



# EASTER

A Service of Worship

April 12, 2020, 10:10 a.m.



**South  
Mecklenburg**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*Prelude in G (BWV 568)*

J. S. Bach

## WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

## INTROIT

*Christ Is Alive"*

Musica Sacra

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Whitney Bayer

One: Beloved church, behold the victory of our God: Jesus, our Lord, has conquered the grave.

**Many: Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

One: Sin and death shall reign no more.

**Many: Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

One: Let us resound with joy.

**Many: Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## HYMN

*Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day,  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 But the pains which he en - dured,  
4 Sing we to our God a - bove,  
our tri - um - phant ho - ly day,  
un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured.  
praise e - ter - nal as God's love.  
who did once up - on the cross,  
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Now a - bove the sky he's King,  
Praise our God, ye heaven - ly host,

**Lord Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit we have been raised from the waters of baptism to share in your glorious resurrection. Yet we have not lived as Easter people. We are unsure of your promise, confused about your will, and afraid in the face of danger. Like Mary, we weep at the tomb, but do not recognize your presence. Call us by name, risen Lord, that we may know you with confidence. Whenever we are tempted to fear death, give us courage to confess your Easter victory. Whenever we are overwhelmed by the power of evil, reveal again to us your triumph over the destructive powers of oppression. Forgive us our sin and let our lives be a testimony to your salvation through the love of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit.** (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. Bayer

## RESPONSE OF PRAISE

*Gloria Patri*

*Glorify 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**

## CHURCH FAMILY MOMENT

Rev. Bayer

1. Journal Questions
  - a. What feelings do you think Mary had on the first Easter morning? Think about her feelings at different moments—when she discovered the empty tomb, when she saw Jesus, when she was talking to the disciples.
  - b. What does the word “resurrection” mean to you?
  - c. We don’t see Jesus in the same way that Mary saw Jesus. In what ways do we see Jesus? How do you know?
2. Make an “Alleluia” to display in your window. You can create your own or download and print this one: <https://www.illustratedministry.com/2020/alleluia-poster-easter/>.
3. Make a set of six eggs that will tell the story of Easter. You will need an item for each one. You can find the item around your house or draw, color, and cut one out. You might want to number the eggs with a marker when you finish. Video call a relative to show them your eggs and tell them the Easter story. Here’s what to put in each one:
  - a. Leaf
    - i. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!” John 12:13
  - b. Piece of Bread
    - i. Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” Luke 22:19
  - c. Some coins
    - i. Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They

paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. -Matthew 26:14-16

- d. A tiny piece of paper rolled into a scroll to represent Jesus' prayer
  - i. He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." – Luke 22:39-41
- e. A small rock
  - i. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. – Mark 15:46
- f. Leave this one empty, just like the tomb on Easter morning!
  - i. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." – Matthew 28:5-7

#### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Dr. Brown

#### **READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT**

Jeremiah 31:1-6

At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus says the Lord: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merry-makers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit. For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God."

#### **READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT**

Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

**One:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Oh ... right!"

Dr. Brown

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise*

Dan Forrest

*If God be for us, who can be against us?  
He who did not spare His only Son,  
But gave Him up for all,  
Shall He not with Him freely give us all things?  
Hail the day that sees Him rise, Alleluia!  
To His throne beyond the skies, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, Alleluia!  
Enters now the highest heaven, Alleluia!  
Circles round with angel powers, Alleluia!  
Their triumphant Lord and ours, Alleluia!  
Christ has conquered death and sin, Alleluia!  
Take the King of Glory in, Alleluia!  
If God be for us, who can be against us?  
He who did not spare His only Son,  
But gave Him up for all,  
Shall He not with Him freely give us all things?  
Alleluia!*

Laura Hancock, David Kinsey, Jane Royther, Collin Sinclair, quartet;  
Andrew Sokolowski, trumpet

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

Apostles' Creed

Rev. Bayer

**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)

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.**

TIME FOR OFFERINGS AND REFLECTION

*He Is Risen*

arr. Anderson and Page

Gayle Ireland, handbells; Zach Bowyer, piano

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>

Please remit all giving and financial correspondence to: P. O. Box 79321, Charlotte, NC 28271

