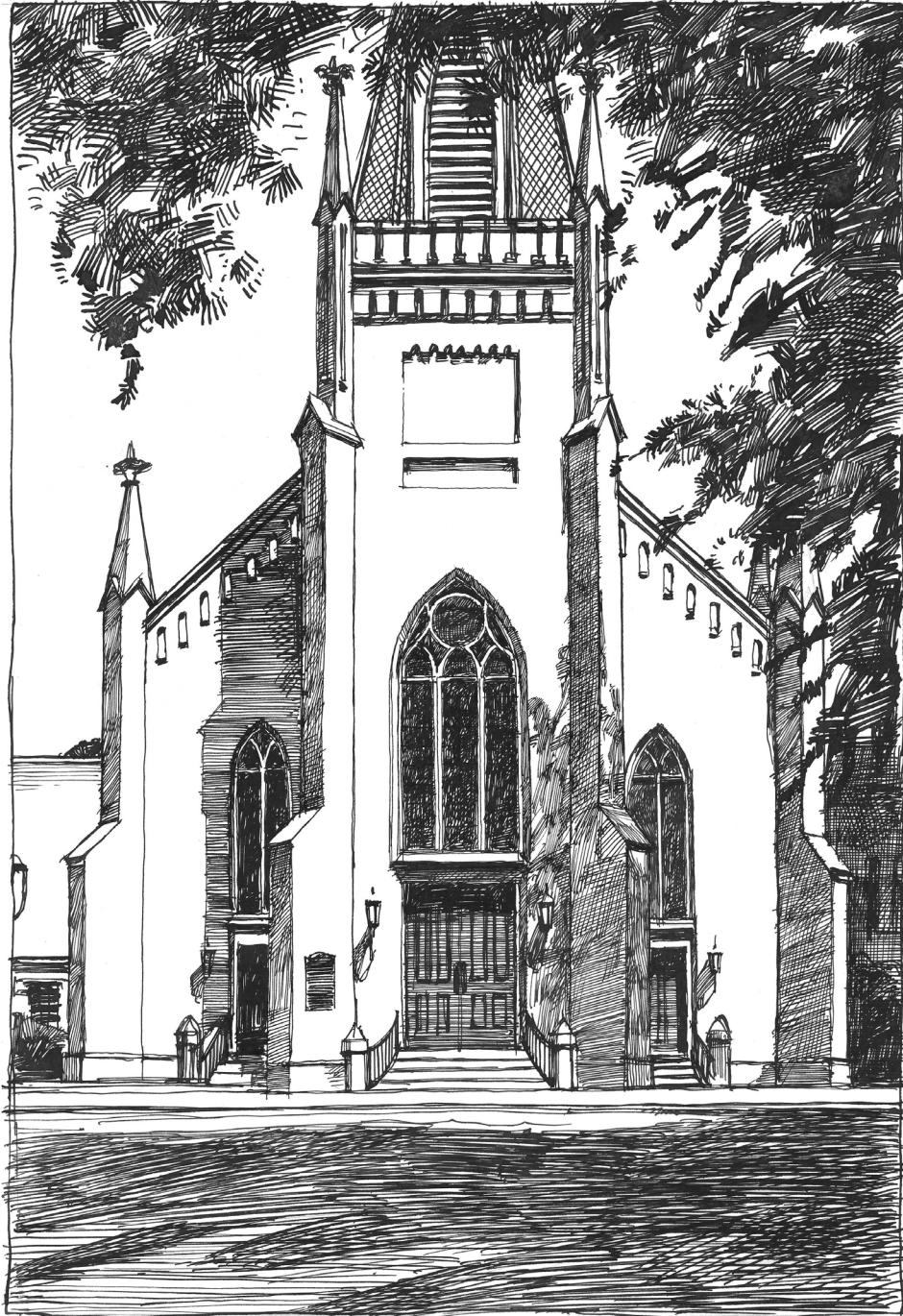


# First Presbyterian Church

11 AM WORSHIP | JULY 20, 2025 | SIXTH 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



Are you interested in joining our church?  
Contact Jane Ives, Membership Coordinator, [jives@firstpres-charlotte.org](mailto:jives@firstpres-charlotte.org).

**PREPARATION**

**Prelude** | Tuba Tune in D Major | C. S. Lang

**Words of Welcome** | Lucy Crain

**Chiming of the Trinity**

**ADORATION**

**Choral Call to Worship** | Hal Hopson

*O be ye joyful in the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before his presence with a song.*

+**Hymn No. 307** | “God of Grace and God of Glory” | CWM RHONDDA

**CONFESION**

**Call to Confession** | Rob Spach

**Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, we will be honest: this is really hard. We’re losing patience, we’re losing hope, and at times we’re losing our grip on faith. We’re caught between the selfishness of wanting to do what is best for ourselves and wanting to be helpful and generous to others. Please let us look to you and one another for courage when we get scared or discouraged. Remind us every day of your sovereign power and your extravagant love. Encourage our hearts so we can be your faithful disciples in the living of these days.

**Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, believe the good news.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

+**Response to Pardon** | Hymn No. 581 | GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

*Children ages three through first grade may leave for First Church. They will return to the sanctuary during the last hymn. Older children are encouraged to stay and worship with their families.*

**PROCLAMATION**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture** | Esther 4: 1-17 | pew Bible p. 446

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** | “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” | arr. Dan Forrest | Kelly Harder, soloist

*The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never. I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever. Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth. And where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me, and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing brought me. And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.*

**Sermon** | “Her Perspective: Esther” | Lucy Crain

+**Hymn No. 39** | “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” | FAITHFULNESS

---

## RESPONSE

+**Affirmation of Faith** | from the *Confession of Belhar* | Mary Bowman

We believe that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people. God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor, and the wronged. God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right. The church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need. The church must strive against any form of injustice so that justice may roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. The church, as the possession of God, must stand where the Lord stands. In following Christ, the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others. We believe that, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head, the church is called to confess and to do all these things, even though the authorities and human laws might forbid them and punishment and suffering be the consequence. Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

## 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.

PRAYER  
REQUESTS



## Stewardship of Life | Presentation of Tithes and Offering

GIVE  
ONLINE

**Offertory Anthem** | “Just As I Am” | arr. Howard Helvey



*Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou biddest me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come. Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come. Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down; now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come.*

+**Doxology** | OLD HUNDRETH

TEXT  
TO GIVE

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.



+**Prayer of Dedication**

---

## SENDING FORTH

+**Hymn No. 686** | “God of Our Life” | SANDON

+**Benediction**

+**Benediction Response** | “Amen” | John Rutter

**Postlude** | Sortie | César Franck

## ABOUT THIS SERVICE

---

The rosebud in the Sanctuary celebrates the birth of Callum Frederic High, son of Meredith and Cory High, on July 12, 2025.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Dennis and Diane Carey.

*If you wish to sponsor sanctuary flowers for a baptism, marriage, memorial/honorarium, or special occasion, please notify Diane Maye at [dianenmaye@hotmail.com](mailto:dianenmaye@hotmail.com).*

Today's Worship Leaders:

**The Reverend Lucy M. Crain**, Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission

**The Reverend Mary Bowman**, Parish Associate

**The Reverend Robert Spach**, Parish Associate

**Kaitlyn Davros**, Assistant Director of Music Ministries

**David Dennis**, Guest Musician