



A Service of Worship
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2026
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

We Gather

Prelude *To God Be the Glory: A Hymn Fantasy* Michael Burkhardt

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Dr. Sandy Hull

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

Introit *Wayfaring Stranger* Appalachian Folk Melody

***Call to Worship** (Psalm 25:1, 4-5) Rue Woodard

One: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
in you I trust, O my God.

**All: Show me your ways, O Lord,
teach me your paths.**

One: Guide me in your truth and teach me,

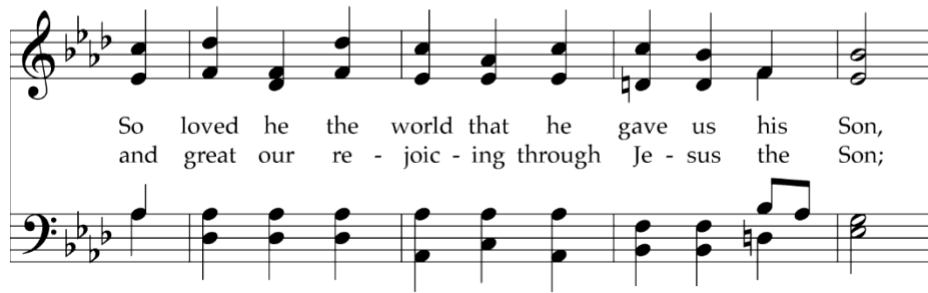
**All: for you are the God of my salvation,
and my hope is in you all day long.**

One: Let us worship God!

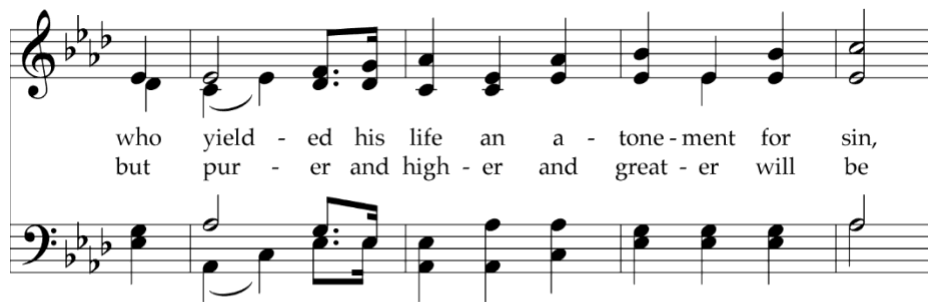
***Hymn 634** *To God Be the Glory* TO GOD BE THE GLORY



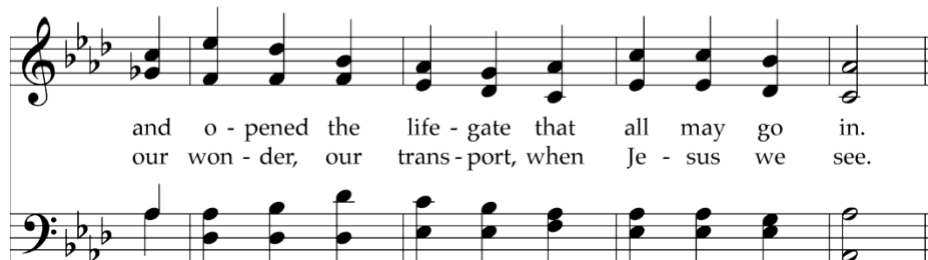
1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,



So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;



who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be



and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,

and give him the glory: great things he has done!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Melissa White

Almighty and most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you without whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your ways and walk in your paths, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace (Titus 3:4-5)

Rev. White

One: "When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." Friends, hear and believe God's good news!