## 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 (unison)

Dr. Brown

Triumphant God, through your Son, gloriously risen, the obstacles that separate us are breached and we are drawn into communion, unchallenged by distance, undaunted by uncertainty. Grateful for your faithfulness, awed by an empty tomb, and trusting that we, too, will see the Risen One revealed in our love for one another and through the ministry we share, we offer our whole selves to you and to your service for the sake of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

## BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD

HYMN

### *The Day of Resurrection*

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,  
2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right  
3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful; let earth its song be - gin;

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.  
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,  
the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.

From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,  
and lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,  
Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.  
his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.  
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

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.*

*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

*Messiah: "Hallelujah"*

G. F. Handel

Andrew Sokolowski, trumpet; Zach Bowyer, organ

## 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

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

Handbells: Gayle Ireland

Trumpet: Andrew Sokolowski

A/V: Kari Case and Harrison Case

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In this time of social distancing, we want to stay connected with you! If you don't receive our weekly email, generally sent out on Thursday mornings, contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection, [nancy@smpchome.org](mailto: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: [www.facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian](https://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?** Through the gift of technology our Session will gather to welcome new members on Sunday, April 26 at 11:30 a.m. 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](mailto:nancy@smpchome.org) or 980-265-2839.



## *Congregational Notes* (as of April 9, 2020)

### **Remember in Prayer**

- Tatum McQueen as she is hospitalized and undergoing tests.
- Frank, Kathy, Logan, Parker, and Sarah Graham as Frank's father William "Bill" Graham entered the Church Triumphant April 4, 2020.
- 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](mailto:prayer@SMPChome.org).

	Church office: 704-544-0404 Preschool office: 704-544-9831
Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor matt@smpchome.org	980-265-2834
Rev. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor of Congregational Care whitney@smpchome.org	980-265-2835
Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist zach@smpchome.org	980-265-2838
Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation rebecca@smpchome.org	980-265-2837
Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection nancy@smpchome.org	980-265-2839
Donna Rogers, Director of Communications donna.rogers@smpchome.org	980-265-2831
Freda H. Smith, Administrator freda@smpchome.org	980-265-2843
Rev. Jessica Tidwell, Director of Youth Ministry jessica@smpchome.org	980-265-2836
Mary Katheryne Zagora, Financial Administrator mkzagora@smpchome.org	980-265-2840
Carol Watkins, Director of SMPC Preschool carol.watkins@smpchome.org	980-265-2845



# South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

8601 Bryant Farms Road • Charlotte, North Carolina 28277 • 704.544.0404

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

**[www.SMPChome.org](http://www.SMPChome.org)**



# SMPC Now

## OUR JOURNEY THROUGH A TRYING TIME

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**"Why do you seek the living among the dead?" - Luke 24:5**

Whether it is your custom to slip on the newest Lily Pulitzer, Vineyard Vines, or simply a new pair of flip-flops when Easter rolls around, you may decide to leave them in the closet for now, and yet, there is no delaying of Easter, for it is impossible to restrain the power of God's love even at such a time as this. Jesus is risen and the specter of death shall not change that. Consider this verse from poet Ann Weems. "As we approached Jerusalem the crowd stood at the gate and cried in tear-choked voice: 'We are lost in his death.' Upon the hill the angels sang: 'We are found in his rising.'"

Though we are separated by a common threat, we are united by a shared truth, Love conquers fear. Life overturns death. Jesus is risen! Alleluia.

As a sign of the inextricable bond that keeps us connected, I asked my dear and gifted colleagues on our staff to share one sentence in response to this question: In this confusing and uncertain time, what does Easter mean to you in your context this particular year? May their responses bless you this season as they have blessed all our lives. I am immensely grateful for them.

