



South Mecklenburg PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 25, 2021, 10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Live Streamed

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Improvisation

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

INTROIT

How Lovely, Lord

Hal Hopson

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Whitney Bayer

One: Your creation gives thanks to you, O God.

Many: And we, your faithful, bless you.


One: We shall speak of the glory of your realm and tell of your power.

Many: We shall let all people know your mighty deeds and glorious splendor.


*HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

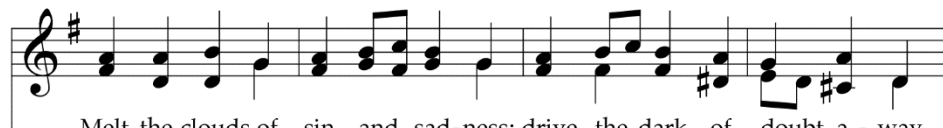
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1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee; earth and heaven re-lect thy rays;
 3 Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan.



Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, o-pening to the sun a-bove.
 stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.
 Love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, join-ing all in heav-en's plan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a-way.
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Ev-er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of strife.



Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re-joice in thee.
 Joy-ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Rev. Bayer

God, you uphold those who are falling and raise up all who are bowed down. Therefore we confess our sins - both things we have done and things we have left undone - in every confidence that you will open your hands to us in an embrace of forgiveness and love.

(*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

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

Gloria Patri

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Amen. Amen.

WE HEAR AND RESPOND TO THE WORD

CHURCH FAMILY MOMENT

Rebecca Guzman

1. In today's story, a boy shares his lunch. Through the sharing of his lunch, thousands are fed! Without his thoughtfulness, the miracle would not have happened, and the people would have been hungry. One of the things we can learn from this story is that you don't have to be a big person to be helpful in big ways. Some children in our congregation are going to be sharing during the week of Vacation Bible School through the Mission Possible. Perhaps you might be interested in helping them by adding to what they will be doing by making a donation from their [wishlist](#).
2. In the book Extra Yarn, a young girl changes her town by sharing what she has. Watch a read-aloud of the story [here](#). What can you learn from this story? Can you find a book about sharing? There are so many! Some of my favorites are *Stone Soup*, *The Rainbow Fish*, and *LLlama Llama Time to Share*.
3. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. Why did large crowds follow Jesus? What were they looking for?
 - b. How do you think Jesus got enough food for everyone from the little boy's lunch bag?
 - c. What similarities do you notice between this story and Communion?
 - d. What does the word "abundance" mean to you?

Children four years old through third grade may recess to the back of the sanctuary, joining Rebecca for Children's Worship. The children will return to join their families at the hymn following the Sermon.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Patti Kelly

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Dr. Brown

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 81: 10, 13, 16

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide and I will fill it . . . O that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways! . . . I would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

John 6: 1-15

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Hospitality Committee

Dr. Brown

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

A Declaration of Faith, Chapter 4.49-72

Rev. Bayer

Jesus was God in the flesh. Jesus Christ overthrew evil powers that enslaved and degraded people, yet he made no use of power to protect himself. He healed those who were sick in body and mind, yet he did not avoid pain and suffering for himself. He commanded his followers to place loyalty to him above loyalty to family and country, yet he lived among them as a servant Jesus taught with authority, challenging many time-honored customs and ideas, yet he submitted to humiliation and death without a word on his own behalf. He forgave sinners, yet he was counted among sinners. We recognize the work of God in Jesus' power and authority. He did what only God can do. We also recognize the work of God in Jesus' lowliness. When he lived as a servant and went humbly to his death the greatness that belongs only to God was manifest. In both his majesty and lowliness Jesus is the eternal Son of God, God himself with us.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Bayer

... (*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

When We Are Living

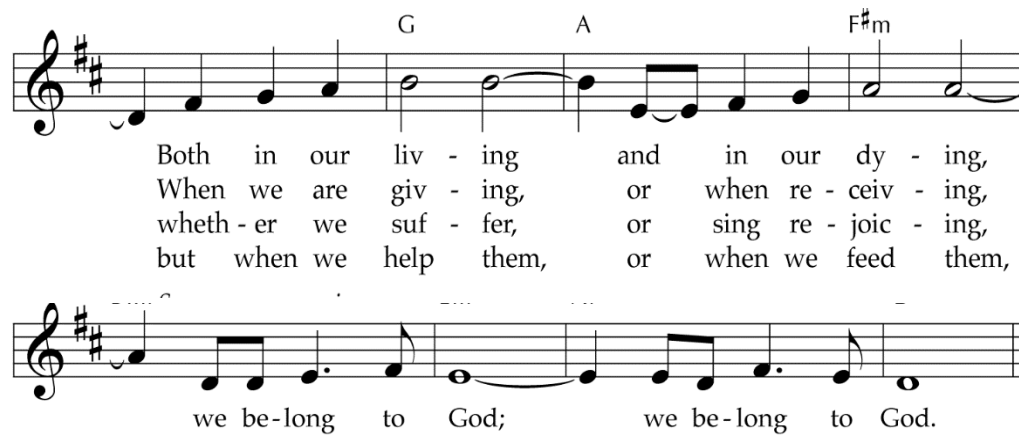
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D Em A7 D

1 When we are liv - ing, it is in Christ Je - sus,
2 Through all our liv - ing, we our fruits must give.
3 'Mid times of sor - row and in times of pain,
4 A - cross this wide world, we shall al - ways find

Bm Em A7 D

and when we're dy - ing, it is in the Lord.
Good works of ser - vice are for of - fer - ing.
when sens - ing beau - ty or in love's em-brace,
those who are cry - ing with no peace of mind,



***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Dr. Brown

***CHORAL 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.*

POSTLUDE

Hymn to Joy

Michael Burkhardt

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 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

A/V Teams: Kari Case and Xander Case; Brad Alford and Joanna Alford

Ushers: Andy Burke, Krista and Charles Casey, Linda and Brett Thompson

Acolyte: Mason Briganti

Welcome Team: Barb and Pat Malo, Kathy Rasimas

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. This link works even if you don't have a Facebook account, and you can view photos, videos, and other church communications.

Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church? Our Session will gather to welcome new members today 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 July 22, 2021)

Remember in Prayer

- 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.
- Our mission partners in Bayonnais, Haiti.

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:
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www.SMPChome.org