade them see his hands, his side, where yet the
 3 From ev - ery weap - on death can wield, your own re -

out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
 glo - rious wounds a - bide, the to - kens true which
 deemed for - ev - er shield; O Lord of all, with

eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord.
 made it plain their Lord in - deed was risen a - gain.
 us a - bide in this our joy - ful Eas - ter - tide.

Worshipful Work

***Charge and Benediction** Dr. Hull

***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 *Alleluia, Sing to Jesus* Edward T. Childs

Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

- Dr. Sandy Hull, Transitional Pastor
- Rev. Lindsey Odom, Associate Pastor of Youth & Missions/Outreach
- Rev. Melissa White, Parish Associate for Congregational Care & Connection
- Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation
- Sarah Abushakra, mezzo soprano; organ; piano
- Alec White, liturgist

A/V Team: Brad Alford, Luke Estes

Ushers: Dan DeChant, Gena DeChant, Dean Elledge, Mary Elledge, Carol Watkins, Jim Williams

Welcome Team: Jennifer Hurlburt, Donna Podgorny, Bob Williamson

A brief Congregational Meeting will be held today after the last hymn for the purpose of electing two at-large members of the Nominating Committee; Michael Choren and Susan Hicks are the nominees for these positions.

Part One of the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is The Book of Confessions, which contains twelve faith statements from throughout the history of Christianity. The Confession of 1967 was created in the United States to reflect theologically on and bring unity in turbulent times.

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 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, April 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 April 8, 2026)

Remember in Prayer

- Zach Bowyer, as he enjoys time for rest, reflection and spiritual renewal while on sabbatical.
- 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, justice, and mercy within our church, our community, and our world.

To join the prayer chain or send a prayer request:

prayer@SMPChome.org.

SMPC STAFF

Dr. Sandy Hull, Transitional Pastor

sandy@smpchome.org

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

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Rev. Melissa White, Parish Associate

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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

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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

APR. 12

11:30 a.m. -

12:30 p.m.

Third Thirty

The Commons, Ages 60-90

In this session, the group will explore the issues related to healing loss and will hear from audiologist and church member Allison King. You can attend this session even if you haven't attended previous sessions. A light lunch will be served. Register on Realm. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.

monday

APR. 13

10:00 a.m. -

12:30 p.m.

Writing Your Legacy

McQueen Room

Led by SMPC member Melinda Ferguson. Over five weeks, participants will receive guidance in writing about family memories, history and more. Open to everyone and is appropriate for new and returning group members. Register via QR code. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.



monday

APR. 13

10:30 a.m. -

12:30 p.m.

Intro to Mahjong

Narthex

Led by church member Carol Morgan and open to all those who want to learn or are just starting to learn mahjong. Contact: Carol Morgan, morgancc43@aol.com.

monday

APR. 13

6:30 p.m. -

8:00 p.m.

DivorceCare

Chapel 206

A 12-week seminar and support group that will help you heal from hurt. Led by SMPC members Janet and Jeff Goetz. Childcare available upon request. Register via QR code. Contact: Janet Goetz, janetgoetz@carolina.rr.com.



tuesday

APR. 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

APR. 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

APR. 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

APR. 15

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.

thursday
APR. 16
12:30 p.m. **Food for Thought Book Group**
McQueen Room
This group will discuss *Becoming Madam Secretary* by Stephanie Dray. All are welcome. Contact: Kathy Paquette, khesspaquette@aol.com.

thursday
APR. 16
6:00 p.m. **International Dining Group**
Wan Fu Chinese, 10719 Kettering Drive
Join this group that loves to eat out! All are welcome. Please register via Realm or scan QR code. Contact: Brenda Villa, bvilla20@carolina.rr.com.



friday
APR. 17
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 for study and fellowship. All are welcome. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

saturday
APR. 18
5:15 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. Food donations are due Thursday, April 16. Monetary donations are always welcome. Sign up via QR code. Contact: Lee Martin, leewilsonmartin@gmail.com.



saturday
APR. 18
4:00 p.m. -
6:00 p.m. **Hops and Vine Around Town**
Open Tap, 5010 Carmel Center Drive
Fun and fellowship! All are welcome. Contact: Frank Graham, Frank.Graham@forvis.com.

sunday
APR. 19
9:00 a.m. -
10:00 a.m. **Adult Study: 'Slow Theology'**
McQueen Room or Zoom
An 8-week class where we'll practice slowing down, asking deeper questions, and listening more carefully to Scripture, tradition and one another. This is not about having the right answers, but about growing in curiosity, trust, and faith. Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org

sunday
APR. 19
5:00 p.m. -
6:30 p.m. **BAM! Bible and Music**
Sanctuary, Ages Kindergarten-5th Grade
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.

sunday
APR. 19
5:00 p.m. -
6:30 p.m. **April BYG (Big Youth Group)**
Mecklenburg Hall, Middle and High Schoolers
We're excited to host *Spotlight on Sandy: Ask the Pastor Night*. This will provide SMPC Youth an opportunity to get to know our transitional pastor, hear some of his stories, and ask any questions they'd like. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AND MISSION POSSIBLE

Monday, July 20-Thursday, July 23, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
VBS is a FUN week of exploring the Bible through play, art, science and music! Mission Possible is our program for 5th and 6th graders that involves a week of fun and service. **Register on Realm or go to our website, smpchome.org/vacation-bible-school to learn more.**

Vacation Bible School: Ages 3 (Potty-Trained)-Rising 4th Graders
Mission Possible: Rising 5th & 6th Graders
Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

We need Youth VBS volunteers! Scan QR code to fill out a form to let us know your availability and VBS volunteer interests this summer!

