



# South Mecklenburg PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 13, 2022, 10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Live Streamed

## WE GATHER

PRELUDE *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* William H. Doane

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH Rev. Whitney Bayer

INTROIT *Prepare the Way of the Lord* Jacques Berthier

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Matthew S. Brown

One: Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path.

Many: **I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.**

One: Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

All: **Let us worship the God of Creation, the Sustainer of all that lives.**

\*HYMN *God You Spin the Whirling Planets* No. 23



1 God, you spin the whirl-ing plan - ets, fill the seas and  
 2 You have called us to be faith - ful in our life and  
 3 God, your word is still cre - at - ing, call - ing us to

(D) (A) (D) (Bm) (G) (D) (G) (A) (D)  
 E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> Cm A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>



spread the plain, mold the moun-tains, fash-ion blos-soms, call forth  
 min - is - try. We re - spond in grate-ful wor-ship joined in  
 life made new. Now re - veal to us fresh vis - tas where there's

(G) (D) (A) (D) (G) (D) (A)  
 A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>



sun - shine, wind, and rain. We, cre - at - ed in your im - age,  
 one com - mu - ni - ty. When we blur your gra - cious im - age,  
 work to dare and do. Keep us clear of all dis - tor - tion.

(D) (Bm)(F#m) (G)(A) (D) (G)  
 E<sup>b</sup> Cm Gm A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>



would a true re - flec - tion be of your jus - tice,  
 fo - cus us and make us whole. Healed and strength - ened  
 Pol - ish us with lov - ing care. Thus, new crea - tures

(D) (G) (A) (D) (G) (Em) (D) (A) (D)  
 E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> Fm E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>



grace, and mer - cy and the truth that makes us free.  
 as your peo - ple, we move on - ward toward your goal.  
 in your im - age, we'll pro - claim Christ ev - ery - where.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Dr. Brown

Lord of all that lives, you have made us for yourself, and restless are our hearts until they find their rest in you. Yet, we expend our energies and waste our resources on that which cannot satisfy. Seduced by the trendy, we are easily distracted from the relationships that nourish. Enslaved to the want, we neglect the need, and thus remain hungry and ill at ease. However, our negligence to you and to each other has failed to forestall your steadfast love. Your mercy continues to call out to us, inviting us to a banquet of your grace. Forgive us for failing to see what we already have. Awaken us to the richness of relationship that is always present and possible through you to one another. May Christ be known in the face of our neighbors. (*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

Dr. Brown

\*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

Kathy Graham

1. Our scripture from Isaiah today reminds us that the way we think about the world and the way that God sees the world are not the same. In the book *The World is Awake*, the author invites us to look at the world through God-lenses to see the blessings in our every lives. [Here](#) is a video of the book being read aloud. What everyday blessings do you see?
2. Isaiah also reminds us that God always, always forgives and is more loving than we can even imagine. It is difficult for all of us to confess what we have done wrong, no matter how old we are, but Scripture assures us that when we do, God is faithful in forgiveness. Take some time to silently pray and express to God what you wished you had not done. Maybe you will write or draw them on a piece of paper and then tear it up to symbolize God's forgiveness.
3. Drink a glass of water! How does it feel to have your thirst quenched? How is drinking water like experiencing God?
4. Journal, considering the following:
  - a. What things do you pursue that "do not satisfy?"
  - b. What are you thirsting for? How can Jesus fulfill your thirst?
  - c. Where do you need the life-giving waters of Jesus in your life?

*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

*O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee*  
Chancel Choir

Dale Wood

*O Master, let me walk with thee; In lowly paths of service free;  
Tell me thy secret; help me bear; The strain of toil, the fret of care.  
Help me the slow of heart to move; By some clear, winning word of love;  
Teach me the wayward feet to stay; And guide them in the homeward way.  
Teach me thy patience; share with me; A closer, dearer company,  
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,  
In trust that triumphs over wrong.  
In hope that sends a shining ray; Far down the future's broad'ning way,  
In peace that only thou canst give; With thee, O Master, let me live.*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Bayer

### READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 63: 1-8

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name. My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

Isaiah 55: 1-13

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so

that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Come to the Waters

Rev. Bayer

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Prayer of St. Francis*

Carol McClure

Children's Choirs; Blythe Kinsey, piano; Laura Schelhammer, flute

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.*

*Where I find doubt and despair, Where I find sadness and hate,*

*Let me shine with your faith and hope,*

*Let me shine with your joy and love.*

*Let me seek to love with compassion.*

*Let me seek to give and forgive, As you gave for me in your death,*

*God's gift of love so that I might live.*

\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**Apostles' Creed**

*(unison)*

Dr. Brown

**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

Dr. Brown

*... (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.

