



**South
Mecklenburg
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**A Service of Worship
5th Sunday in Lent**

April 3, 2022, 10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Live Streamed

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision
Brandon Combs, clarinet

arr. Gary Lanier

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: Break open our hearts this morning to hear your word, O God.

Many: **Let our fears be vanquished, our spirits restored!**

One: Let us drop the things of the past which weighed us down!

Many: **God is about to do something new in our lives!**

All: **Come let us worship with great joy!**

***HYMN**

Fairest Lord Jesus

No. 630

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Rul - er of the

na - ture, O thou of God to earth come
 wood - lands, robed in the bloom - ing garb of
 moon - light, and all the twink - ling, star - ry
 na - tions, Son of God and Son of

down, thee will I cher - ish, thee will I
 spring. Je - sus is fair - er; Je - sus is
 host. Je - sus shines bright - er; Je - sus shines
 Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o -

hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.
 ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Rev. Bayer

Purifying God, we grow comfortable with the way things are in our lives, in the church, and in the world. We do not always welcome the new life you offer in Christ. Sure of our own righteousness, we are critical of others. Wanting to control our assets, we hoard the gifts you give us. Forgive us, we pray, for seeking our gain at the expense of others. Help us bend our lives toward your own life of self-giving and sacrifice. Fill us, our homes and churches, the whole world, with the abundant love of Christ until all are made new. (*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. Find something in your house that smells good. Perhaps it is oranges or a candle. Maybe you have soap that smells good. Think about what you would have used to anoint Jesus' feet. What would that have been like?
2. Ask someone in your household if you can wash each other's feet. Make sure to put some nice lotion on afterwards. What did you notice about washing each other's feet? How do you think Jesus felt about Mary washing his feet?
3. Make some art that will remind you of this story. You might want to draw a picture of Mary washing Jesus' feet, or you might want to trace one of your feet and then decorate it. Mary was giving the best thing she had to Jesus, so on your paper, write or have someone write, "I give my best to Jesus."
4. Journal, considering the following questions:
 - a. Why do you think Mary anointed Jesus' feet?
 - b. Why does the writer of John tell us that Judas is stealing money?
 - c. What do you think about Jesus' response to Judas?
 - d. How do you know when to generously pour out what you have and when to be judicious stewards of your resources?

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

Just As I Am, I Come

Victor Johnson

Chancel Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano; Brandon Combs, clarinet

*Just as I am, without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come, just as I am.*

*Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come, just as I am.*

*Just as I am, tho' tossed about, with many'a conflict, many'a doubt,
Struggles within and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come, just as I am.*

*Just as I am Thou will receive, will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, just as I am.*

*Just as I am, Thy love unknown hath broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come, just as I am.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dr. Brown

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Deuteronomy 15: 7-8, 11

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. . . Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, "Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land."

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

John 12: 1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Well, that was awkward!"

Dr. Brown

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

The Nicene Creed

Rev. Bayer

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Use this time to consider: What would an exorbitant offering of life for the sake of Christ look like for you?

OFFERTORY

Abide With Me

arr. Malcom Archer

Youth Choir

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

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

Dr. Brown

The blessing of your grace, O Lord, is lavish and immoderate, unceasing and life-saving. Our words are never adequate to the measure of your generosity. What can we possibly give to honor such love? We can give ourselves in ways that will radiate your goodness, for that is all you ask. May generosity mark our days for the sake of Jesus Christ.

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

A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar

No. 201

1 A proph-et-wom-an broke a jar, by Love's di-vine ap-
 2 A faith-ful wom-an left a tomb by Love's di-vine com-
 3 Though wom-an-wis-dom, wom-an-truth, for cen-tu-ries were
 4 The Spir-it knows; the Spir-it calls, by Love's di-vine or-

point-ing. With rare per-fume she filled the room, pre-
 mis-sion. She saw; she heard; she preached the Word, a-
 hid-den, un-sung, un-writ-ten, and un-heard, de-
 dain-ing, the friends we need, to serve and lead, their

sid-ing and a-noint-ing. A proph-et-wom-an broke a jar,
 ris-ing from sub-mis-sion. A faith-ful wom-an left a tomb,
 rid-ed and for-bid-den, the Spir-it's breath, the Spir-it's fire,
 powers and gifts un-chain-ing. The Spir-it knows; the Spir-it calls,

the sneers of scorn de-fy-ing. With rare per-fume she
 with res-ur-rec-tion gos-pel. She saw; she heard; she
 on free and slave de-scend-ing, can tum-ble our di-
 from wom-en, men, and chil-dren, the friends we need, to

filled the room, pre-par-ing Christ for dy-ing.
 preached the Word, a-pos-tle to a-pos-tles.
 vid-ing walls, our shame and sad-ness mend-ing.
 serve and lead. Re-joice, and make them wel-come!

*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

Grand Chorus on 'St. Elizabeth

Alice Jordan

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
Youth Choir
Blythe Kinsey, pianist
Brandon Combs, clarinetist

A/V Team: Brad Alford

Acolytes: Claire Overcash, Jake Zagora

Deacon/Elder of the Day: Denise Wilcox

Ushers: Andrew Brown, Bob Cushman, Charlie Metzler, Carol Watkins, Donna Podgorny, Bob Williamson

Welcome Team: Donna Brown; Greg, Hallie, Samantha & Abby Mitchell; Ron, Amanda, Caroline & Ben Stephany

The flowers in worship this morning are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Laura Hancock's father, Tom Riemenschneider, and John Reiter's mother, Betsy Charleton.

Welcome to South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church! 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 31, 2022)

Remember in Prayer

- Tommy Sinclair, as he is currently hospitalized.
- 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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South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

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

www.SMPChome.org



SMPC Weekly

South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

Sunday, April 3, 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!

Registry pads are located on your pew. Please sign in and pass to your neighbor. If you would like more information about SMPC or have prayer concerns, please complete a Welcome Card located in the pew rack.

TODAY

Believing & Belonging at SMPC

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (during BAM! and BYG), McQueen Room

Led by Dr. Matt Brown and Nancy Metzler. For all who are considering membership and/or would like to know more about SMPC, including what Presbyterians believe and how God uses our gifts to create community.

Questions? Contact Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org.



SUNDAY, APRIL 3 AGES 4 5TH GRADE 5:00 P.M. -6:30 P.M.

BYG (Big Youth Group)

5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall
Theme: "An Easter Lesson"

Join us! We will have pizza, fellowship, games, small group time, and an Easter lesson discussing the the saving significance of Jesus' death and resurrection!

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.

LENT

Taizé
WORSHIP

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

Contemplative Practices
for adults

Tuesdays

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

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY
SOUTH MECKLENBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 10
Live Streaming
10:10 a.m.

www.smpch.org facebook [southmecklenburg.org](#) BROADCAST

Maundy Thursday
April 14

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Walk-Through Communion
5:30 p.m., Worship & Communion

SANCTUARY
(EVENING WORSHIP ALSO LIVE-STREAMED)

GOOD FRIDAY
Tenebrae Service
in the Taizé style

April 15 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary & Live-Streaming

EASTER
Worship

8:30 a.m.
Chapel

10:10 a.m.
Sanctuary

Live streaming at 10:10 a.m. www.smpch.org facebook BROADCAST

SMALL GROUPS & MEETUPS



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.

Friday Morning Men's Group **Friday, April 15, 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, 980-254-7776.

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 with any questions or to volunteer!