



A Service of Worship
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

We Gather

Prelude *Italian Hymn* arr. Albert Travis

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

Moment for Mission Lee Martin

Introit *God Is Here Today* Raúl Galeano

***Call to Worship** (Romans 11:33-36) Ryan Wooley

One: O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

All: How impossible it is for us to understand fully God's ways!

One: Who can know the Lord's thoughts?

Who knows enough to give the Lord advice?

All: Who has given the Lord so much

that the Lord needs to pay them back?

One: For everything comes from God and exists by God's power and is intended for God's glory.

All: All glory to God forever!

***Hymn 32** *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* ELLACOMBE



1 I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
 3 There's not a plant or flower be-low but makes thy glo-ries known.




that spread the flow-ing seas a-broad and built the loft-y
 God formed the crea-tures through the Word, and then pro-nounced them
 And clouds a-rise, and tem-pests blow, by or-der from thy




skies. I sing the wis-dom that or-dained the sun to rule the day.
 good. Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye,
 throne, while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev-er in thy care,




The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o-bey.
 if I sur-vey the ground I tread, or gaze up-on the sky!
 and ev-ery-where that we can be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.



Prayer of Confession (unison)

Rev. Lindsey Odom

Merciful God, we are obsessed with possessions. We measure our worth by the size of our bank balance. We constantly crave more and better stuff. So we confess that we have sought fulfillment and security in things, not in you. We long for things when we should be longing for you. Forgive this idolatry. In your love, set us free, and lead us more deeply into the joy of knowing and serving you. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace (Ephesians 1:7-8)

Rev. Odom

One: "We have redemption through Christ's blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of God's grace that God lavished on us." Friends, hear and believe God's good news.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***Response of Praise**

Hymn 659

*Know that God is good. Know that God is good.
Know that God is good; God is good; God is good.
Halle, hallelujah. Halle, hallelujah.
Halle, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.*

We Hear and Respond to the Word

Church Family Moment

Rebecca Guzman

1. **Story Connection:** Listen to a [read-aloud](#) of *The Present* by Bob Gill. Arthur finds a beautifully wrapped present and spends days imagining what might be inside. But before his birthday arrives, someone comes collecting toys for children who do not have many, and Arthur gives away the unopened present. What do you think made Arthur decide to give it away? Do you think giving the gift brought him joy even though he never knew what was inside?
2. **Game** Wrap an empty box or small object like a present. Sit in a circle and pass the gift while music plays. When the music stops, the person holding it names something they could give that does not cost money—kindness, time, help, a hug, encouragement, friendship, or something else. Keep going until everyone has had several chances to share.
3. **Craft:** Decorate a small piece of paper as a “gift certificate” for something that can be given to another person: helping with a chore, reading together, making someone a snack, playing with a sibling, writing a note, or spending time together. Give the coupon away sometime this week and notice how it feels to give something instead of receiving something.
4. **Wonder Together:**
 - a. I wonder why giving can sometimes make us happier than getting.
 - b. I wonder what Jesus means when he says, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
 - c. I wonder what we can give even when we do not have money.
 - d. I wonder what our choices show about what we treasure most.



Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Odom

First Reading

Deuteronomy 6:1-5

Rev. Odom

Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, so that you and your children and your children's children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am

commanding you, so that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you. Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

Anthem *He Put a New Song in My Heart* Michael Barrett

Jubilate Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano; William Rose, percussion

He put a new song in my heart, a hymn of praise to the Lord and King.

He put a new song in my heart to praise His holy name.

*I will sing to the Lord! Oh, I will rest and put my trust in You,
for You have given me my heart's desire.*

*O God, your wonders no one can number,
blessings too great for my heart to hold!*

Children's Liturgy Dr. Hull

*As the children four years old through third grade gather for
Children's Worship, the congregation is invited to sing:*

***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.

Second Reading Matthew 6:19-24 Dr. Hull

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! "No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

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

Sermon "Cardiac Relocation" Dr. Hull

***Hymn 725** *O Jesus, I Have Promised* NYLAND

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 O let me feel you near me! The world is ev - er near;
 3 O let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

(C) (Am7) (Dm) (G) (C) (G7) (C)
 E^b Cm7 Fm B^b E^b B^b7 E^b

be now and al - ways near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;
 I see the sights that daz - zle; the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will;
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.

