



A Service of Worship
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 9, 2026
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

We Gather

Prelude *Basse et Dessus de Trompette* Louis-Nicolas Clérambault
 Luke Estes, organ

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

Introit *Come All You People* Alexander Gondo

***Call to Worship** Caroline Guy

One: Come, all who wonder and all who wander.

All: God has already gone before us.

One: Come, all who seek peace and long for hope.

All: Christ walks beside us on the journey.

One: We gather as people who have been seen, known, and loved by God.

All: We are God's beloved children.

One: We gather with gifts to share,

All: with peace to spread,

One: with questions to ask,

All: and a faith that continues to grow.

One: Together we walk the road of discipleship,

All: trusting that God is always with us. Let us worship the God who walks with us in our wandering and sends us into the world as peacemakers. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Hymn 35** *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* LOBE DEN HERREN

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly
 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dylan Davis

Holy and gracious God, you are always doing a new thing, yet we confess that we often cling to what is familiar. You call us forward in faith, but we remain comfortable where we are. You invite us to trust your promises, yet we allow fear, doubt, and self-reliance to shape our decisions more than your Spirit. Forgive us when we fail to recognize your presence at work among us. Forgive us when we resist your call to love our neighbors, to seek justice, to extend mercy, and to follow wherever Christ leads. Renew our hearts. Open our eyes to perceive the new thing you are doing. Give us the courage to leave behind whatever keeps us from fully living as your disciples, so that our lives may reflect

the hope, grace, peace, and love of Jesus Christ. We pray together in Christ's holy name. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Natalie Guy

*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

Clara Guzman, April Grace Marino

1. **Story Connection:** Listen to a [read aloud](#) of *The Most Magnificent Thing* by Ashley Spires. Think about how the girl in the story loses her hope, just like the disciples had lost their hope when Jesus died. They both find their peace and find their hope again. In times when we feel hopeless, think about what brings us hope: Jesus!
2. **Play the "I See!" Game:** Each person gets a turn to do a small action, such as wink an eye or move a finger. The other people must try to guess what the small motion was. When someone thinks they have a guess, they say, "I see! I see!" If nobody can guess, then they will need help seeing, just like the disciples needed help to see Jesus
3. **Create:** Print [this craft](#) and follow the directions. See if you can retell the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Maybe you will use it to tell someone about Jesus!
4. **Wonder Together:**
 - a. If you saw Jesus walking down the road, who would you tell? What would you say?
 - b. When you are feeling hopeless, what rekindles your hope?
 - c. If you had just found out Jesus was alive, what would you do first?



Children's Liturgy

Clara Guzman, April Grace Marino

*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

Mason Briganti

First Reading

Isaiah 43:18–21

Charleston Bates

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Anthem*Here I Am, Lord*

arr. Jack Schrader

Summer Singers; Ann Carney, piano;
Mark Janney, guitar; Xander Case, bass

Second Reading

Romans 14:19; Luke 24:13-35

Nolan King, Luke Estes

Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened,

and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

Sermon

Rev. Lindsey Odom

Wonder, Wander, and Building God's Peace Together

Reflections

Haley Davis

Judah Estes

Camdyn Sheeler

***Hymn 705**

You Are Holy

YOU ARE HOLY

(cantor: part 1, all: part 2)

You are ho - ly; you are
Part 2
 You are ho - ly;
 C2 Am
 might - y; you are wor - thy,
 you are might - y; you are
 D
 wor - thy of praise. I will
 wor - thy, wor - thy of praise.
 G C2
 fol - low; I will lis - ten;
 I will fol - low; I will
 Am D G
 I will love you all of my
 lis - ten; I will love you

days. I will sing to and

all of my days. You are Lord of lords; you are

wor - ship the King who is

King of kings; you are might - y God, Lord of

wor - thy. I will love and a -

ev - ery - thing. You're Em - man - u - el; you're the

dore him; I will bow down be -

great I AM; you're the Prince of Peace, who

fore him. I will sing to and

is the Lamb. You're the liv - ing God; you're my

Chords: Dsus, Em7, G/B, C2

wor - ship the King who is
 sav - ing grace; you will reign for - ev - er; you are
 wor - thy. I will love and a -
 An - cient of Days. You are Al - pha, O - me - ga, Be -
 dore him; I will bow down be -
 gin - ning and End. You're my Sav - ior, Mes - si - ah, Re -
 fore him. You're my Prince of Peace, and I will
 deem - er, and Friend. You're my Prince of Peace, and I will
 live my life for you.
 live my life for you.

