



A Service of Worship
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 2, 2026
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

We Gather

Prelude *Prelude in C (BWV 553a)* J. S. Bach

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

Introit *O God, Beyond All Praising* arr. Robert Powell
Ann Carney, recorder

***Call to Worship** (Matthew 11:28-29) Rev. Lindsey Odom
One: Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

All: Precious Jesus, we come to you, we love you, we give you our worship and praise.

***Hymn 610** *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* AZMON

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
 2 The name of Je - sus charms our fears, and
 3 Christ speaks, and lis - tening to his voice new
 4 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
 5 To God all glo - ry, praise, and love be

dear Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
 bids our sor - rows cease, sings mu - sic in the
 life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful wak - en
 sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the
 now and ev - er given by saints be - low and

God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace!
 sin - ner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.
 to re - joice; the poor in heart be - lieve.
 earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
 saints a - bove, the church in earth and heaven.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Odom

Gracious and merciful God, we confess that we often try to earn what you have already freely given. We strive to prove our worth, we measure ourselves against others, and we forget that your love cannot be achieved, but only received. We have failed to trust your grace. We have closed doors that you have opened. We have overlooked neighbors you call us to welcome. Forgive us, O God. By your mercy in Jesus Christ, teach us again that we are justified through our faith, not by our own works or doings. Open our hearts to your grace and open our lives to your transforming love.

Assurance of God's Grace

Rev. Odom

One: Hear the good news, "the righteousness of God has been revealed through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe." So believe the gospel that in Christ, your sins are forgiven, your life is made new, and you are welcomed home by God with open arms.

All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***Response of Praise**

Hymn 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:** Read *Love You When You Whine* by Emily Jenkins. This book shows a child being loved even when they whine, make mistakes, or have a hard day. Romans 3 reminds us that all of us fall short, but God's grace is freely given through Jesus Christ. We do not have to get everything right before God loves us. Source: [Storypath](#).
2. **Add a front door to your house:** Justification reminds us that God opens the door to relationship with us through grace, not because we have earned it. Create and decorate a front door for your house. As you add it, think about how a door welcomes us into a home and how God's grace welcomes us into a full life with God. Remember that God is building us into a people of welcome, grace, and love.
3. **Game:** Play "Free Gift Toss" by placing a box or basket across the room and give each person three balls to toss. Give a small prize after every throw, whether the ball goes in or misses. Romans 3 teaches that we are made right with God through faith, not because we have performed perfectly. Like the prizes in the game, God's grace is a gift freely given.
4. **Wonder Together:**
 - a) Romans 3 says that everyone falls short. Why do you think everyone needs God's grace?
 - b) How can knowing that God's grace is for everyone change the way we treat others?
 - c) What is the difference between earning something and receiving a gift from God?



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

Isaiah 53:1-6 (NLT)

Rev. Odom

Who has believed our message? To whom has the LORD revealed his powerful arm? My servant grew up in the LORD's presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him. He was despised and rejected— a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all.

Second Reading

Romans 3:21-28

Dr. Sandy Hull

But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

Sermon

"The Gift of Justification"

Dr. Hull

***Hymn 215**

What Wondrous Love Is This
(Stanzas 1-3)

WONDROUS LOVE

1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing
 3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing

soul, what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What
 down, when I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to
 on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of
 I was sink - ing down be - neath God's righ - teous
 God and to the Lamb who is the great I
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful

bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my
 frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my
 AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will
 be, and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing

soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!
 soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!
 sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
 on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Offering Invitation

Rev. White

Offertory

Come, Thou Fount
 Ann Carney, recorder

arr. Molly Ijames

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

Hymn 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. Hull

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. 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

Hymn 530

One Bread, One Body

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of
all, one cup of bless-ing which we bless.
And we, though man-y, through-out the
earth, we are one bod-y in this one Lord.
1 Gen-tile or Jew, ser-vant or
2 Man-y the gifts, man-y the
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and
free, wom-an or man, no more.
works, one in the Lord of all.
grown, gath-ered to one, for all.

The Prayer after Communion

Rev. White

We Go Out to Serve

*Hymn 353

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

SOLID ROCK

1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and
 2 When dark-ness seems to hide his face, I rest on his un-
 3 His oath, his cov-e-nant, his blood sup-port me in the
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in

righ-teous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but
 chang-ing grace; in ev-ery high and storm-y gale, my
 whelm-ing flood; when all a-round my soul gives way, he
 him be found, dressed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, fault-

Refrain

whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name.
 an-chor holds with-in the veil. On Christ, the sol-id Rock, I stand; all
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be-fore the throne.

oth-er ground is sink-ing sand; all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

***Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Hull

***Congregational Response**

Hymn 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

Fanfare on "The Solid Rock"

James Stanley

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

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Ann Carney, recorder; David Kinsey, cantor

A/V Team: Mary Katheryne Zagora, Michael Zagora

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

Welcome Team: Kathy Galati, Alison Howey, Trey Howey, Greg Sligar

Join us after worship next week as Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist, shares highlights from his sabbatical, including reflections and photos from his travels to historic churches across Europe and his research on rest for the church musician. All are invited to stay for this special time of story, music, and fellowship.

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. SMPC uses Realm as a church directory and for event registrations. If you are new to Realm or have questions about it, please contact Adrienne Jaquith, and she will be happy to help!

Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church? To learn more about membership and the process of joining, contact Rev. Melissa White, Parish Associate, melissa@smpchome.org or 704-887-7488.

Congregational Notes (as of July 29, 2026)

Remember in Prayer

- The people of Bayonnais and all of Haiti, that God would bring protection from violence, healing for the injured, provision for those in need, and strength and hope in the midst of hardship.
- All those affected by conflict, displacement, and unrest.
- 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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Dr. Tammy Winchip, SMPC Preschool Director

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Mary Katheryne Zagora, Financial Administrator

mkzagora@smpchome.org

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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SMPC WEEKLY

AUGUST 2, 2026

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

monday
AUG. 3
7:00 p.m. -
8:00 p.m.

SMPC Youth Pickleball and Popsicles with the Pastor
Piper Glen Country Club, Middle and High Schoolers
Whether you're an experienced player or trying pickleball for the first time, come out to play games, enjoy refreshing popsicles, and spend time connecting with your youth group friends. Register on Realm or on smpchome.org/events. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

tuesday
AUG. 4
10:30 a.m. -
12:30 p.m.

SMPC Tuesday Mahjong
Narthex
Players of all skill levels are invited to join this group, which meets weekly on Tuesdays. Contact Mary Katheryne Zagora, mkzagora@smpchome.org, to be added to the email list.

thursday
AUG. 6
1:15 p.m. -
3:15 p.m.

SMPC Thursday Mahjong
Narthex
Players of all skill levels are invited to join this group, which meets weekly on Thursdays. Contact Mary Katheryne Zagora, mkzagora@smpchome.org, to be added to the email list.

friday
AUG. 7
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
AUG. 8
8:00 a.m. -
12:30 p.m.

American Red Cross Blood Drive
The Commons
Recently, the Red Cross reported a nearly 25% drop in the national blood supply during June. Please consider donating blood or Power Red in the August blood drive. We also need volunteers to serve at the drive. Sign up via the QR code. Contact: Bill Ramsey, bill.john.ramsey@gmail.com.



sunday
AUG. 9
9:00 a.m. -
10:00 a.m.

Adult Study: "Songs of Summer"
McQueen Room or Zoom
An eight-week series that explores familiar Presbyterian hymns and the fascinating stories behind them. Led by SMPC members Gayle and Curt Ireland. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

sunday
AUG. 9
10:10 a.m.

Center of Hope Desserts
Drop off before worship in the narthex
On the second Sunday of every month, we provide sweet treats for the women and children who temporarily call the Center of Hope home. Sign up via QR code. Contact: Terry Gaines, terryg@carolina.rr.com.



sunday
AUG. 9
10:10 a.m.

Montreat and Massanetta Sunday
Sanctuary
We'll hear reflections from our middle and high schoolers who attended summer conferences in Massanetta and Montreat! Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A Caregiver's Journey, Tuesday, August 11, 1:00-2:30 p.m., McQueen Room - A support group focused on finding meaning and purpose while caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. Contact: Kathy Garner, kathygarner15@gmail.com.

Shelter Ministry, Thursday, August 13, 9:30 a.m., Mecklenburg Hall - **August workday is back on!** This group meets on the second Thursday of every month to fill empty prescription vials with body wash for Roof Above. They are in need of body wash (please, no shampoo or conditioner!), but **please no prescription vials right now**. Storage is full. Contact: Carol Morgan, morgancc43@gmail.com.

Center of Hope Breakfast, Saturday, August 15, Meet at SMPC at 5:15 a.m. - On the third Saturday of every month, SMPC prepares and serves breakfast for Center of Hope guests. To donate or sign up to serve, scan QR code or go to smpchome.org/events. Contact: Lee Martin, leewilsonmartin@gmail.com.



COMING HOME: THE BASICS OF CHRISTIANITY

Listen to Sandy's sermon and read his website post from last Sunday via the QR code. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org, or Rev. Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

It's August, which means fall programming will be here before you know it! Here are a few dates you'll want to put on your calendars. Additional details on these events and more fellowship, study and service opportunities are coming soon!

Adult Music Ministry Rehearsals Begin - Wednesday, August 12, Chancel Ringers - 6:00-7:00 p.m.; Chancel Choir - 7:00-8:30 p.m.



All Church Serves - Sort School Supplies and Pack Backpacks for Smithfield and Sterling Elementary Schools - Sunday, August 23, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Blessing of the Backpacks - Sunday, August 23, during worship



Youth Music Ministry Rehearsals Begin - Sunday, August 23, Bells and Chimes - 3:30 p.m.; Choir - 4:00 p.m.



'Coming Home' Finale - Bring Your House! - Sunday, August 30, 10:10 a.m. Worship

BYG (Big Youth Group) Kickoff (Middle and High Schoolers) - Sunday, August 30, 5:00-6:30 p.m.



BAM! Bible & Music (K-5th Grade) - Sunday, September 13, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Children, Youth and Parents Mental Health Session with Dr. Lisa DeVore - Sunday, September 13, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Pastor's Wednesday Morning Bible Study Resumes - Wednesday, September 16, 10:00 a.m., McQueen Room or Zoom



SMPC Golf Tournament - Wednesday, September 16, Carolina Lakes Sun City