(Am) (D) (G) (F) (G)
 Cm F B^b A^b B^b

I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

(C) (Am7) (F) (G) (C) (Dm) (G) (C)
 E^b Cm7 A^b B^b E^b Fm B^b E^b

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, draw still near - er and shield my soul from sin.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, true guard - ian of my soul.
 now give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

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

Philippians 2:6-11

Rev. Melissa White

**Christ Jesus, though he was God,
 he did not think of equality with God
 as something to cling to.**

**Instead, he gave up his divine privileges;
 he took the humble position of a slave
 and was born as a human being.**

**When he appeared in human form,
 he humbled himself in obedience to God
 and died a criminal's death on a cross.**

**Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor
 and gave him the name above all other names,
 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
 and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.**

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

Grand Chorus
Exultate Ringers

Joel Raney

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**

Generous God, everything we have first comes from you. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and use them for your purposes. Shape our hearts through our giving, that we may trust you more deeply, live more generously, and seek the treasure of your kingdom. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 714**

God of the Fertile Fields

ITALIAN HYMN

1 God of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - buscd,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - ery land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - ery - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

***Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Hull

***Congregation Response**

Hymn 543, stanza 1

***God, be the love to search and keep me;
 God, be the prayer to move my voice;
 God, be the strength to now uphold me:
 O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.***

Postlude

Postlude on "Ellacombe"

Mary McDonald

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
Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist
Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation
Jubilate Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano; William Rose, percussion
Exultate Ringers
Ryan Wooley, liturgists

A/V Team: Chris Wilcox

Ushers: Richard Franseen, Rich Fuller, Curt Ireland, Tom Klecker, Brett Thompson, Linda Thompson

Welcome Team: Kennedy Colson, Kristin Colson, Ava Hope, Karen Sandeen.

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 October 7, 2026)

Remember in Prayer

- The Mission Study Task Force as they work to discern God's calling for SMPC.
- 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.

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

mkzagora@smpchome.org

To join the prayer chain or send a prayer request:

prayer@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

OCTOBER 18, 2026

WELCOME!

After worship, we hope you'll join us for lemonade and cookies near Coffee Grounds. Registry pads are located in your pews. Please sign and pass to your neighbor and perhaps introduce yourself to someone new!



TODAY, OCTOBER 18

"Thus says the Lord, 'See, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?'" (Isaiah 43:19)

In last Sunday's Moment for Mission, SMPC member Whitney Gann shared her SMPC "God wink" and challenged us to live out John 10:10 to the fullest! Listen to her impactful message via the QR code. **You should receive a letter from the Stewardship Committee and a pledge card in the mail this week.** Commitment Sunday is October 25, when we will bring our pledge cards forward in an act of collective commitment to God's work through SMPC. If you cannot be in church that Sunday, you can use the QR code on the pledge card to submit your pledge online or mail your card to the church.



Nourish Up Food Drive - Bags Available

We are collecting canned goods for Nourish Up throughout October. Bags are located in the narthex with a list of items needed. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org

Blessing of the Animals

3:00 p.m. • SMPC Parking Lot

All pets welcome! Must be leashed or in a carrier.

Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org



SMPC Youth High Seas Mini Golf

5:00-6:30 p.m. • 10001 Charlotte Hwy, Ft. Mill • Middle and High Schoolers

Mini golf fun! Please bring extra cash if you'd like to enjoy a Pelican's SnoBall after golf! \$12 per person. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org

THIS WEEK

SMPC Tuesday Mahjong

Tuesday, Oct. 20 • 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. • Narthex

Players of all skill levels are invited to play weekly on Tuesdays.