Chords: G/B, C2, Dsus, Em7, Asus, A, C2, D, G

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

Caroline Guy, Emery Hicks

We believe that God is a wonder-filled wanderer, that God delights in the beauty of creation and that God delights in us. Just as the very being of God knows no bounds, neither does God's love, grace, or compassion. We believe that God is a wonder-filled wanderer and that God created us to wonder and wander in faith too. God invites us to ask big questions, frees us to say, "I don't know," and inspires us to leave our comfort zones to explore the world. We believe that no matter how far we wander outside of God's intentions for us, God's love for us is steadfast. There is no place in our lives, our faith, or the world that is beyond God's reach or grace. Jesus shows us just how wide the circle of God's love is and challenges us to widen our circles too. We believe

that, through the power of the Spirit, God can do abundantly more than we can ask or imagine. We believe that God's vision for the world looks like more beauty and justice, more peace and life, more love and grace than we can imagine. We believe that God intends more and better for us too, more purpose and courage, more belonging and fulfillment, more love and grace than we can imagine. We believe that God calls us to be wonder-filled wanderers. We are made in God's image, and sent out with God's blessing to serve others, to speak the truth, to care for creation and communities, to ask big questions to explore this great big world and to always, always know that God goes with us.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Jordan Booker,
Harper Leigh Woodard

. . . *(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

Caroline Guy, Natalie Guy

Offertory

Oceans
Joanna Alford, soprano

Houston/Crocker/Lighthelm

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**

Nolan King

Gracious and loving God, you are always doing a new thing among us, often in ways we do not yet perceive. As you have formed us through wonder and wandering, and called us to build your peace, receive our gifts and our lives. Use them to help us share your hope, peace, and love with the world. We offer them with grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 762**

When the Poor Ones

EL CAMINO

(cantor sings stanza 1 in Spanish; all sing stanzas 1-4 in English)



1 When the poor ones who have noth - ing share with strang - ers,
 2 When at last all those who suf - fer find their com - fort,
 3 When our joy fills up our cup to o - ver - flow - ing,
 4 When our homes are filled with good - ness in a - bun - dance,

1 Cuan - do el po - bre na - da tie - ne y aún re - par - te,
 2 Cuan - do un hom - bre su - fre y lo - gra su con - sue - lo,
 3 Cuan - do cre - ce la a - le - grí - a y nos i - nun - da,
 4 Cuan - do a - bun - da el bien y lle - na los ho - ga - res,



when the thirst - y wa - ter give un - to us all,
 when they hope though e - ven hope seems hope - less - ness,
 when our lips can speak no words oth - er than true,
 when we learn how to make peace in - stead of war,

cuan - do un hom - bre pa - sa sed y a - gua nos da,
 cuan - do es - pe - ra y no se can - sa de es - pe - rar,
 cuan - do di - cen nues - tros la - bios la ver - dad,
 cuan - do un hom - bre don - de hay gue - rra po - ne paz,



when the cri - pled in their weak - ness strength - en oth - ers,
 when we love though hate at times seems all a - round us,
 when we know that love for sim - ple things is bet - ter,
 when each strang - er that we meet is called a neigh - bor,

cuan - do el dé - bil a su her - ma - no for - ta - le - ce,
 cuan - do a - ma - mos, aun - que el o - dio nos ro - dé - e,
 cuan - do a - ma - mos el sen - tir de los sen - ci - llos,
 cuan - do "her - ma - no" le lla - ma - mos al ex - tra - ño,

Refrain / Estribillo



then we know that God still goes that road with us,
 va Dios mis - mo en nues - tro mis - mo ca - mi - nar.

