



South Mecklenburg PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship 1st Sunday in Lent

March 6, 2022, 10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Live Streamed

WE GATHER

- PRELUDE** *Morning Has Broken* arr. Antti Hakkarainen
Paige Berkebile, cello
- WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH** Dr. Matthew S. Brown
- INTROIT** *Prepare the Way of the Lord* Jacques Berthier
- *CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. Whitney Bayer
- One:** The God of our ancestors heard our cries and saw our oppression when we were slaves in Egypt.
- Many:** **God brought us out with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with signs and wonders God brought us through the wilderness.**
- One:** The Lord, our shelter, our refuge, our dwelling place, says,
- All:** **“When my people call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will show them my salvation.”**
- *HYMN** *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* (stanzas 1-3, 6) No. 687

1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our
 2 Be - neath the shad - ow of thy throne thy
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are

hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
 saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine
 earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing
 like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that

storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 thou art God, to end - less years the same.
 ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever rolling stream, 6 Our God, our help in ages past,
 bears all our years away; our hope for years to come,
 they fly forgotten, as a dream be thou our guard while life shall last,
 dies at the opening day. and our eternal home.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Rev. Bayer

O God, our refuge and fortress, forgive us when we fail to trust in you. We fall to temptation; we are swayed by false words; we speak false words of our own. We choose our ease and comfort over your demanding claims upon us and upon the world. In turning from you, we settle for less than the abundant generosity you intend. Forgive us, we pray. Do not let us be put to shame, O God. Hear us as we call to you and show us your salvation. In Christ's name we pray. (*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

Rev. Bayer

*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. Katie Barrett Todd reminds us that the book [Love](#) by Matt de la Pena is a great illustration of our Scripture from Deuteronomy. This is an “astoundingly beautiful message of a love that carries us from our birth through childhood and beyond. ‘A slice of burnt toast tastes like love,’ and other lines like this remind us that love exists in places we don’t think to look, and that love is provision and provision is love. Like the faithfulness of God to Israel, love is persistent, providing, and a story we need to claim as our own.”
2. In Children’s Worship today, and in your Lent box, we are focusing on prayer beads. If you have prayer beads from your Lent box, check out this [SuperHero prayer](#) using your prayer beads today.
3. Draw a picture of yourself in the middle of a paper, and then draw or write the groups to which you belong all around you. You are part of your family. Maybe you are on a sports team. Perhaps you are in a class at school, or you are in another class—art class, dance class, karate class? You are a part of this congregation. But the most important and largest group that you are part of is this one: the people of God! No matter where they are or when they exist, you are family-ed together with them.
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. I wonder why the people of God spent time remembering their time in slavery before entering the promised land.
 - b. I wonder what God’s promise to give the people land meant to the people while they were in slavery. How about while they were wandering in the desert for 40 years?
 - c. Why do you think they are planning to make sure to say the stories of their past at the harvest time?
 - d. I wonder how the season of Lent is like waiting to enter the promised land from the desert.

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

Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley
Chancel Choir; Ann Carney, piano

arr. Jack Schrader

*Jesus walked this lonesome valley; He had to walk it by himself.
Oh, nobody else could walk it for him; He had to walk it by himself.
Jesus prayed for his disciples; He prayed alone for you and me.
Oh, nobody else could bear such sorrow; He prayed alone for you and me.
Jesus died on Calv’ry’s mountain; He died alone for you and me.
Oh, nobody else could die for sinners; He had to die for you and me.
Jesus rose from death’s dark prison; He lives again for you and me.
Oh, nobody else could bring us vict’ry; He is alive to set us free.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dr. Brown

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest

takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 14: 7-8

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"The Lord heard **our** voice..."

Dr. Brown

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

The Confession of 1967

Rev. Bayer

God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of God's dealings with humankind. In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator. God has created human beings for a personal relation with himself that they may respond to the love of the Creator. God has created male and female and given them a life which proceeds from birth to death in a succession of generations and in a wide complex of social relations. God has endowed humans with capacities to make the world serve their needs and to enjoy its good things. Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage. People are free to seek life within the purpose of God: to develop and protect the resources of nature for the common welfare, to work for justice and peace in society, and in other ways to use their creative powers for the fulfillment of human life.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

I've Got Peace Like a River

arr. Gary Lanier

Paige Berkebile, cello

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Dr. Brown

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Bayer

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 . . .

“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

THE BREAD AND THE CUP

You are invited to come to the tables (see diagram), take the elements, and return to your seats. If you are not able to come forward, you will be served at your seat.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Dr. Brown

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory

No. 307

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

*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

Make a Joyful Noise (Psalm 100: 1-2, 4)

Mary McDonald

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

Having been nurtured in the Word of the Lord, let us respond by offering ourselves to God, furthering God's ministry in this community and in the world. Please prayerfully consider placing your offering in the offering boxes as you leave, texting SMPC to 73256, or giving online at:

<https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=138679>.

