



A Service of Worship

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary

Our Mission . . . to seek God's will for our lives,
joyfully responding to the Good News of Jesus Christ
with Love and Grace.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

A Quiet Place

John M. Rasley

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Jessica Tidwell

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

INTROIT

Hymn for Streamed Worship

R. G. Huff

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rebecca Guzman

One: Day by day, God leads us:

Many: to the deep, deep pools of peace, to the green, lush lawns of grace.

One: Day by day, Jesus calls us:

Many: to pour out ourselves in service, to anoint the stranger with hope.

One: Day by day, the Holy Spirit shows us:

Many: the community we could be, the family we are called to become. Amen.

HYMN

Let All Things Now Living



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks-giv - ing
2 By law God en - forc - es, the stars in their cours - es,
to God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise;
the sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;
who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us,
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains,
by guid - ing us on to the end of our days.
the depths of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.
God's ban - ners are o'er us; pure light goes be - fore us,
We too should be voic - ing our love and re - joic - ing;
a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night:
with glad ad - o - ra - tion, a song let us raise,
till shad - ows have van - ished, all fear - ful - ness ban - ished,
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing;
as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
to God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rebecca Guzman

One: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness: To the ways I wound my life, the lives of others and the life of the world

Many: **May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love. Amen.**

Many: **Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness: To the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others and the life of the world.**

One: May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the spirit enable you to grow in love. Amen.

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

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

Rebeca Guzman

KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

No. 575

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Rebecca Guzman

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Rev. Tidwell

READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalms 23 NRSV

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Rev. Whitney Bayer
Ephesians 5:8-14 NRSV

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

You Are Light

Rev. Bayer

*Walk in the light of God's love.
Live in the truth of His grace.
Share everywhere all the hope that's within you. Walk in the light of God's love.
Grow in the light of God's peace.
Show all the world He is real.
Live every day with the gift of forgiveness.
Grow in the light of God's peace.
We are walking in the light of God.
Walk in the light of God's love.
Live in the truth of His grace.
Share everywhere all the hope that's within you. Walk in the light of God's love.*

Laura Hancock, David Kinsey, Jane Royther, Collin Sinclair, Quartet

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

Apostles' Creed

Dr. Matthew S. 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

Dr. Brown

. . . "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.

TIME FOR OFFERINGS AND REFLECTION

Day of Rest
Zach Bowyer

Paul Cardall

Today we collect our *Spoon It Up Offering* for the Men's Shelter of Charlotte.

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

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

Gracious God, with each step, each breath, each idea, each word spoken, each sight of beauty experienced, each song taken to heart, and each warm embrace, we avail ourselves of the wondrous myriad of gifts you have given to us. As you have so generously sustained us, may we honor the gift by generously sustaining each other, and thus, create a light for this community and your world. In all that we do, may the light of Christ shine. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD

HYMN

Go with Us, Lord



CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Bayer

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face.
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.*

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in our hearts,
We can feel the bond of family though we're apart.
We will go and do the work of God as from worship we depart.
Surely the presence of the Lord is in our hearts. Amen.*

POSTLUDE

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

arr. Humphrey Turner

WORSHIP NOTES

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

Rev. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor of Congregational Care

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Rev. Jessica Tidwell, Director of Youth Ministry

Quartet: Laura Hancock, David Kinsey, Jane Royther, Collin Sinclair

A/V: Kari Case and Harrison Case

Online giving option: As an alternative to the traditional offering plate, you may support the ministries of SMPC using your mobile device by texting SMPC to **73256** or give online at <https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=138679>

Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church? Through the gift of technology and Zoom, an online platform, our Session is continuing to meet and welcome new members. Please consider joining our church family in this nontraditional yet meaningful way. To learn more, contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection, nancy@smpchome.org or 980-265-2839.

In this time of social distancing, we want to stay connected with you! If you don't receive our weekly email, sent out early 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, as well as messages from our pastors and staff. Also, remember to check us out on Facebook, where we share posts, photos, and videos, reminding us that we can be in community despite our physical separation.

Congregational Notes (as of March 19, 2020)

Remember in Prayer

- Jim Neal and his family as his sister entered the Church Triumphant March 12, 2020.
- Our partners in Bayonnais, Haiti facing the present national upheaval which has led to the shutdown of schools, curfews, and lack of food, fuel, and medical care.

To join the prayer chain or send a prayer request: prayer@SMPCHome.org.

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