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***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:** Listen to a [read aloud](#) of *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds. Vashti begins the story believing she cannot make art, but her teacher's encouragement helps her see herself differently. Ephesians reminds us that new life is God's work in us, and that we are "created in Christ Jesus for good works." This connection comes from Rachel Mastin and Noell Rathbun-Cook at StoryPath.
2. **Repair the cracks and add windows to your house.** Go back and erase the cracks you added earlier as a reminder that God's grace forgives, heals, and helps restore what is broken. Then add some windows. Windows let light into a house! Grace is like light breaking into darkness, reminding us that God loves us freely and gives us new life. As you add the windows, remember that God is building us into a people of welcome, grace, and love.
3. **Game:** Play "Make Your Mark" and take turns being the leader. The leader makes one simple movement—jump, clap, spin, wave, or make a silly pose—and everyone else copies it. Each new leader gets to add their own "mark." Afterward, talk about how *The Dot* begins with one small mark that grows into something more. Ephesians says God has created us for good works. What small thing could you do this week to share God's love?
4. **Wonder Together:**
 - a. What changed when Vashti began to see herself through her teacher's eyes?
 - b. Ephesians says grace is a gift from God. Why can't we earn it?
 - c. What is one "good work" God might be inviting you to do this week?



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. White

First Reading

Luke 19:1-10

Rev. White

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

Dr. Hull

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ —by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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

Sermon

"From Death to Life"

Dr. Hull

*Hymn 437

You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy! WAYFARING STRANGER



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

The Apostles' Creed

Rev. Lindsey 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. Odom

. . . (*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. Odom

Offertory

Trusting in Christ Alone

Carol Tornquist

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.***

***Prayer of Dedication**

Jones Woodard

Gracious God, you have blessed us with grace upon grace. Receive these gifts as a grateful response to the love you have freely given us in and through Christ. Use them to share your grace, proclaim your hope, and do your work in the world. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

Commissioning of the Confirmation Class of 2026

Rev. Odom

Camdyn Sheeler

One: Confirmands, we bless you on your journey, that you will create and discover new ways of living out what it means to be faithful Christ-followers.

One: Just as we promised you in baptism, we, walk alongside you on this journey. As you go through Confirmation, we pray that you will come to know God more fully and are able to do God's mission in the world. We speak this prayer over you:

All: Faithful and loving God, we lift up these confirmands as they seek a deeper relationship with you. We pray that they will be bold in their questions, give voice to their doubts, share their challenges and celebrate their joys. We lift up their mentors and families as they continue to nurture these youth. In response to your love, O God, we commit ourselves to journeying with these confirmands, their mentors and families. May your love continue to light the way for all of us, together. Amen.

*Hymn 649

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

AMAZING GRACE

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

***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

Toccata on "Amazing Grace"

J. Christopher Pardini

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

Amanda Alford, cantor

Camdyn Sheeler, Jones Woodard, Rue Woodard, liturgists

A/V Team: Mary Katheryne Zagora, Michael Zagora

Ushers: Andrew Gaul, Charlie Metzler, Craig Parrish, Elizabeth Rose, William Rose, Gwen Volker

Welcome Team: Jack Hess, Allison King, Bill Ramsey, Donna Ramsey

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 August 13, 2026)

Remember in Prayer

- Pat Malo as he recovers from a fall and surgery.
- 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 around the world and at home.
- 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

lindsey@smpchome.org

Rev. Melissa White, Parish Associate

melissa@smpchome.org

Laura Black, Ministry Associate for Children and Music

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Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

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Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

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Cheryl Perry, Director of Communications

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Steve Stevenson, Facility Administrator

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Dr. Tammy Winchip, SMPC Preschool Director

tammy@smpchome.org

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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PO Box 79321, Charlotte, NC 28271

smpchome.org

Facebook: @southmecklenburgpresbyterian; Instagram: @southmeckpres

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!

The recommendation form for Deacons and Elders is open until today at 5:00 p.m. Submit a recommendation online via QR code.



THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

sunday
AUG. 16

Mission Study Task Force In-Person Small Group Discussion
9:15-10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Parlor

Please join the Mission Study Task Force (MSTF) in person as they host small group discussions where you can share your thoughts on the survey results, your hopes for the future of SMPC, and the qualities you hope to see in our next senior pastor. No registration required. Just drop in. Contact the MSTF, smpccatsurvey@gmail.com.

today
AUG. 16
7:30 p.m. -
8:15 p.m.

