



South Mecklenburg PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship
First Sunday in Advent
November 28, 2021, 10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Live Streamed

WE GATHER

PRELUDE *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* arr. A. Whitworth

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH Lindsey Odom

CALL TO WORSHIP Jeff Brockman, Xander Case, Alec White
Lighting of the Advent Candle - HOPE

CHORAL RESPONSE *He Came Down* No. 137

*He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope.
Hallelujah forevermore!*

PRAYER (*unison*) Jeff Brockman
Faithful God, out of death you bring life. Renew us in a spirit of hope, that we may be alert to the flourishing of Christ's advent among us. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. AMEN.

*HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* No. 88

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from
 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple
 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. the grave.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
 Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Lindsey Odom

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We have not listened faithfully and attentively to your call. We live in sin, not recognizing the weight of our actions. We live in fear, failing to love all of God's children. Forgive us, O Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us and guide us in truth and teach us your ways so that we can abound in love for one another and for all. Keep us faithful in love and justice for you and your kingdom. Let us stand with confidence, trust, and joy at the coming of Christ, our redeemer and Lord. 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

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

WE HEAR AND RESPOND TO THE WORD

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

James Jordan Day, Jr.
 son of Jordan & Jackie Day

Ethan David Gaul
 son of Andrew & Kaitlin Gaul, brother of Madelyn
 Representing the Session: Tim Morgan

CHURCH FAMILY MOMENT

Kathy Graham

1. Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Check out this video to see what Advent means.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8_lah83UYo
2. Today's scripture from Jeremiah tells that God will make all things fair, or just. Draw a picture of an unjust or unfair situation and then a picture of the same people in the same situation acting justly or fairly.
3. If you are worshipping from home, go outside and look at a tree. The scripture says, "In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David." Jesus is the branch! Think about what that means. Ask your grown-ups about your own family tree.
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. I wonder what promises God makes to us... I wonder what promises we make to God...
 - b. I wonder what this Branch could really be...
 - c. Jeremiah says that this Branch stands for justice and goodness in the land. Justice means being treated fairly and having what you need. What would that kind of place look like? What would it feel like? Who could live there?

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

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People
Chancel Choir; Joanna Alford, djembe

arr. Tom Trenney

*"Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God.
"Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.
To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over."
For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.
O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.
Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 5: 6

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Lord Is Our Righteousness

Dr. Brown

*Prepare the way
Make straight the path for Him
Let the King of glory enter in
Who is this King of glory
The Lord strong and mighty
The Lord mighty to save
The earth is full of His glory
Creation calls prepare the way
His love endureth forever
His power is without an end
His strength is victory's treasure
Let all who call His name prepare the way*

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

A Declaration of Faith, Chapter 1

(unison)

Lindsey Odom

God is at work beyond our story. We know that God is not confined to the story we can tell. The story itself tells us God works his sovereign will among all peoples of the earth. We believe God works beyond our imagining throughout the universe.

We acknowledge no other God. We must not set our ultimate reliance on any other help. We must not yield unconditional obedience to any other power. We must not love anyone or anything more than we love God.

We praise and enjoy God. To worship God is highest joy. To serve God is perfect freedom.

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.

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

***HYMN**

Christ Is Coming

No. 360

1 Christ is com - ing! Let cre - a - tion from its groans and
 2 Earth can now but tell the sto - ry of your bit - ter
 3 With that bless - ed hope be - fore us, flutes are tuned and
 4 Long your ex - iles have been pin - ing for your prom - ised

la - bor cease; let the glo - rious proc - la - ma - tion
 cross and pain; we shall yet be - hold your glo - ry,
 harps are strung; let the might - y ad - vent cho - rus
 rest and home, but in heaven - ly glo - ry shin - ing,

hope re - store and faith in - crease: Christ is com - ing!
 Lord, when you re - turn to reign: Christ is com - ing!
 on - ward roll from tongue to tongue: Christ is com - ing!
 soon the ris - en Christ shall come. Christ is com - ing!

Christ is com - ing! Come, O bless - ed Prince of peace.
 Christ is com - ing! Let each heart re - peat the strain.
 Christ is com - ing! Let each heart re - peat the song.
 Christ is com - ing! Joy - ful, shout the vic - tory psalm.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Dr. Brown

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
 when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
 when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
 and the whole world give back the song
 which now the angels sing.*

POSTLUDE

Festive Toccata on "In Dulci Jubilo"

M. Himmelman

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

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

Lindsey Odom, Director of Youth Ministry

Jeff Brockman, Xander Case, and Alec White, Liturgists

Kathy Graham, Children's Vision & Planning Committee

Chancel Choir

A/V Team: Logan Graham, Nicolas White

Deacon/Elder of the Day: Kathy Graham

Ushers: Andrew Brown, Charles & Krista Casey, Curtis & Kara Guy, David Wooley

Welcome Team: Alice Tyler, Emily Tyler

Welcome to South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church! Whether you are joining us in person or online, whether you are a first-time visitor, a long-term member, or something 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:

www.facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian.

Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church? Our Session will gather to welcome new members on Sunday, November 28 at 11:30 a.m. To learn more, contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection, nancy@smpchome.org or 980-265-2839.

Congregational Notes (as of November 23, 2021)

Remember in Prayer

- Lindalee Macauley, as she recovers from surgery.
- Our mission partners in Bayonnais, Haiti.
- All those in our congregation and community managing COVID-19.
- 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, November 28, 2021

The First Sunday in Advent

Worship

8:30 a.m. & 10:10 a.m., Sanctuary

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 the code on the right 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.



A Retirement Celebration

honoring Freda Smith's 16 years of faithful service to SMPC

TODAY

ADVENT 2021

MISSIONS-OUTREACH MINISTRY



SHOP IN-PERSON!

Sunday, December 5

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Sanctuary Hallways

Look for the Children's Market logo for special shopping opportunities for our little ones!



Also available online at www.smpchome.org/alternative-gift-market through 12/25.



WORSHIP MINISTRY

NEW TIME!

A Festival of Carols

Sunday, December 12

This Advent tradition moves from morning to evening!



SACRED SPACE

A Contemplative Pause

Tuesdays

11/30, 12/7, 12/14 & 12/21

Noon on Zoom

Contact Rev. Diane Giannola, diane.giannola@smpchome.org, for the Zoom ID#.

MISSIONS-OUTREACH MINISTRY



Visit www.smpchome.org/advent for details!

YOUTH MINISTRY



MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE: June 16-19, 2022

Register by Friday, December 31 on Church Life.



Find links to register at www.smpchome.org/youth.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

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

Sunday, December 12, 4:00 p.m. and Monday, December 13, 12:00 p.m., Zoom

A new C.A.R.E. group will be starting soon!

Led by Rev. Whitney Bayer and Rev. Diane Giannola.

A Caregiver's Journey

Tuesday, December 14, 1:00 p.m., McQueen Room

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

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

Contact Rev. Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org, to sign up.

SACRED
SPACE

A Contemplative Pause

Tuesdays
12/7, 12/14 & 12/21
Noon on Zoom

Join Rev. Diane Giannola for a short,
calming break to your day!

Contact Rev. Diane Giannola, diane.giannola@smpchome.org, for the Zoom ID#.