



**South  
Mecklenburg  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**A Service of Worship  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**March 20, 2022, 10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Live Streamed**

**WE GATHER**

**PRELUDE** *The Old Rugged Cross* Rev. George Bennard

**WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH** Lindsey Odom

**INTROIT** *Prepare the Way of the Lord* Jacques Berthier

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Landon Gwyn

**One:** We have come this day to learn about what God expects of us.

**Many:** **Sometimes we really don't want to know what God wants. We are afraid to make the commitments God seeks.**

**One:** God is determined. God will not let us off the hook so easily.

**Many:** **But we have failed so many times in the past. How can we possibly serve now?**

**One:** Open your hearts to receive forgiveness and healing. Listen to God. Be ready to work with God for hope, peace, justice and love.

**All:** **Be with us, Lord. Help us to turn around, to see you, to serve you, to witness to your Love. AMEN.**

**\*HYMN** *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy* No. 415

*All or Leader*

1 Come, ye sin - ners, poor and need - y, weak and wound-ed,  
 2 Come, ye thirst-y, come, and wel - come; God's free boun - ty  
 3 Come, ye wea - ry, heav - y lad - en, lost and ru - ined  
 4 Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness

sick and sore; Je - sus read - y stands to save you,  
 glo - ri - fy, true be - lief and true re - pen - tance,  
 by the fall; if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter,  
 fond - ly dream; all the fit - ness he re - quir - eth

*Refrain*  
*All*

full of pit - y, love, and power.  
 ev - ery grace that brings you nigh. I will a - rise and  
 you will nev - er come at all.  
 is to feel your need of him.

go to Je - sus; he will em-brace me in his arms. In the

arms of my dear Sav - ior, O there are ten thou - sand charms.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Lindsey Odom

You call us into a new way of being, yet we fail to turn from our sinful ways. During this Lenten Season, we are called to turn our lives to the Lord and recognize your unconditional love for us. Help us to do this and remember that the Lord's mercies are new every

**day. Cultivate within us a spirit of compassion, peace, justice, and joy so that new possibilities might emerge. Amen. (silence)**

One: Trusting your mercy, we lift these prayers to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.  
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Lindsey Odom

\*KYRIE

*Lord, Have Mercy*

No. 551

*Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.*

## WE HEAR AND RESPOND TO THE WORD

CHURCH FAMILY MOMENT

Rebecca Guzman

1. Do you garden? Or are you planning to garden this year? When you are next outside gardening, think about this passage and what Jesus might be saying to us about the kingdom of God. Draw a picture of a garden.
2. One way we can think about bearing fruit is to consider the fruits of the spirit that we find in Galatians: love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, gentleness, kindness, faith, and self-control. [This](#) is a fun song that can help you memorize the fruits of the spirit, plus it has some great examples of what they look like.
3. Sara Ann Berger, on the Storypath website, writes, "In [Waiting is Not Easy!](#), Piggie asks Gerald to wait for a wonderful surprise. But waiting is not easy. In the parable Jesus tells, the owner of the vineyard has already waited three years after planting his fig tree for it to grow and bear fruit, but it still has not produced fruit. He is tired of waiting and wants to cut it down. But the gardener urges him to reconsider and to wait another year to see what happens. Jesus, too, is waiting for repentance, a total change, from those listening to his teachings, and warning against a failure to repent. And if we repent, making the change Jesus waits for, we will end with the abundant life found in him."
4. Journal, considering the following:
  - a. What "good soil" is being wasted in your own life?
  - b. What "fertilizer" is giving you life, helping you to "bear fruit?"
  - c. What "gardener" is creating space for you to grow? Who is it?
  - d. What fruit are you being called to bear in the world?

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES TO THIRD GRADERS

*Children four years old through third grade may recess to the back of the sanctuary for Children's Worship.  
The children will return to join their families following the Sermon.*

ANTHEM

*Nobody Knows*

arr. A. Parker, R. Shaw

Chancel Choir; Laura Hancock, contralto

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elowen Smith

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Elowen Smith

Isaiah 5: 7

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

Micah 7: 1

Woe is me! For I have become like one who, after the summer fruit has been gathered, after the vintage has been gleaned, finds no cluster to eat; there is no first-ripe fig for which I hunger.