*In our strange new world seemingly so defined by fear, uncertainty, sickness and death, Easter arrives to remind me in a very real and powerful way that LOVE took on the world and LOVE won – LOVE is always on our side and in the end, LOVE has the final word.* – Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection

*Easter means hope—not hope in the sense of blind optimism—but a belief against all odds that the good wins.* – Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

*To me, Easter this year means continuing to rejoice in and sing the praise of the risen Christ, even in times of uncertainty, doubt, and fear.* – Zach Bowyer, Director of Music

*No matter our circumstances, the Tomb is still empty.* – Donna Rogers, Director of Communications

*Resurrection! We begin anew on our journey.* – Freda Smith, Church Administrator

*Easter means assurance.* – Mary Katheryne Zagora, Director of Finance

*This year Easter means to me that God is present, in the midst of this pandemic, breathing the new life of resurrection into our weary souls.* – Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor of Congregational Care

*Easter is a time for renewal and rebirth but it's also a time to trust and have faith that "this too shall pass."* – Carol Watkins, Director of SMPC Preschool

*For me, Easter means finding ways to share resources with those who need hope that they will not lose everything.* – Jessica Tidwell, Director of Youth

*This Easter, as we are experiencing the life-depleting fear associated with the dreadful Covid-19 virus, we choose to put all our faith in the life-giving power of hope that is ours through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.* – Diane Giannola, Parish Associate



Peace be with you,  
Matt





# HOLY WEEK

**Maundy Thursday**  
April 9  
5:00 p.m., Live Streaming  
[www.smpchome.org](http://www.smpchome.org)  
[facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterianchurch](https://facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterianchurch)  
Boxcast app on Roku, AppleTV, and AmazonFire  
† South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church



**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**Evensong**  
& SERVICE OF TENEBRAE  
Friday, April 10, 7:30  
[www.smpchome.org](http://www.smpchome.org) [facebook](https://facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterianchurch) **BOXCAST**



**STATIONS**  
OF THE  
**CROSS**  
Saturday, April 11  
10:00 a.m.  
ZOOM ID# 266 877 379  
Password: 28277



# EASTER

**EASTER**  
**SUNRISE**  
with South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church  
6:45 a.m.  
 [www.smpchome.org](http://www.smpchome.org) [facebook](https://facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterianchurch) **BOXCAST**

**EASTER**  
*Worship*  
10:10 a.m.  
Live Streaming  
Sunday, April 12  
[www.smpchome.org](http://www.smpchome.org)  
[facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterianchurch](https://facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterianchurch)  
Boxcast app on Roku, AppleTV, and AmazonFire



 **Alleluia!**  
  
Presented by the Children's, Youth & Chancel Choirs of South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church.  
Sunday, April 12  
11:15 a.m.  
[www.smpchome.org](http://www.smpchome.org) [facebook](https://facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterianchurch) **BOXCAST**



# Holy Week



## Preparing for Holy Week at Home

### General Worship Preparation

Think about creating a sacred setting for worship. Maybe you will light a candle and have a plate and a cup set out. Perhaps you will add some greenery, a cross, a Bible, and/or a small bowl of water to represent the baptismal font. Consider leaving this space for the full week of Holy Week.

### Maundy Thursday: 5:00 p.m., Live Streaming

*at [www.smpchome.org](http://www.smpchome.org), [facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian](https://facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian), and the Boxcast app on Roku, AppleTV, and AmazonFire.*

You will want to prepare to have dinner after the worship service livestream. If possible, plan to eat on real plates. If you have cloth napkins, use them. Set a sacred tone for your meal. You will want bread/crackers and juice/wine—whatever you already have in your home. You will also need a large bowl of water and a hand towel for the end of the meal.

*See instructions for an Agape Meal on the next page.*

### Good Friday: 7:30 p.m., Streaming

*at [www.smpchome.org](http://www.smpchome.org), [facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian](https://facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian), and the Boxcast app on Roku, AppleTV, and AmazonFire.*

You will want to watch this service in a dark room or a room which you can make dark. A Tenebrae service typically begins with light and lit candles, and as each part of the service is finished, a candle is blown out and the light is dimmed. You can start in a dark room and just observe the candlelight going out eight times as you stream the service, or you can turn off lights yourself to match the service!

### Holy Saturday Stations of the Cross: 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., Zoom

Please sign up [here](#) to sign up for this experience. It's not necessary, but we will email you some sheets to print if you desire.

