

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE *Grace Greater than Our Sin*
arr. Lyndell Leatherman

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH Rev. Jessica Tidwell

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

INTROIT *Spirit of the Living God* Daniel Iverson

* CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Tidwell

One: This is the day that the Lord has made!

Many: **We come rejoicing and giving thanks.**

One: This is the day God invites us to love and to live.

Many: **We seek to dwell in God's love as we turn our hearts toward God.**

One: This is the day to worship our Creator and Redeemer.

All: **We worship the God of life!**

* HYMN *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* No. 35

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Tidwell

Gracious God, there are so many times when our hearts turn away from you: when we become angry or judgmental; when we speak harmful words; when we squander gifts you give us; when we covet more than we need at the expense of our brothers and sisters, forgive us. Help us speak life to one another. May our own actions be transformed by your love, and may we challenge others to be transformed by your love. Remind us that we are all *your* children, who belong to you and belong to one another. In your holy name, we lift our prayers. (silence)

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

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Rev. Tidwell

* RESPONSE OF PRAISE *Gloria Patri* No. 581

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.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP Rev. Tidwell

As the children four years old through third grade gather up front and recess to the Chapel for Children's Worship, the congregation is invited to join in singing:

**Please stand as you are able.*

What does the Lord require of you?

What does the Lord require of you?

*To seek justice, and love kindness,
and walk humbly with your God.*

*To seek justice, and love kindness,
and walk humbly with your God.*

Congregation: **The peace of Christ be with you.**

Children: **And also with you.**

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and walk humbly with your God.*

*To seek justice, and love kindness,
and walk humbly with your God.*

The children will return to join their families at the Hymn following the Sermon.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Rebecca Guzman

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT Rebecca Guzman

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Pew Bible p. 186

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *Savior, Teach Me Day by Day*
Raymond Weidner

Chancel Choir

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT Dr. Matthew S. Brown

1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Pew Bible p. 167

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON **Human Inclinations** Dr. Brown

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* HYMN *We Are One in the Spirit* No. 300

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

From: A Brief Statement of Faith

Rev. Whitney Bayer

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the

Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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

. . . **"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.

OFFERTORY *The Gift of Love* Hal Hopson
Laura Hancock, soprano;
Zach Bowyer, baritone and piano

* DOXOLOGY No. 606

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 Rev. Bayer

Holy God, we offer you these gifts with thanks, so that together we may plant and water the seeds of your new world. May we be your faithful servants as we cultivate love, knowing that in all we accomplish, it is you who gives the growth. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD

* HYMN *The Church's One Foundation* No. 321

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Dr. Brown

* 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. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Lobe den Herren* arr. Mark Sedio



South Mecklenburg PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

6th Sunday after Epiphany
February 16, 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.

The Worship Service 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

Large-Print bulletins and hearing devices are available at the Connection Center.

Your presence with us is very important to us. Please sign the Friendship Register as it is passed. To update contact information in our database, contact: SMPCoffice@SMPCHome.org.

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 www.SMPCHome.org/Giving.

Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church? The Session of South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church will welcome new members February 23 at 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel. If you have interest in membership, speak to one of the pastors or with Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality & Connection, Nancy@smpchome.org, 980-265-2839, following today's service.

A Note to Parents

We are so delighted that you and your children are here! Children are an integral part of our faith community, and we strive to support parents during worship. Here are some helpful things to know:

- Children are welcome in worship. We understand that means wiggles!
- We provide blue worship totes in the Narthex. Your child can fill it with items to help them engage in worship and return them after the service.
- There is a nursery located in the Palmer Building with dedicated staff who are happy to keep your infant-three year old safe.
- Children's Worship is provided for children ages 4 through 3rd grade. The children gather after the Gloria Patri and return during the hymn after the sermon. During this time, they will explore the story interactively and engage with their peers.
- There is a glider and screen located in Room 302, just down the hall from the sanctuary, for mothers who wish to have privacy while nursing.
- During worship, the service is broadcast to the parlor, where there is more space to move around if your little one becomes restless.

Worship Teams

Elder of the Day: Denise Wilcox
Ushers: Bob Tyler, Sr., Head Usher; Andrew Gaul, Alice Tyler, Bob Tyler, Jr. & Ray Tyler, Bob Williamson
Acolyte: Adeline Bayer
Children's Worship Leader: Patty Stevenson
A/V: Kari Case

Hospitality Teams

Coffee Grounds Hosts: Sue & Ed Slezycki, Emily Williams
Greeters: Cindy & Keith Bernhardt, Rebecca & Grant Klein

Congregational Notes (as of February 12, 2020)

Remember in Prayer

- Guy, Tricia, Garrett, Rachel, Madison, and Mackenzie Gosnell as Guy's father Jack Gosnell entered the Church Triumphant February 5.
- 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.

Staff	Church office: 704-544-0404
Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor matt@smpchome.org	Preschool office: 704-544-9831 980-265-2834
Rev. Whitney Bayer Assoc. Pastor of Congregational Care whitney@smpchome.org	980-265-2835
Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist zach@smpchome.org	980-265-2838
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