

# MORNING WORSHIP

August 24, 2025

Half past Ten O' Clock

## Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

*When the organ begins, please prepare for worship through silent prayer and meditation.  
Following the service, greet one another with joy and affection!*

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

TIME OF MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

+WELCOME AND NOTICES

MINUTE FOR MISSION

AT Castillo and Ryder, Montclair Elementary

PRELUDE

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

arr. Anna Page

\*CHORAL INTROIT

"Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

LOBE DEN HERREN

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Gracious God, You have led us to curiosity about our creation, ourselves, and all things unknown.

**People: Let us never lose our sense of wonder about the world You have given us.**

Leader: God of Abraham and Sarah, You lead us to new understandings when we least expect them.

**People: Let us never see ourselves as too young, too old, or too wise to learn new lessons from You.**

Leader: God of the prophets, You call us to speak truth with love to a reluctant world.

**People: Give us courage to judge ourselves, and wisdom to learn from those You send to teach us.**

Leader: God of the rich young ruler, You love us though we shrink from the challenge of discipleship.

**People: Teach us to surrender our own wills, that we might seek Yours and draw closer to Your grace.**

Leader: Everlasting, ever-loving God, teacher, creator, giver of knowledge and freedom,

**All: grant that we might always use Your gifts to build a world where peace, justice, love, and hope reign in wisdom and in truth. Amen.**

+\*HYMN 157

"I Danced in the Morning"

LORD OF THE DANCE

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**God of Life, You have been our God since before time even began. You promise us a realm that cannot be shaken and call us to serve You with praise and thanksgiving. But we forget and yield to fear. We trust only in the tangible rewards of Your world and neglect Your promises. We confess that we are a divided people; we foster separation and widen rifts in our families, our communities, our nation, and our world. Open us to Your healing. Free us from all that distances us from Your presence. Give us Your grace, and inspire us to serve You with courage. We pray in the name of Jesus, our brother and our Savior. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Lord is merciful and gracious; slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel!

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

+\*HYMN 581

"Glory Be to the Father"

GLORIA PATRI

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A BLESSING OF NEW BEGINNINGS FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

*Immediately following the Message for Young Disciples, the congregation will sing the first verse of "Jesus Loves Me" as children are invited to exit to Children's Worship.*

**Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong.**

**They are weak, but He is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 13:10-17, pew Bible pg. 950

SERMON

"Set Free from Bondage"

Margo Fraga

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)

from the *Belhar Confession*

**We believe that God has revealed God's self as the one**

**who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;**

**that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity,**

**is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor, and the wronged;**

**that God calls the church to follow Him in this;**

**for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;**

**that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;**

**that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows, and blocks the path of the ungodly; that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit**

**the orphans and the widows in their suffering; that God wishes to teach the church**

**to do what is good and to seek the right; that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies,**

**among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;**

**Jesus is Lord.**

**To the one and only God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL TO OFFERING

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

Text to Give

704-734-9818

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Draw the Circle Wide"

Mark A. Miller

\*DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

**God of Wisdom, today we give You thanks for our children and youth, and all of our educators.**

**We dedicate our lives and all that we have to You. We ask that You bless all of Your children with curiosity, understanding and respect. May our backpacks and workbags this year be a sign that we have everything we need to learn and grow. May we as a church be guided by Your love.**

**Receive these gifts as investments in Your kingdom of love, justice and peace. Use this money and use our lives to bring about the world as You intend it. With gratitude we pray, Amen.**

# BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*HYMN 450

“Be Thou My Vision”

SLANE

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

“Lift High the Cross”

CRUCIFER

\*POSTLUDE

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

arr. Charles Callahan

\*Those who are able please stand.

+Ushers may seat late worshipers.

## SELWYN AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WARMLY WELCOMES ALL WHO VISIT

Selwyn Avenue is glad you are with us this morning. We welcome all visitors, celebrating God's creativity in human diversity. We'd like to stay in touch with you! Please take a moment to fill out a pew card and place it in the offering plate. Please ask an usher if you need help locating the nursery, restrooms, changing tables, or large print hymnals.

Membership is by one of three paths: 1) profession of faith in Jesus Christ (for those who have never been part of a Christian church); 2) re-affirmation of faith (for those who formerly were part of a congregation but have not been involved in recent times - for example, you were baptized and/or confirmed but moved and never engaged with a new congregation); or 3) transfer of membership from another congregation (your membership is with another church). New members and prospective members are invited to participate in Orientation Classes, which are scheduled several times a year, and are a wonderful way to meet others and learn about our church and all the opportunities here. We always stand ready to be in communication with you about your particular situation. The contact information for all staff members is in the bulletin each week.

**WORSHIP BAGS FOR 4 YRS. - 5TH GRADE** Age-appropriate activities for readers and non-readers to encourage their participation in following along in worship are available in the narthex. Please return the bag to the basket after worship.

SAPC STAFF INFORMATION		
Position	Name	E-mail address
Pastor	Lori Archer Raible	lorir@selwynpres.org
Associate Pastor for CEF/Congregational Life	Margo Fraga	margor@selwynpres.org
Associate Pastor for Mission and Youth	Brian Daoust	briandsapc@gmail.com
Director of Children and Families	Karley Wilke-Nadler	karleywn@gmail.com
Parish Associate	Lisa McLennan	lisamclennan5@gmail.com
Director of Music	Fred Spano	fps7363@gmail.com
Organist	Gay Pappin	gpappin@gmail.com
Church Administrator	Marsha Cooper	marshac@selwynpres.org
Administrative Assistant	Kris Seek	office@selwynpres.org
Church Accountant	Tonya Moore	tonya@tmooreaccounting.com
Accounting Administrative Assistant	Reba Hardaway	rebah@selwynpres.org
Communications Specialist	Jennifer Dixon	jennifer@capstonebrandingmedia.com
Weekend Facilities	Dwight Jones	djones8345@aol.com
Director of Child Development Center	Beth Sharpe	bsharpe@selwynprescdc.com
Resident Pastor at QHPC	Allyson Anderson	allyson.qhpc@gmail.com
SAPC SESSION		
Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Rich Bonnell, Lori Burbank, Tate Hackman, Marybet Hudson, Todd Muldrew, Walker Owens, Adam Piacentino, Denise Pineno, Evan Sauda, Elizabeth Stearns, Caroline Thompson, Tina Weinberg; Youth Elder-Sarah Pineno	Mile Bellamy, Michelle Bentley, Lee Bobbitt, Jeremy Caskey, Mike DeAmicis, Zach Houston, Catherine Miller, Sally Moore, Becky Muth, Cathy Sheely, Janet Stephens, Karey Tom	Mike Bolewitz, Katie Cumbus, Lindsay Haynie, Sebastian Marth, Roger Mills, Martha Rand, Erin Salzlein, Rebecca Thompson, Ted Zimmer