Otherwise, you will need: paper, writing utensil, and crayons/markers/colored pencils.

### Easter Sunrise Service: 6:45 a.m., Streaming

*at [www.smpchome.org](http://www.smpchome.org), [facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian](https://facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian), and the Boxcast app on Roku, AppleTV, and AmazonFire.*

All you need is a device to play the video and somewhere to watch the sun rise!

You may want to consider having breakfast outside after the service.

### Easter Worship (10:10) : Live Streaming

*at [www.smpchome.org](http://www.smpchome.org), [facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian](https://facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian), and the Boxcast app on Roku, AppleTV, and AmazonFire.*

Join with us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Hear the exultation of God's glory in a magnificent Bach prelude. Lift your voices in praise as we sing the treasured hymn of Easter, *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*. Listen for the Good News as we read Matthew's account of the empty tomb. Hear the Word proclaimed. Offer ourselves and our prayers to the risen Lord. Experience the community that cannot be diminished in spite of physical distance. Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed!

[VIEW OUR CHURCH FAMILY MOMENT FOR EASTER HERE.](#)



# Maundy Thursday Agape Meal

## Thursday, April 9

### Introduction

On Maundy Thursday, Christians around the world remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples. We gather for communion every Maundy Thursday at SMPC to celebrate communion and reflect on Jesus' love for us, remembering that Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment on this evening, "to love one another as I have loved you," (John 13:34). "Agape" is one of the Greek words for "love," and so we invite you to share in a meal of love this evening in your household after participating in our livestreamed worship. This meal is intended to be an extension of worship. It is our hope and prayer that whether you live alone or with others, you will find that this is a meaningful experience for you.

### Preparing

There's no need to go to the store for your meal. Make something that you will enjoy and that will not be stressful. Consider using cloth napkins. Set the table. Make a centerpiece (this is a great activity for children if they live in your home). Consider placing a cross, a Bible, and/or a candle on the table. You will need:

bread/crackers and juice/wine—whatever you already have in your home, even if that is saltines and soda!  
Do not use these until the end of the meal.

A large bowl

A hand towel

### Gathering

Open with prayer: Holy God, I (we) thank you for everything you have given us. For a table around which to gather, I (we) thank you. For signs of joy and hope, we thank you. For this meal, I (we) thank you. May this worship experience draw me (us) ever closer to you and be a symbol of hope. Bless this food to the nourishment of my body (our bodies) and me (us) to your service. Amen.

### Mealtime Reflection or Conversation

Think about a person who embodies love for you. If you are alone, consider writing to this person to express your gratitude. If you are with others, share about the person and why they embody love to you.

### Agape Meal

When you have finished eating, clear the table and move into the agape meal part of your worship. Spend some time in prayer. Offer to God:

Something you are thankful for

A time in recent days when you have experienced God's love

Any fears and concerns you've been holding during these days

People and places you know need God's special touch right now

Our church, our community and our world

Conclude with the Lord's Prayer



# Maundy Thursday Agape Meal

## Thursday, April 9

CONTINUED

Sing! We sang the first two verses of this hymn in worship and invite you to sing the third now.

LORD'S SUPPER

### Let Us Break Bread Together 525

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees)  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees)  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees)

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer - cy on me. (on me)

This African American spiritual quite possibly reflects the circumstances of slaves attending early morning communion services in colonial Anglican churches, but its combination of hope ("rising sun") and supplication ("Lord, have mercy") speaks to many worshipers' experience.

TEXT: African American spiritual  
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1988  
Music Arr. © 1990 Melva Wilson Costen

LET US BREAK BREAD  
10.10 with refrain



# Church Family Moment for Easter

## Sunday, April 12

### Journal Questions

What feelings do you think Mary had on the first Easter morning? Think about her feelings at different moments—when she discovered the empty tomb, when she saw Jesus, when she was talking to the disciples.

What does the word “resurrection” mean to you?

We don't see Jesus in the same way that Mary saw Jesus. In what ways do we see Jesus? How do you know?