WORSHIP SERVICE NOTES

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

Rev. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Chancel Choir

Paige Berkebile, cellist

Ann Carney, pianist

A/V Team: Brad Alford

Deacon/Elder of the Day: Denise Wilcox

Ushers: Bob Cushman, Curtis & Kara Guy, Charlie Metzler, and Alice & Bob Tyler

Welcome Team: Mrna Dibble, Kathy Rasimas

The flowers in worship this morning are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Elizabeth Neel Morgan and in honor of Bryce, Alex, Taylor, Stephanie and Emerson by Tim and Janet Morgan.

The artwork displayed in the sanctuary is titled *A Dove Has Spread Her Wings and Asks for Peace* by Ukrainian artist Maria Prymachenko.

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. This email contains information about upcoming worship services and church activities. Also, check us out on Facebook and Instagram:

www.facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian; @southmeckpres.

Congregational Notes (as of March 3, 2022)

Remember in Prayer

- Shirley Nash, as she recovers from surgery.
- 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.

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www.SMPChome.org



SMPC Weekly

South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 6, 2022

Welcome, guests and friends!

What a blessing that God led you to worship with us today!

If you have questions about any of our activities or study opportunities, please see our weekly email, *SMPC Now*, at www.smpchome.org.

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 or in person at the Welcome Center in the Narthex.

LENT

Taizé Worship
Tuesdays During Lent
6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Chapel
March 8 - April 12

Taizé is a monastic community located in Taizé, France that is known for their contemplative style of worship. Filled with repetitive sung prayer, silence, and readings from scripture, these services are simple, yet extremely meaningful and centering. The founders of the Taizé community incorporated this use of meditative worship as a way to bring persons of all faith backgrounds together.

Contemplative Practices for Adults
Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., March 8-April 12
McQueen Room

Mother Teresa once said, "God speaks in the silence of the heart." But how do we know how to silence our hearts and begin to listen? In this six week course, participants will be given tools for contemplative practices and time for silence and prayer. You may wish to join the contemplative Taizé Worship service at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel before this course. *Rebecca Guzman will lead this time together.*

Register on Church Life. Questions? Contact Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

CHILDREN'S SPIRITUAL FORMATION



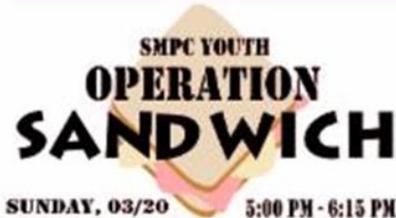
SUNDAY, MARCH 6 AGES 4 - 5TH GRADE 5:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.



Third Grade Bibles
Sunday, March 20
9:10 a.m.— Class in Mecklenburg Hall
10:10 a.m.—Presentation of Bibles during Worship

Please email Rebecca, rebecca@smpchome.org, with your third grader's full name to be sure we have a nameplate and Bible!

YOUTH MINISTRY



Donations Needed!

Sign up to provide sandwich makings by clicking on the Operation Sandwich image at www.smpchome.org/youth

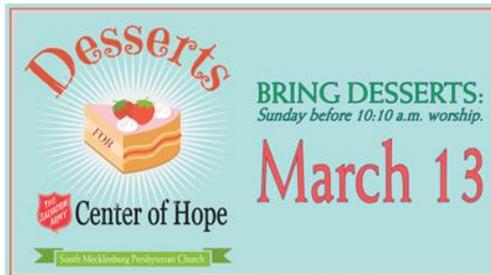
MISSIONS-OUTREACH MINISTRY

Join us in delivering bread to our neighbors!

Every Thursday, an organization called *The Food Recovery Group* drops off day-old bread items from Panera to SMPC. SMPC delivers the bread to our neighbors at the Dilworth Soup Kitchen. Volunteers are needed to deliver the bread on Friday mornings. Student volunteers may contact Lisa Gilleland at LSC13@cornell.edu for service hours submissions.



To volunteer to deliver bread, visit www.smpchome.org/community, and click on the sign-up link.



Sign up to provide desserts at www.smpchome.org/community.

Mark your calendars! Our friend Actionnel Fleurisma will be with us in worship on Sunday, March 27, 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 through sponsorship.

Contact Judy Jones, judy21jones@gmail.com, for more information.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

A Caregiver's Journey

Tuesday, March 8, 1:00 p.m., Room 206

Finding meaning and purpose as you care for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. *This group meets the second Tuesday of each month.*

Facilitators: Kathy Garner (SMPC Faith Ambassador through the Alzheimer's Association) and Rev. Whitney Bayer.

C.A.R.E. (Conversation Around Race Equity)

Sunday, March 13, 4:00 p.m., Monday, March 14, 12:00 p.m., Zoom

Led by Rev. Whitney Bayer

Contact Rev. Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org, for the Zoom ID#.