***Charge and Benediction**

Rev. Odom

***Congregational Response**

Hymn 765

(first time: choir; second time: all)

May the God of hope go with us ev - ery day, fill - ing all our
 ¡Dios de la es - pe - ran - za, da - nos go - zo y paz! Al mun - do en

lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of jus - tice speed us
 cri - sis, ha - bla tu ver - dad. Dios de la jus - ti - cia, mán - da -

on our way, bring - ing light and hope to ev - ery land and race.
 nos tu luz, luz y es - pe - ran - za en la os - cu - ri - dad.

Pray - ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our joy with all;
 O - re - mos por la paz, can - te - mos de tu a - mor.

work - ing for a world that's new, faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.
 Lu - che - mos por la paz, fie - les a ti, Se - ñor.

Postlude

Festive Trumpet Tune

David German

Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

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

Dr. Sandy Hull, Transitional Pastor

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

Summer Singers

Ann Carney, piano; Mark Janney, guitar; Xander Case, bass

Joanna Alford, soprano

Luke Estes, organ; Sandra Carr, cantor

Liturgists: Charleston Bates, Jordan Booker, Mason Briganti, Dylan Davis, Haley Davis, Judah Estes, Luke Estes, Caroline Guy, Natalie Guy, Clara Guzman, Emery Hicks, Nolan King, April Grace Marino, Camdyn Sheeler, Harper Leigh Woodard

A/V Team: Brad Alford, Luke Estes

Ushers: Andrew Gaul, Frank Graham, Curtis Guy, Carol Watkins

Welcome Team: Jane Klecker, Tom Klecker, SMPC Youth

Join us after worship today 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 30, 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 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

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Laura Black, Ministry Associate for Children and Music

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Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

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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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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!

THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

tuesday
AUG. 11
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.

tuesday
AUG. 11
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
A Caregiver's Journey
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.

tuesday
AUG. 11
7:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
Mission Study Task Force Virtual Small Group Discussion
Please join the Mission Study Task Force (MSTF) on Zoom 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. Zoom information on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Mary Elledge, ddeaconlaw2001@gmail.com.

wednesday
AUG. 12
6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Adult Music Ministry Rehearsals Begin!
SMPC offers dynamic music programming for all ages that focuses on praising God through joyous song, the playing of instruments and engaging fellowship. We are always striving for musical excellence, but we have a ton of fun along the way! Join us this year! **Chancel Ringers - 6:00-7:00 p.m.; Chancel Choir - 7:00-8:30 p.m.** Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.

thursday
AUG. 13
9:30 a.m.
Shelter Ministry
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, morganc43@gmail.com.

thursday
AUG. 13
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.

saturday
AUG. 15
5:15 a.m. -
Center of Hope Breakfast
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.



sunday
AUG. 16
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Adult Study: "Songs of Summer"
McQueen Room or Zoom
The last session in this series! 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. 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: Mary Elledge, ddeaconlaw2001@gmail.com.

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

SMPC Youth Parent and Youth Meeting

Zoom

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday Morning Men's Group, Friday, August 21, 7:30-8:30 a.m.,

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.



Bag Lunches for Roof Above, Saturday, August 22, Drop off

at 9:30 a.m. 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.

All Church Serves - Sort School Supplies and Pack Backpacks for Smithfield and Sterling Elementary Schools - Sunday,

August 23, 9:00-10:00 a.m., All Ages - Join us as we sort supplies and fill backpacks for our partner schools! Find a list of school supplies and registration information via QR code.



Blessing of the Backpacks, Sunday, August 23, During 10:10 a.m. Worship

Youth Music Ministry Rehearsals Begin, Sunday, August 23 - Bells and Chimes - 3:30 p.m.; Choir - 4:00 p.m., Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.

SMPC Youth Fall Kickoff Pool Party, Sunday, August 23, 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.,

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 smpchome.org/events. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

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

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. BYG provides an opportunity for youth to grow in faith and love through bible study, small group time, good food, fun games, and amazing company. For this particular BYG, we will play a game of kickball to start off the new school year and connect! Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

SMPC Golf Tournament, Wednesday, September 16, 1:30

p.m. - All levels, men, women & youth. This is a Captain's Choice Best Ball (team bogie max) tournament with a 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 smpchome.org/events. Contact: Brett Thompson, bathomp1971@yahoo.com, or Ron Morgan, colronmorg@gmail.com.



COMING HOME: THE BASICS OF CHRISTIANITY

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