**Make an “Alleluia” to display in your window.** You can create your own or download and print this one: <https://www.illustratedministry.com/2020/alleluia-poster-easter/>.

**Make a set of six eggs that will tell the story of Easter.** You will need an item for each one. You can find the item around your house of draw, color, and cut one out. You might want to number the eggs with a marker when you finish. Video call a relative to show them your eggs and tell them the Easter story. Here's what to put in each one:

#### 1. Leaf

So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord— the King of Israel!” John 12:13

#### 2. Piece of Bread

Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” Luke 22:19

#### 3. Some coins

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. -Matthew 26:14-16

#### 4. A tiny piece of paper rolled into a scroll to represent Jesus' prayer

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.” Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.” – Luke 22:39-41

#### 5. A small rock

He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. – Mark 15:46

#### 6. Leave this one empty, just like the tomb on Easter morning!

But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” –Matthew 28:5-7



# SPIRITUAL FORMATION MINISTRY

*from the desk of Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation*



Listen to this week's FaithCAST!

This week's episode will focus on Holy Week!

*Click the image on the left to listen.*



[Contact Rebecca Guzman here.](#)

Faith Practice resumes Sunday, April 19. *Details coming soon!*

[DOWNLOAD "PREPARING FOR HOLY WEEK" HERE](#)

**Easter Worship**  
Sunday, April 12  
Live Streaming  
**10:10 a.m.**

FOR EASTER WORSHIP,  
CHILDREN WILL NEED:

- Six empty plastic eggs
- Scissors
- Paper
- Crayons

[www.smpchome.org](http://www.smpchome.org) **facebook** **BOXCAST**  
/southmecklenburgpresbyterian

## Wednesday Bedtime Bible Stories

April 15, 7:30 p.m.

Facebook

Join us as we read the Bible story together for the upcoming Sunday.

My daughter and I will be wearing our pajamas and invite you to snuggle up with your family and listen together. I will provide a mission for them to complete and a question for conversation.

**Wednesday  
Bedtime  
Bible**  
with Rebecca Guzman  
**April 15, 7:30 p.m.**  
[facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian](https://facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian)

[Tune in to our Facebook page  
Wednesday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m. by clicking  
here.](#)



# YOUTH MINISTRY

*from the desk of Rev. Jessica Tidwell, Director of Youth Ministry*

[DOWNLOAD "PREPARING FOR HOLY WEEK" HERE](#)



## Youth Prayer

Wednesday, April 15

4:00 p.m., Instagram Live

Youth are invited to hop onto @smpcyouth and participate in the weekly prayer offered by SMPC staff.

**CLICK THE IMAGE ON THE LEFT TO JOIN IN!**

<https://www.instagram.com/smpcyouth/> )



[Contact  
Rev. Jessica Tidwell  
here.](#)



## Instagram Challenges

Issued at Noon on Thursdays on Instagram

Cookout milkshakes (post-pandemic) are on the line!

*Submissions are due via DM or text to Pastor Jessica by midnight Saturday!*



## Encourage a Graduating Senior

Choose a high school or college senior to encourage. This year is not going the way they thought.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4EA5A928A31-encourage>



## NEW! Meditation and Mindfulness

Sunday, April 19, 5:00 p.m.-6:00 pm., ZOOM TBA

Youth will gather for some meditation and healing movement.

*Bring a towel and make some space in your room!*

## Bring the Tea!

Monday, April 13

11:00 a.m., ZOOM

College and graduate students who are now studying from home: Join co-hosts Jessica Tidwell and Sarah Godbey for "Bring the Tea!" Fill your favorite mug, and come join us for an hour of friends, fellowship, some good news, maybe some coffee, and of course...tea.