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

Luke 13: 1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

ASAP

Dr. Brown

**\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

A Declaration of Faith, 9.29-37, 56-58

*(unison)*

Lindsey Odom

**Jesus lived with a constant sense of his Father's presence. He put God's claim on his life above all else.**

**He joined others in God's worship and praise. He drew strength from the Scriptures. He prayed and taught his disciples to pray.**

**We believe Christ gives us and demands of us personal lives that are centered in God and open to God's reality and rule. Life in God's presence issues in life for others, for if we do not love sisters and brothers whom we see, we cannot love God whom we do not see.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lindsey 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.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

*Use this time to prayerfully consider how you are called to bear fruit this week.*

OFFERTORY

*There Is a Fountain*

arr. Dan Edwards

Chancel Ringers

*As an alternative to the traditional offering plate, you may support the ministry of SMPC by giving online at [www.smpchome.org/give](http://www.smpchome.org/give) or texting SMPC to 73256.*

**\*DOXOLOGY**

***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**

Claire Overcash

Gracious and eternal God, you call us into a new way of being. Mold us as your people in new and powerful ways, and help us use these gifts to your glory, that we may be true disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

## WE GO OUT TO SERVE

\*HYMN

*Sometimes a Light Surprises*

No. 800



1 Some - times a light sur - pris - es the child of God who sings;  
2 In ho - ly con - tem - pla - tion we sweet - ly then pur - sue  
3 It can bring with it noth - ing but he will bear us through;  
4 Though vine nor fig tree nei - ther their longed - for fruit should bear,



it is the Lord who ris - es with heal - ing in his wings;  
the theme of God's sal - va - tion and find it ev - er new;  
who gives the lil - ies cloth - ing will clothe his peo - ple, too;  
though all the fields should with - er, nor flocks nor herds be there,



when com - forts are de - clin - ing, he grants the soul a - gain  
set free from pres - ent sor - row, we cheer - ful - ly can say,  
be - neath the spread - ing heav - ens no crea - ture but is fed;  
yet God the same a - bid - ing, his praise shall tune my voice;



a sea - son of clear shin - ing to cheer it af - ter rain.  
"Let the un - known to - mor - row bring with it what it may."  
and he who feeds the ra - vens will give his chil - dren bread.  
for while in him con - fid - ing, I can - not but re - joice.

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Dr. Brown

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

No. 544

*(choir sings once; congregation repeats twice)*

***Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.***

***Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.***

POSTLUDE

*Restoration*

arr. Kenneth T. Kosche

## WORSHIP SERVICE NOTES

### Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Lindsey Odom, Director of Youth Ministry

Landon Gwyn, Elowen Smith, Claire Overcash, Liturgists

Laura Hancock, soloist

Chancel Choir

Chancel Ringers

**Acolytes:** Hannah Angerer, Clara Guzman

**A/V Team:** Chris, Joe, and Sydney Wilcox

**Elder/Deacon of the Day:** Kathy Galati

**Ushers:** Mitchell Davis, Dick Engle, Curtis Guy, Kara Guy, Craig Parrish, Carol Watkins

**Welcome Team:** Donna Brown, Haley Davis, Lorri Hattenhauer, Ruby Robinson

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 worshipping with us and we want to stay connected with you. If you don't receive our weekly email, sent out on Thursday mornings, contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection, [nancy@smpchome.org](mailto:nancy@smpchome.org). This email contains information about upcoming worship services and church activities. Also, check us out on Facebook and Instagram:

[www.facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian); @southmeckpres.

**Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church?** Our Session will gather to welcome new members on Sunday, March 27 at 11:30 a.m. To learn more, contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection, [nancy@smpchome.org](mailto:nancy@smpchome.org) or 980-265-2839.

## CONGREGATIONAL NOTES (as of March 16, 2022)

### Remember in Prayer

- All those affected by the conflict in Ukraine.
- Our mission partners in Bayonnais, Haiti.
- Our church, our community, our country, and the world as we face this world-wide pandemic.

To join the prayer chain or send a prayer request: [prayer@SMPChome.org](mailto:prayer@SMPChome.org).

