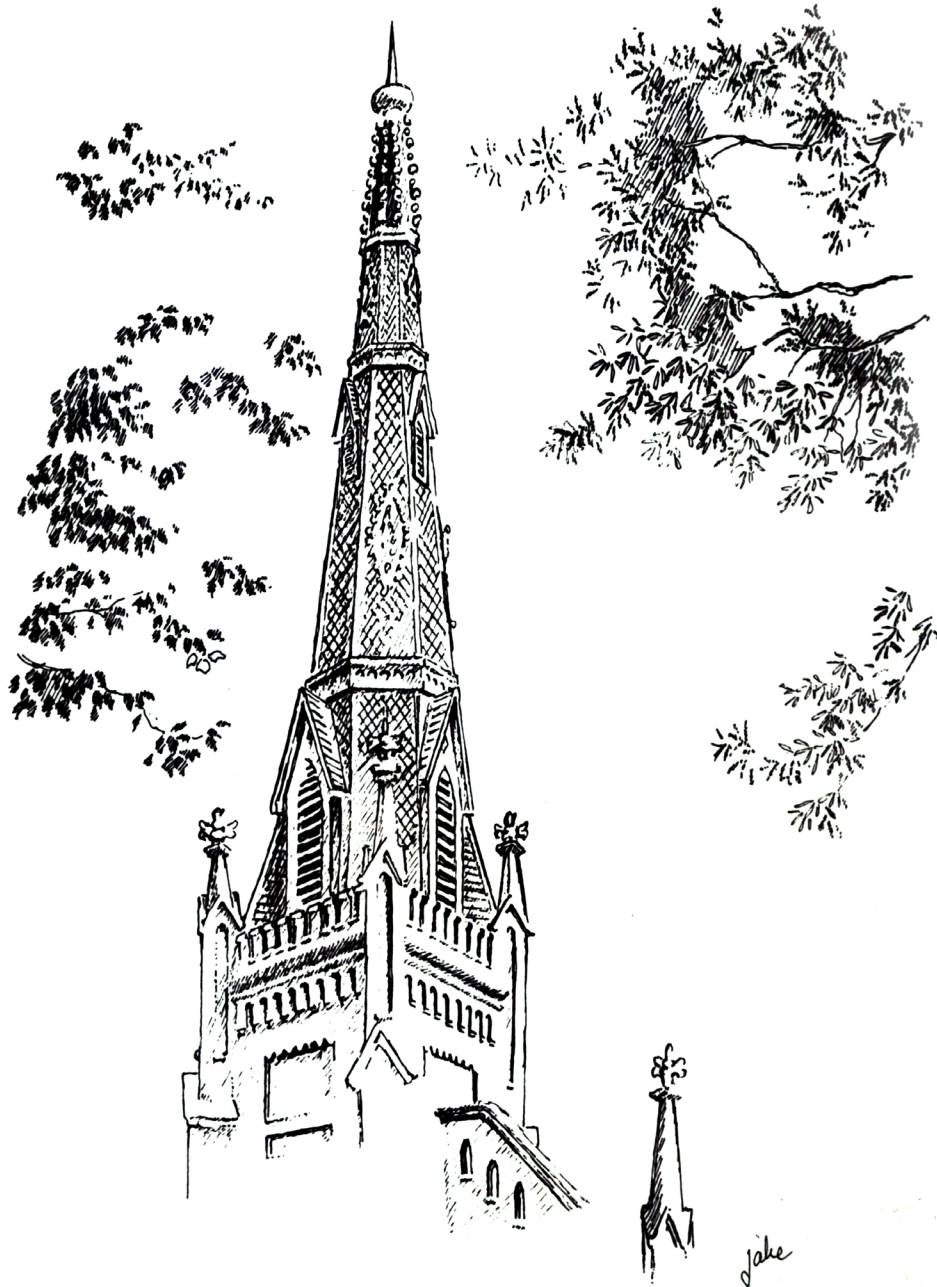


First Presbyterian Church

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP | 9 AM | NOVEMBER 2, 2025
TWENTY-FIRST 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

“Attention is our endless and proper work . . . attention is the beginning of devotion. This is the first, the wildest and the wisest thing I know: that the soul exists and is built entirely out of attentiveness.” - Mary Oliver

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

Words of Welcome | Mary Bowman

Opening Prayer | Adapted from Christ Church London Sabbath Prayer

O Lord our God, King of the Universe, we praise you for the gift of Sabbath rest and the way it points us back to you, the One who knows us better than we know ourselves.

We make the choice to enter into your rest and to join with you in delighting in this good world you have made and are re-making. We are grateful for this worship space in which we can practice Sabbath. Thank you for creating a threshold in which demands, deadlines, and distractions can fall away. Thank you for reminding us that our worth does not come from performance and productivity, but simply because we belong to you.

We make the choice to open ourselves anew to you as the one who defines and shapes our identities.

We choose to hear your affirmation and love over other voices, to celebrate the freedom you offer, and to enjoy that which fills our souls with joy and reminds us of our identity in Christ, as a deeply loved child of God.

Moment of Reflective Prayer

O God, uphold us and care for us.

O Christ, heal us and forgive us.

O Spirit, enliven us and guide us. Amen.

Meditative Music | “Look At The World” | The Cambridge Singers | John Rutter

Look at the world; Everything all around us
Look at the world; And marvel every day
Look at the world; So many joys and wonders
So many miracles; Along our way.

Refrain

Praise to thee O Lord for all creation
Give us thankful hearts that we may see
All the gifts we share and every blessing
All things come of Thee.

Look at the earth; Bringing forth fruit and flowers
Look at the sky; The sunshine and the rain
Look at the hills; Look at the trees and mountains
Valley and flowing river; Field and plain.

Refrain

Think of the spring; Think of the warmth of summer
Bringing the harvest; Before the winter's cold
Everything grows; Everything has a season
‘Til it is gathered to the Father's fold.

Refrain

Every good gift; All that we need and cherish
Comes from the Lord; In token of His love
We are His hands; Stewards of all His bounty
His is the earth and His the heavens above.

Prayer for Illumination | Susan Krebs

Old Testament Reading | Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading | John 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Moment of Reflection

Meditation | "Cultivating Noticing" | Mary Bowman

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 Table

Meditative Music | "Open Thou Mine Eyes" | Eclipse 6

Open Thou mine eyes and I shall see;
Incline my heart and I shall desire;
Order my steps and I shall walk
In the ways of Thy commandments.

Repeat

O Lord God, be Thou to me a God
And beside Thee let there be none else,
No other, naught else with Thee.
Vouchsafe to me to worship Thee and serve Thee
According to Thy commandments
In truth of spirit, In reverence of body,
In blessings of lips, In private and in public.

Refrain repeated

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

All are welcome to participate in 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.

Sabbath Prayer | 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-storied. 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 God's 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.

IN LOVING MEMORY

The sympathy of the congregation is expressed to Dana Wilson upon the death of her mother, Carolyn Moree, on October 25; and to Lili Teigland upon the death of her mother, Lillian "Dee Dee" Lineberger McKay, on October 25, 2025.

This service is now available via livestream. You can access the recording of the service or an audio or written version of the sermon at: <https://firstpres-charlotte.org/sermons/>



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