**CLICK THE IMAGE ON THE RIGHT TO JOIN IN!** <https://zoom.us/j/131326788> (Password: 28277)





# CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

*from the desk of Rev. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor*

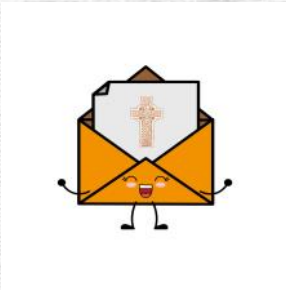
## AVENUES OF CARE AND COMFORT



[Contact](#)

[Rev. Whitney Bayer here.](#)

**FAITH 5:** Continue looking for God's movement in your daily life, and catch up on that together with a daily devotion, using [Faith5's Pandemic Hope: A Family Devotional for Life During COVID- 19.](#)



### SMPC Pen Pals

Children, youth, and college aged students – consider signing up to be a pen pal to one another.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4ea5a928a31-20202>



### Letter Writing

Sign up to send letters or make phone calls to a member who is older and is isolated. Once you sign up, Rebecca will match you with a buddy!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4ea5a928a31-letter>



### Encourage a Graduating Senior

Choose a high school or college senior to encourage. This year is not going the way they thought.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4EA5A928A31-encourage>

## Daily Moment of Prayer at Noon

Every day at noon, we encourage you to pause in your schedule to pray The Lord's Prayer. If you have children at home, include them as well. Our hope is that the familiar words of this prayer will comfort us, help us feel close to God and the larger faith community, and remind us of our connection to one another, even though we're not gathering together in person.

*Suggestion: set a reminder on your phone!*



# MUSIC MINISTRY

*from the desk of Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist*



**Evensong & Good Friday Tenebrae Service**  
Friday, April 10, 7:30 p.m.

This week's Evensong will serve as the prelude  
to our Good Friday Tenebrae Service.

*Our Tenebrae Service will immediately follow Evensong.*

[Watch the Friday, April 3  
Evensong, featuring  
Laura Hancock  
& Zach Bowyer  
by clicking here.](#)

[www.smpchome.org](http://www.smpchome.org)

**facebook.**  
/southmecklenburgpresbyterian

**BOXCAST**



[Contact Zach Bowyer here.](#)



**Listen to our staff playlists on Spotify**

In the coming days, we will be uploading different playlists onto Spotify that help us connect to God. Give them a listen!

**ZACH BOWYER:**

[https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6itAtKhjXzOVT4trWhjkFN?si=oXTUrzEGSVOjTUi\\_hs7hbA](https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6itAtKhjXzOVT4trWhjkFN?si=oXTUrzEGSVOjTUi_hs7hbA)

**REBECCA GUZMAN:**

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3419CaeZG9d1gWi2u5QCqt?si=fHnmulgxQDu-V4Nt80n1sA>

**WHITNEY BAYER:**

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0VEDmaF7gPa8bSg1jySRqW?si=ewGtGS69TOOFXYIYb6tY-g>

# MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY

*from the desk of Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality & Connection*

**MeetUP: Coffee Grounds ONLINE**

**Sunday, April 12**

**11:30 a.m., ZOOM Meeting ID # 198-986-563 (password: 28277)**

Have you missed hanging out at Coffee Grounds on Sunday mornings, drinking coffee and connecting with other members of our church family?

This Sunday, pop in/out to **Coffee Grounds ONLINE!** After streaming our worship service live, click onto <https://zoom.us/j/198986563> to see familiar faces and perhaps meet someone new. *If you're not sure how ZOOM works, let me know, and I'll help you through the process.*

Also through Zoom, our Session continues to meet and welcome new members. *If you're considering membership and would like to know more, please contact me, and I can share information and walk you through the details of how this works. We'd love for you to join our church family in this nontraditional yet meaningful way!*

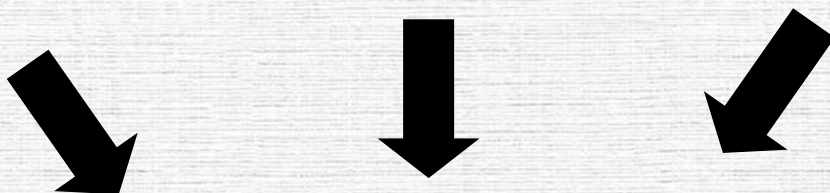


[Contact Nancy Metzler here.](#)



# Staying Connected

**ROKU**  **amazon** **fireTV**

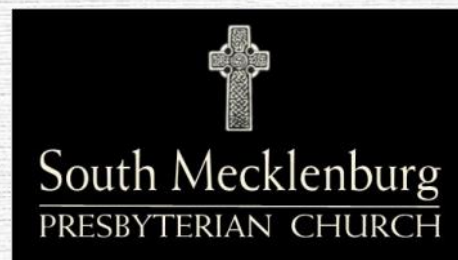


**BOXCAST**



If you have ROKU, Apple TV, or Amazon Fire TV, you will now find SMPC among the offerings on the BOXCAST channel.

