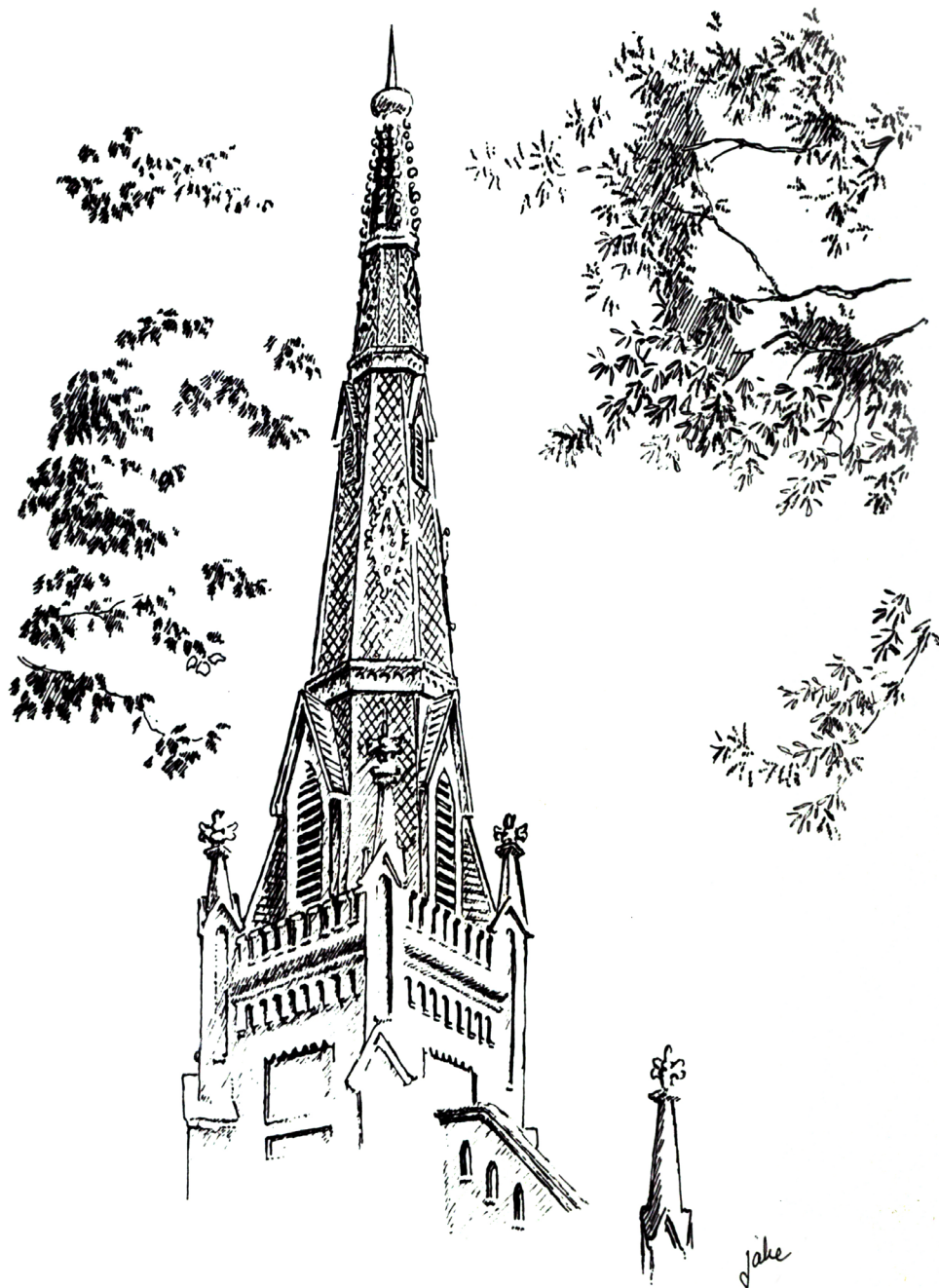


First Presbyterian Church

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP | 9 AM | NOVEMBER 26, 2023
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



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 | Silence begins in the Chapel at 8:50 a.m.

Words of Welcome | Reverend Lucy Crain

Invocation | Adapted from the Presbyterian Mission Agency

Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior, You pour out Your power for the powerless and Your salvation for the lost. Remember us in Your new kingdom, so that we may live in peace with You and with all Your created order. We trust in the redeeming and restorative presence of the Holy One, to whom be all honor and glory, through You, in the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Meditative Music | “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven” | The American Boychoir

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore His praises sing.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!

Praise Him for His grace and favor
to His people in distress.
Praise Him, still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.

Fatherlike He tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame He knows.
In His hand He gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Widely yet His mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore Him;
you behold Him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Prayer for Illumination | Scott Wallace

First Reading | Luke 1:68-79

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has looked favorably on His people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of His child David, as He spoke through the mouth of His holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered His holy covenant, the oath that He swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness in His presence all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways, to give His people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Moment of Reflection

Second Reading | Colossians 1:11-20

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from His glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in Him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He Himself is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He might come to have first place in everything. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him God was pleased to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Moment of Reflection

Meditation | “Preparing Our Hearts for Christ the King”

Moment of Reflection

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession |

Gracious and Loving God, as we begin to prepare our hearts for the season of Advent, help us to remember the great love that You have for all Your creation that allowed Your Son, the great King of heaven, to take on flesh and dwell among us as a humble child. Forgive us when we lack humility, when we consider ourselves higher than we ought, and place our own needs above the needs of others. Allow us to follow the model of our servant leader that Christ personified despite His ultimate lordship. Uplift us by the power of Your Spirit, and encourage us to be part of the light that is coming into the world, trusting that the darkness cannot overcome it. We lift to You these prayers, and more from our hearts, in the silence.

Moment of Reflection

O Lord, we ask that You forgive what we have been and done, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. We receive Your forgiveness with grateful hearts, and we commit to the work of extending it to others. Amen.

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 Table

Meditative Music | “Crown Him with Many Crowns” | Oasis Chorale

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
and hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love; behold His hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified;
no angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends His burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways,
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise,
His reign shall know no end, and round His pierced feet,
fair flowers of glory now extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown Him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! for Thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity. Amen.

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. Please do not drink out of the cup directly. 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

Sovereign God, ruler of all creation, thank you for sending Jesus Christ our Lord to bring reconciliation to the world and to testify to the truth: that You alone are the Lord of life. Help us to listen always to Christ’s voice so that we may proclaim His realm of justice, peace, and endless love; through the power of the triune God, who reigns forever. 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 invited to gather in the Welcome Center.



VIRTUAL
CONNECT
CARD



PRAYER
REQUESTS



ANNOUNCEMENT
LINKS



TEXT
TO GIVE



GIVE
ONLINE