

# First Presbyterian Church

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP | 9 AM | MAY 21, 2023  
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



*We invite you, whoever you are and whoever God is helping you to become, to join First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte in our journey of faith. God is love, and that love is for you. You belong as a child of God, and we welcome you. Come experience how that belonging might change you and our world as we seek to be for Christ in the heart of Charlotte.*



First Presbyterian  
Church of Charlotte

**Time of Quiet Meditation and Reflection** | Quiet begins in the Chapel at 8:50 a.m.

**Words of Welcome** | Reverend Mary Henderson Bowman

+**Call to Worship** | Adapted from Psalm 33:1, 4-5, 20-22

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright.

**For the word of the Lord is upright, and all God's work is done in faithfulness.**

God loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

**Our soul waits for the Lord; God is our help and shield.**

Our heart is glad in God because we trust in God's holy name.

**Let Your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in You.**

**Meditative Music** | Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus | Selah

Turn your eyes upon Jesus

Look full in His wonderful face

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim

In the light of His glory and grace

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession** | Adapted from Howard Thurman

Dear Lord, open unto us . . .

Open unto us—light for our darkness. Open unto us—courage for our fear. Open unto us—hope for our despair.

Open unto us—peace for our turmoil. Open unto us—joy for our sorrow. Open unto us—strength for our weakness.

Open unto us—wisdom for our confusion. Open unto us—forgiveness for our sins. Open unto us—love for our

hates. Open unto us—thy Self for our selves. Lord, Lord, open unto us! And please forgive us for the things we

express silently in our hearts . . . [moment of reflection] . . .

We receive Your forgiveness with grateful hearts and we commit to the work of extending it to others. Amen.

**Prayer for Illumination** | Saint Patrick | Don Olmstead

**New Testament Scripture** | Adapted from John 21:12-22

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Moment of Reflection**

**Meditation** | Encounters with the Risen Jesus: Conversation on the Beach

**Moment of Reflection**

**Offering**

The Christian life is marked by the offering of one's self to God to be shaped, empowered, directed, and changed by God. In worship, God presents us with the costly self-offering of Jesus Christ. We are claimed by Christ and set free. In response to God's love in Jesus Christ we offer God our lives, our gifts, our abilities, and our material goods, for God's service. The offering plates are located at the back of the chapel if you are interested in giving regularly as a spiritual practice.

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**

**Meditative Music** | Trust in You | Praise and Harmony

Letting go of every single dream, I lay each one down at Your feet  
 Every moment of my wandering Never changes what You see  
 I've tried to win this war, I confess, My hands are weary, I need Your rest  
 Mighty warrior, King of the fight, No matter what I face, You're by my side.

Refrain:

When You don't move the mountains, I'm needing You to move  
 When You don't part the waters I wish I could walk through  
 When You don't give the answers As I cry out to You  
 I will trust, I will trust  
 I will trust in You.

Truth is, You know what tomorrow brings, There's not a day ahead You have not seen  
 So in all things be my life and breath, I want what You want, Lord, and nothing less.

Refrain

You are my strength and comfort, You are my steady hand  
 You are my firm foundation, The rock on which I stand  
 Your ways are always higher, Your plans are always good  
 There's not a place where I'll go, You've not already stood.

Refrain

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**Sacrament of Communion**

To receive the gluten-free bread and the cup, come forward, take a piece of bread, and then dip the bread into the cup. It is still communion if you prefer to take only the bread. If for any reason you prefer not to come forward, please raise your hand and the officers will be glad to serve you in your pew.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** | Adapted from *The Book of Common Worship*

**O God, as we prepare to leave this place after a morning and a season of worship, we thank you and praise Your name above every other, so grateful for the ways that You have met us here. You have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us. Give us grace that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills and our works, as a continual thank-offering to You; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Charge and Blessing**

We have been fed by the presence of God in the silence, by the Word, and through communion. Please feel free to greet one another in a warm and quiet way that allows an easing out of the silence. The minister is available for prayer or conversation after the service. Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. If you would like to visit longer with other members, you are encouraged to move to the Welcome Center.

## CHURCHWIDE

**Stewardship Survey** – Please take a few minutes to complete this anonymous survey, which will help inform the church’s stewardship approach for the year. | Take the survey: [fpc.tiny.us/survey1](https://fpc.tiny.us/survey1)

## OUTREACH & ADVOCACY

**Affordable Housing Small Group Conversations**, *May 15, 22, 31 and June 11, in person and Zoom* - Learn about our city’s affordable housing crisis and share your perspective on how our church should respond. | Register: [tinyurl.com/housingsmgp](https://tinyurl.com/housingsmgp)

**EOG Proctors Needed**, *May 25 - June 9, 7:50 a.m, Westerly Hills Academy* - Volunteers needed to serve as EOG proctors. Training is required and offered by Zoom. | Sign up: [tinyurl.com/WHproctor](https://tinyurl.com/WHproctor)

## CARE

**Stephen Ministry** – We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation. If you are in a season where you need extra support, contact Anna Dickson. | Contact: [adickson@firstpres-charlotte.org](mailto:adickson@firstpres-charlotte.org)

**Pastor on call** – If you have a pastoral emergency outside of regular church hours, dial 704.927.0256 for the on-call voicemail. Your call will be returned promptly.

## ADULTS



VIRTUAL  
CONNECT  
CARD



GIVE  
ONLINE



TEXT  
TO GIVE



PRAYER  
REQUESTS