- ◆ Initialize your streaming service.  
(ROKU, Apple TV, or Amazon Fire TV)
- ◆ Find BOXCAST in your Channel Store, adding it to your channels.
- ◆ Open the BOXCAST channel, and search for *South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church*.
- ◆ You may watch live or choose past worship services.
- ◆ Using your remote, choose SMPC as a “favorite”.





# Staying Connected

South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church is employing various avenues of technology to keep us connected and informed.

Our worship staff, careful to maintain social distance, are gathering in our Sanctuary on Sunday mornings to create a worship experience through live streaming. Access to live streaming has been expanded across several communication channels to make it even easier to join in worship.



Our website, [www.smpchome.org](http://www.smpchome.org) has been revamped to shift our live and past worship services to the forefront. From the home page of the website, we can join in worship, view the worship bulletin, and participate in online giving. Our website is viewable in both desktop and mobile versions.



We are also taking full advantage of our existing Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian)) by live streaming our worship service, sharing announcements and updates, and creating “Noon Prayer”, a Facebook Live video leading us in prayer at 12:00 p.m. each Wednesday. Be sure to “like” our page.



If you use the streaming services ROKU, Apple TV, or Amazon Fire TV, you can now view our live and past worship services by adding BOXCAST from your channel store. Search for “South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church”, mark it as favorite, and watch from your television. (See instructions on the previous page.)



Our staff, committees, studies and groups are using ZOOM, a video conferencing platform to meet “face-to-face”. If your group is interested in this format, please contact Rev. Jessica Tidwell, [jessica@smpchome.org](mailto:jessica@smpchome.org), or Rebecca Guzman, [rebecca@smpchome.org](mailto:rebecca@smpchome.org), for details.





# ONLINE GIVING



Many of our donors feel a connection to the church's work when they are able to place their gift in our offering plates and then dedicate those offerings through prayer with the congregation. This is an important practice and an important part of our worship services. Many other donors appreciate the convenience and discipline of online giving, and those gifts, too, are dedicated through prayer during the worship services each week. For the next several weeks, while meeting together is not possible, the church would like to encourage either **online giving** (options and instructions below) or **mailing gifts** to our P.O. Box 79321, Charlotte, NC 28271.

*For questions or help with online giving, contact Mary Katheryne Zagora in the church office, [mkzagora@smpchome.org](mailto:mkzagora@smpchome.org) or 704-544-0404 ext 116.*

## To give online:

1. [Click HERE](https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=138679): <https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=138679>
2. Enter the amount you would like to give, and then select a fund from the drop-down menu.

*Most gifts will be to the Operating Fund. For Spoon it Up donations, select "Other" and type Spoon it Up in the memo box.*

3. Enter your email address and click continue. On the next screen you will be prompted to enter your debit card, credit card, or bank account information.
4. Click "Give."

## To give via text:

1. Text SMPC to 73256.
2. Click the link in the reply text you will receive.
3. Enter the amount you would like to give and tap the "Text Gifts" box.
4. You will be prompted to enter your debit card, credit card, or bank account information.
5. Click "Give."

## To set up a recurring online gift:

1. Log in to ChurchLife and select "Give Online" from the "Giving" drop down menu.
2. Enter the amount you would like to give, and then select a fund from the drop-down menu.
3. Choose the frequency of your gift amount (weekly, semi-monthly, monthly, quarterly).
4. Enter your debit card, credit card, or bank account information and click "Give."





South Mecklenburg  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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8601 Bryant Farms Road  
Charlotte, NC 28277