SMPC Youth Parent and Youth Meeting
Zoom

Parents and youth: If you plan to participate in youth group and other youth activities this school year, please join us for this virtual meeting where we will share important information. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

tuesday
AUG. 18
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. 20
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. 21
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. 22
9:30 a.m.

Bag Lunches for Roof Above
Drop off in front of Mecklenburg Hall

Each month, SMPC provides 100 bag lunches for Roof Above to help feed those in need. Sign up to bring bag lunches via QR code. Contact: Julie Durham, julierdurham@gmail.com.



sunday
AUG. 23
9:00 a.m. -
10:00 a.m.

All Church Serves - Sort School Supplies and Pack Backpacks for Smithfield and Sterling Elementary Schools
Mecklenburg Hall

Join us as we sort supplies and fill backpacks for our partner schools! Find a list of school supplies needed and registration information via QR code.



sunday
AUG. 23

**Educational Equity Fair
Narthex**

Representatives from our educational equity mission partners and members of the Missions/Outreach Committee will be in the narthex before and after worship with information on how you can serve students this school year! Contact: Kathy Graham, kathyspeech91@gmail.com.

sunday
AUG. 23
10:10 a.m.

**Blessing of the Backpacks
Sanctuary**

Bring your backpack for a special blessing during worship!

sunday
AUG. 23

Youth Music Ministry Rehearsals Begin

Bells and Chimes - 3:30 p.m., Sanctuary; Choir - 4:00 p.m., Choir Room. Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smphome.org.

sunday
AUG. 23
11:45 a.m. -
1:15 p.m.

SMPC Youth Fall Kickoff Pool Party

Home of the Sheelers, Middle and High Schoolers

Join us as we kick off the new SMPC Youth year with a pool party and lunch at the home of the Sheelers. Register and find more details on Realm or smphome.org/events. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smphome.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hops and Vine Around Town, Saturday, August 29, 4:00-6:00 p.m., Vintner Wine Bar, Arboretum - Come for fellowship and fun! Contact: Frank Graham, Frank.Graham@us.forvismazars.com.

BYG (Big Youth Group), Sunday, August 30, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall, Middle and High Schoolers - BYG is held on the first Sunday of each month during the school year and is an opportunity for youth to grow in faith and love through Bible study, small group time, good food and fun games. Register on Realm or smphome.org/events. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smphome.org.

Mental Health Workshop for Parents and Teens, Sunday, September 13, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Sanctuary - Parents will gather with Dr. Lisa DeVore for guidance, resources, and encouragement as they support the mental health of children and teens. We welcome all parents to attend - even those with younger children! At the same time, middle and high school youth will participate in separate, age-appropriate sessions led by Robert Limkeman, MA, LMFT and Abigail Bates, LCSW, MSW. Register on Realm or smphome.org/events. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smphome.org.

BAM! (Bible and Music) Kickoff, Sunday, September 13, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Palmer Building, Ages K-5th Grade - During BAM!, children sing, creatively engage with Bible stories, explore instruments, and build friendships in age-based groups. Dinner is served. Register on Realm or smphome.org/events. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smphome.org.

SMPC Golf Tournament, Wednesday, September 16, 1:30 p.m. - All levels, men, women & youth. Shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. Range balls will be provided starting at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$55. Proceeds go to Missions and Outreach. Register by September 9 on Realm or smphome.org/events. Contact: Brett Thompson, bathomp1971@yahoo.com, or Ron Morgan, colronmorg@gmail.com.



International Dining Group, Thursday, September 17, 6:00 p.m., Azucar Cuban Restaurant, 14825 Ballantyne Village Way - Join this group that loves to eat out! Register on Realm or via QR code. Contact: Carol Roan, candwroan@gmail.com, or Brenda Villa, bvilla20@carolina.rr.com.

FROM MISSIONS/OUTREACH

🌲 **Christmas in July Results!** 🌲 A special THANK YOU to our wonderful, generous congregation! Your contributions during our Christmas in July event provided support for FIVE 13th grade students at the ICB school in Bayonnais, Haiti. These students will now have the educational support to learn and graduate as well as have access to a hot meal daily and medical care during their final year at ICB. For information about sponsorship, contact: Judy Jones, judy21jones@gmail.com.