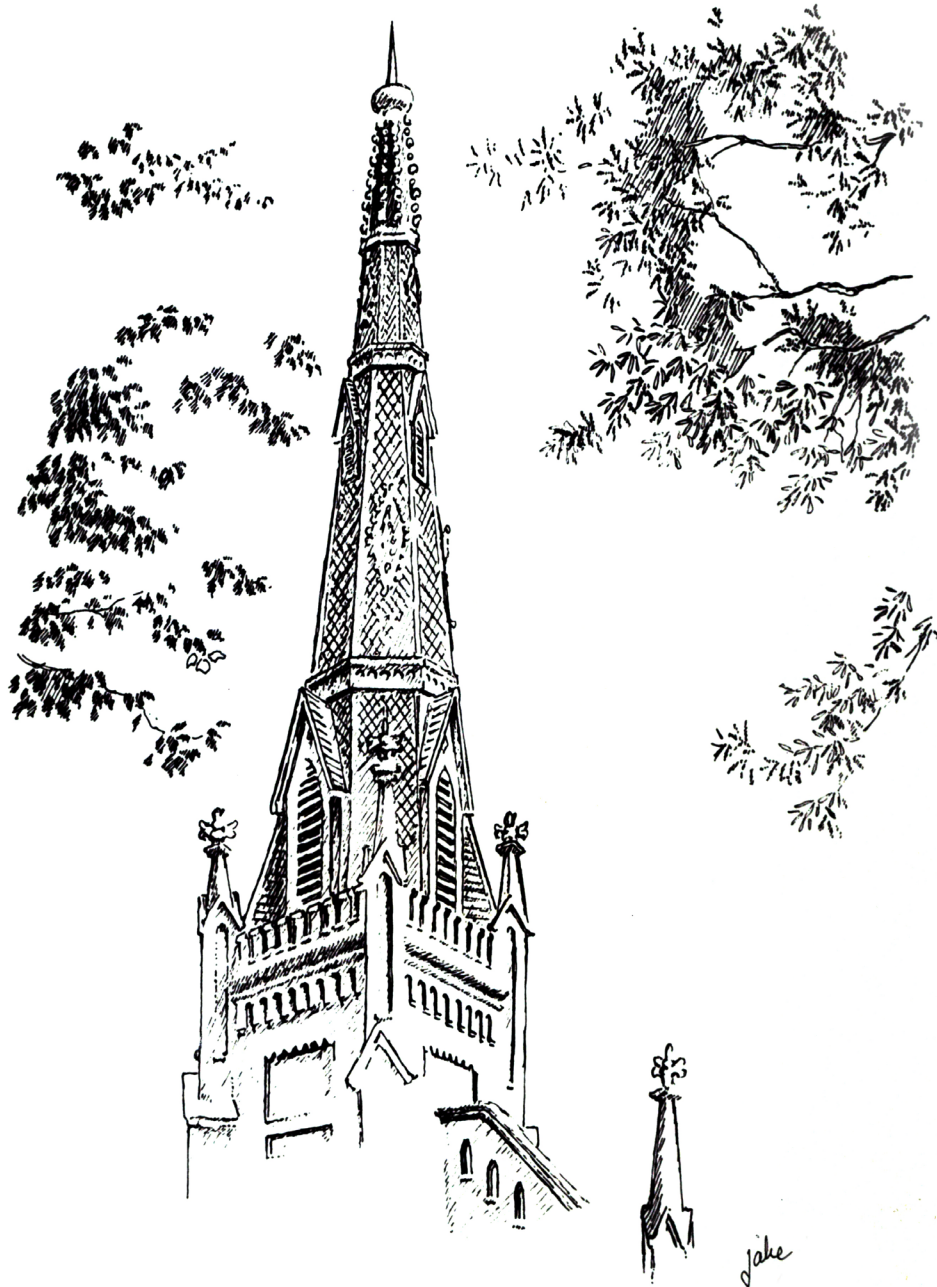


First Presbyterian Church

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP | 9 AM | MAY 12, 2024
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 | Silence begins in the Chapel at 8:50 a.m.

Words of Welcome | Reverend Mary Bowman

Invocation | Desiderius Erasmus

O Lord Jesus Christ,
the Way, the Truth, and the Life:
Do not let us stray from You, the Way;
nor to distrust You, the Truth;
nor to rest in anything other than You, the Life.
Teach us by Your Holy Spirit, what to believe, what to do, and where to take our rest. Amen.

Meditative Music | O Christ, Surround Me | Richard Bruxvoort Colligan and the River's Voice

God be the love to search and keep me
God be the prayer to move my voice;
God be the strength to now uphold me
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Bind to myself the name of Holy
Great cloud of witnesses enfold;
Prophets, apostles, angels witness
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight
Flashing of lightning, strength of wind;
Depth of the sea to soil of planet
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Walking behind to hem my journey
Going ahead to light my way;
And from beneath, above, and all ways
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Christ in the eyes of all who see me
Christ in the ears that hear my voice;
Christ in the hearts of all who know me
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Prayer for Illumination | Selina Malherbe

Old Testament Readings | A Collection from the Psalms and the Prophets

I will instruct you and teach you the **way** you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. (Psalm 32:8)

And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the **way**; walk in it." (Isaiah 30:21)

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy **Way**; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. (Isaiah 35:8)

Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who leads you in the **way** you should go. (Isaiah 48:17)

Teach me Your **way**, O Lord, that I may walk in Your **truth**; give me an undivided heart to revere Your name. (Psalm 86:11)

Lead me in Your **truth** and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all day long. (Psalm 25:5)

By day the Lord commands His steadfast love, and at night God's song is with me, a prayer to the God of my **life**. (Psalm 42:8)

You show me the path of **life**. In Your presence there is fullness of joy; in Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:11)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading | John 14:1-7

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to Thomas, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Moment of Reflection

Meditation | "Images of Jesus: I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life"

Moment of Reflection

Prayer of Confession

We come this day, naming both the hurt that we have felt inflicted upon ourselves and the hurt that we have inflicted upon others. Lord, we long to be more loving. Help us to forgive where we have been hurt and help us to seek forgiveness for the pain we have caused. Show us the way to be free of what has been and to walk in love. Show us the truth about ourselves and others and help us heal. Grant us freedom from the past and new life with You and others. Free us from our ways, our truths, and our lives so we might be anchored anew in You.

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 | The Call | Ralph Vaughan Williams | Apollo5

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:

Such a Way, as gives us breath:

Such a Truth, as ends all strife:

Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:

Such a Light, as shows a feast:

Such a Feast, as mends in length:

Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:

Such a Joy, as none can move:

Such a Love, as none can part:

Such a Heart, as joys in love.

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/Sabbath Blessing | Adapted from Pete Greig

May this day bring Sabbath rest to our hearts and our homes.

May God's image in us be restored and our imaginations in God be re-stored.

May the gravity of material things be lightened and the relativity of time slow down.

May we know grace to embrace our own finite smallness in the arms of God's infinite greatness.

May we have eyes to see those around us as sisters and brothers in our human family.

May God's words feed us and His Spirit lead us into the week and into the life to come.

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**