**Church Office Hours:** Mon. – Thurs., 9:00 – 5:00; Friday, closed

**Church office:** 704-544-0404;

**Preschool office:** 704-544-9831

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*Please remit all giving and financial correspondence to:  
Post Office Box 79321, Charlotte, NC 28271*

[www.SMPChome.org](http://www.SMPChome.org)



# SMPC Weekly

South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 20, 2022

**Welcome! What a blessing that we're worshipping together today!**

After worship, we hope you'll join us for coffee (served inside at Coffee Grounds) and lemonade and cookies (served outside in the circle). These are wonderful opportunities to catch up with old friends and meet someone new!

**Let us know you're here!**

Scan this code to sign our digital welcome register.  
You may also sign in digitally at [www.smpchome.org](http://www.smpchome.org)  
or in person at the Welcome Center in the Narthex.



## LENT



Tuesdays in Lent 6:00 p.m., Chapel



6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. McQueen Room March 8 - April 12

## CHILDREN'S SPIRITUAL FORMATION TODAY!

**4th & 5th Grade Ice Cream Party**  
**Tonight! 4:30 pm— 5:00 pm (right before BAM!)**

*Rsvp to Rebecca Guzman, [rebecca@smpchome.org](mailto:rebecca@smpchome.org).*



## YOUTH MINISTRY

**TODAY!**

**SMPC YOUTH**  
**OPERATION**  
**SANDWICH**

**SUNDAY, 03/20 5:00 PM - 6:15 PM**

**Next Sunday: Mini Golf at High Seas!**  
**March 27, 5:00 pm— 6:15 pm, \$12**

*Register on ChurchLife or email [Lindsey@smpchome.org](mailto:Lindsey@smpchome.org).*

## MISSIONS-OUTREACH MINISTRY

**Next Sunday, March 27, our friend Actionnel Fleurisma will be with us in worship, joined by EWO, an organization that facilitates student sponsorships in Haiti.**

Drop by our table in the Narthex on the 27th to learn more and prayerfully consider changing the life of a Haitian student.

Contact Judy Jones, [judy21jones@gmail.com](mailto:judy21jones@gmail.com), for more information.

### Assistance for Ukraine via PDA

Donations may be made to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) to support emergency relief for those fleeing Ukraine. Make checks payable to SMPCH with PDA on the memo line. Donate online to fund "Other" with "PDA" in the memo box.



### Join us in delivering bread to our neighbors!

Volunteers are needed every Friday morning to deliver bread donated by Panera to the Dilworth Soup Kitchen. Sign up at [www.smpchome.org/community](http://www.smpchome.org/community). March and April dates available.

## SMALL GROUPS & MEETUPS

### Friday Morning Men's Group

Friday, April 1, 7:30 am - 8:30 am

Chapel Building Room 206

After a pandemic pause, our Friday Morning Men's Group is back! This group meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month and would love to have new folks join. Questions? Contact Curt Ireland, [irelandcurtis00@gmail.com](mailto:irelandcurtis00@gmail.com), 980-254-7776.

### Hops Around Town

Saturday, April 2, 4:00 pm

Lower Left Brewing

4528 Nations Crossing Dr., Charlotte, 28217

All are invited to join this informal group as it resumes its exploration of some of the many craft breweries in and around the Charlotte area. Questions? Contact Daniel Bayer, [danielbayer05@gmail.com](mailto:danielbayer05@gmail.com) or Nancy Metzler, [nancy@smpchome.org](mailto:nancy@smpchome.org).

### Food For Thought Book Group

Thursday, April 7, 12:30 pm, McQueen Room

Book: How the Penguins Saved Veronica by Hazel Prior

All are welcome, please join us!

Questions? Contact Kathy Paquette, [khesspaquette@aol.com](mailto:khesspaquette@aol.com).

## SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

**Worshipping together in person is a joy – and requires many helping hands! A number of volunteer opportunities are available on Sunday mornings, including:**

Acolyte (1st—5th graders)	_____	Coffee Grounds Host	_____
Usher Team	_____	Lemonade Host (all ages!)	_____
Welcome Team (all ages!)	_____	Chancel Choir	_____

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

Sign up **now** by placing this in an offering plate as you leave, or contact Nancy Metzler, [nancy@smpchome.org](mailto:nancy@smpchome.org) with any questions or to volunteer!