## WE GO OUT TO SERVE

\*HYMN

*As the Deer (sing twice)*

No. 626

As the deer pants for the wa - ter, so my  
soul longs af - ter you. You a - lone are my  
heart's de - sire, and I long to wor - ship you.  
You a - lone are my strength, my shield; to you a - lone  
may my spir - it yield. You a - lone are my  
heart's de - sire, and I long to wor - ship you.

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Rev. Bayer

**\*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**

*Toccata*

Gaston Belier

*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 & Organist

Kathy Graham, Children's Vision & Planning Committee

Blythe Kinsey, pianist

Laura Schelhammer, flutist

Chancel Choir

Children's Choirs

**Acolytes:** Adeline and Oliver Bayer

**A/V Team:** Logan Graham, Nicholas White

**Elder/Deacon of the Day:** Kathy Graham, Leisa Lackey

**Ushers:** Don Ayers, Andrew Brown, Brett Thompson, Linda Thompson, Gwen Volker, Jim Williams

**Welcome Team:** Lorri Hattenhauer, Donna Podgorny & Bob Williamson

**We light a candle in worship today** celebrating the birth of Abram Jacob Johann Prinsloo on February 24, son of Pieter-Jan and Liana Prinsloo, and baby brother to Jolena.

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 9, 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).

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**South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church**

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



# SMPC Weekly

South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

**Sunday, March 13, 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!**

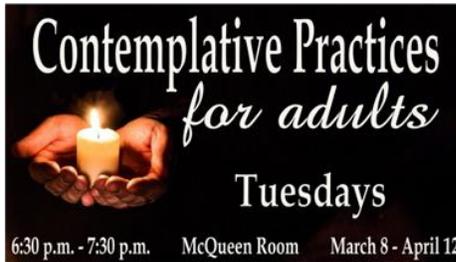
Scan this code to sign our digital welcome register.  
You may also sign in digitally at [www.smpchome.org](http://www.smpchome.org)  
or in person at the Welcome Center in the Narthex.



## LENT



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



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

## SMALL GROUPS & MEETUPS

### Friday Morning Men's Group

**7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m., Chapel Building Room 206**  
**Beginning March 18**

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. We enjoy conversation on a variety of topics and periodically explore a book. Questions? Contact Curt Ireland, [irelandcurtis00@gmail.com](mailto:irelandcurtis00@gmail.com), 980-254-7776.

### Save the Date: Hops Around Town

**April 2, details to come!**

## MISSIONS-OUTREACH MINISTRY

### 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 SMPC with PDA on the memo line. Donate online to fund "Other" with "PDA" in the memo box.

**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](mailto:judy21jones@gmail.com), for more information.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

### 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

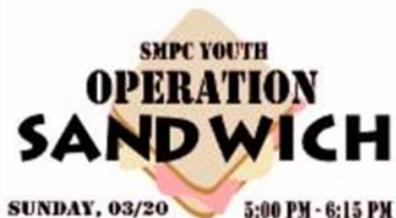
Contact Rev. Whitney Bayer, [whitney@smpchome.org](mailto:whitney@smpchome.org), for the Zoom ID#.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

SMPC YOUTH  
@  
**SPORTS CONNECTION**  
SUNDAY,  
**March 13**  
5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.



SMPC YOUTH  
**OPERATION SANDWICH**  
SUNDAY, 03/20 5:00 PM - 6:15 PM



### Donations Needed!

Sign up to provide sandwich makings by clicking on the Operation Sandwich image at [www.smpchome.org/youth](http://www.smpchome.org/youth)

## CHILDREN'S SPIRITUAL FORMATION



### 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](mailto:rebecca@smpchome.org), with your third grader's full name to be sure we have a nameplate and Bible!

BIBLE AND MUSIC  
**BAM!**  
SUNDAY, MARCH 20 AGES 4 -5TH GRADE 5:00 P.M. -6:30 P.M.



### 4th & 5th Grade Ice Cream Party

Sunday, March 20, 4:30 p.m.— 5:00 p.m. (right before BAM!)

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

## 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!