Contact: Mary Katheryne Zagora, mkzagora@smpchome.org

SMPC Book Club - Pages and Fellowship **NEW!**

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 1:30 p.m. • McQueen Room

The group is reading *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Freda Smith, fredasmithnc8@gmail.com, or Jane Brookshire, jane.t.brookshire@gmail.com

Pastor's Weekday Bible Study

Wednesday, Oct. 21 • 9:30 a.m. • McQueen Room or Zoom

This Bible study meets weekly with Transitional Pastor Sandy Hull. They are studying the Sermon on the Mount. Contact: Adrienne Jaquith, adrienne@smpchome.org

Men's Breakfast Group

Thursday, Oct. 22 • 9:30 a.m. • Big View Diner

Meets the second and fourth Thursdays to enjoy breakfast and conversation.

Contact: Bob Tyler, btyler@unitedskates.com

SMPC Thursday Mahjong

Thursday, Oct. 22 • 1:15-3:15 p.m. • Narthex

Players of all skill levels are invited to play weekly on Thursdays.

Contact: Mary Katheryne Zagora, mkzagora@smpchome.org

Bag Lunches for Roof Above **SERVE!**

Saturday, Oct. 24 • 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



NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

Commitment Sunday

We hope you will join us in worship as we bring our pledge cards forward in a collective commitment to what we can accomplish at SMPC, in our community, and in our world.

BAM! (Bible and Music)

5:00-6:30 p.m. • Palmer Building • Grades K-5

Children sing, creatively engage with Bible stories, explore instruments, and build friendships in age-based groups. Dinner is served. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org

SMPC Youth Halloween Party and Bonfire Night

5:00-6:30 p.m. • Mecklenburg Hall • Middle and High Schoolers

Join us for a costume contest, Halloween-themed games, a bonfire and s'mores! Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org

COMING UP

Young Adults - Pumpkin Painting

Thursday, Oct. 29 • 6:00-7:30 p.m. • Room 302

For those in their 20s-30s! Scan the QR code to join the GroupMe. Contact: Katie Cushman, blue4navy@outlook.com or Chloe Davis, chloedavis870@gmail.com



Adult Study: Bible 101

Sunday, Nov. 1 • 9:00-10:00 a.m. • McQueen Room or Zoom **NEW!**

Join us for a basic introduction to the Bible! Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org

Third Thirty - Brain Health

Sunday, Nov. 1 • 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. • Mecklenburg Hall

For those ages 60-90, this month's focus is on brain health. A light lunch is served. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org

SMPC Youth Grade-Level Lunches **NEW!**

Sunday, Nov. 1 • 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. • Locations Vary • Middle and High Schoolers

Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events by Sunday, October 25. You will be notified of your grade's lunch location!

Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org

Writing Your Story

Monday, Nov. 2 • 12:00-2:00 p.m. • McQueen Room or Zoom **NEW!**

Led by SMPC member Melinda Ferguson, participants meet for six weeks and receive guidance in writing the stories they would like to pass down to their family. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Melinda Ferguson, melindaferguson7@gmail.com

Friday Morning Men's Group

Friday, Nov. 6 • 7:30-8:30 a.m. • Chapel 206

Meets on the first and third Fridays for study and fellowship. All are welcome. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, Nov. 7 • 8:00 - 12:30 p.m. • The Commons **SERVE!**

Bring your American Red Cross Donor Card or photo ID. We will celebrate this milestone with cookies after worship on November 8! Sign up via QR code. Contact: Bill Ramsey, bill.john.ramsey@gmail.com



Believing and Belonging

Sunday, Nov. 8 • 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. • McQueen Room

For those interested in learning more about SMPC and the Presbyterian church. Register on Realm or by emailing Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.

Shelter Ministry

Thursday, Nov. 12 • 9:30 a.m. • Mecklenburg Hall

Fill empty medicine bottles with body wash for Roof Above. Contact: Carol Morgan, morgancc43@gmail.com.

DivorceCare's 'Surviving the Holidays'

Sunday, Nov. 15 • 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. • Chapel 206

Facilitated by SMPC members Janet Goetz and Andrew Metzler, this seminar offers community, support and hope. Childcare is available if needed. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Janet Goetz, janetgoetz@carolina.rr.com, or Andrew Metzler, Andrewm1288@gmail.com