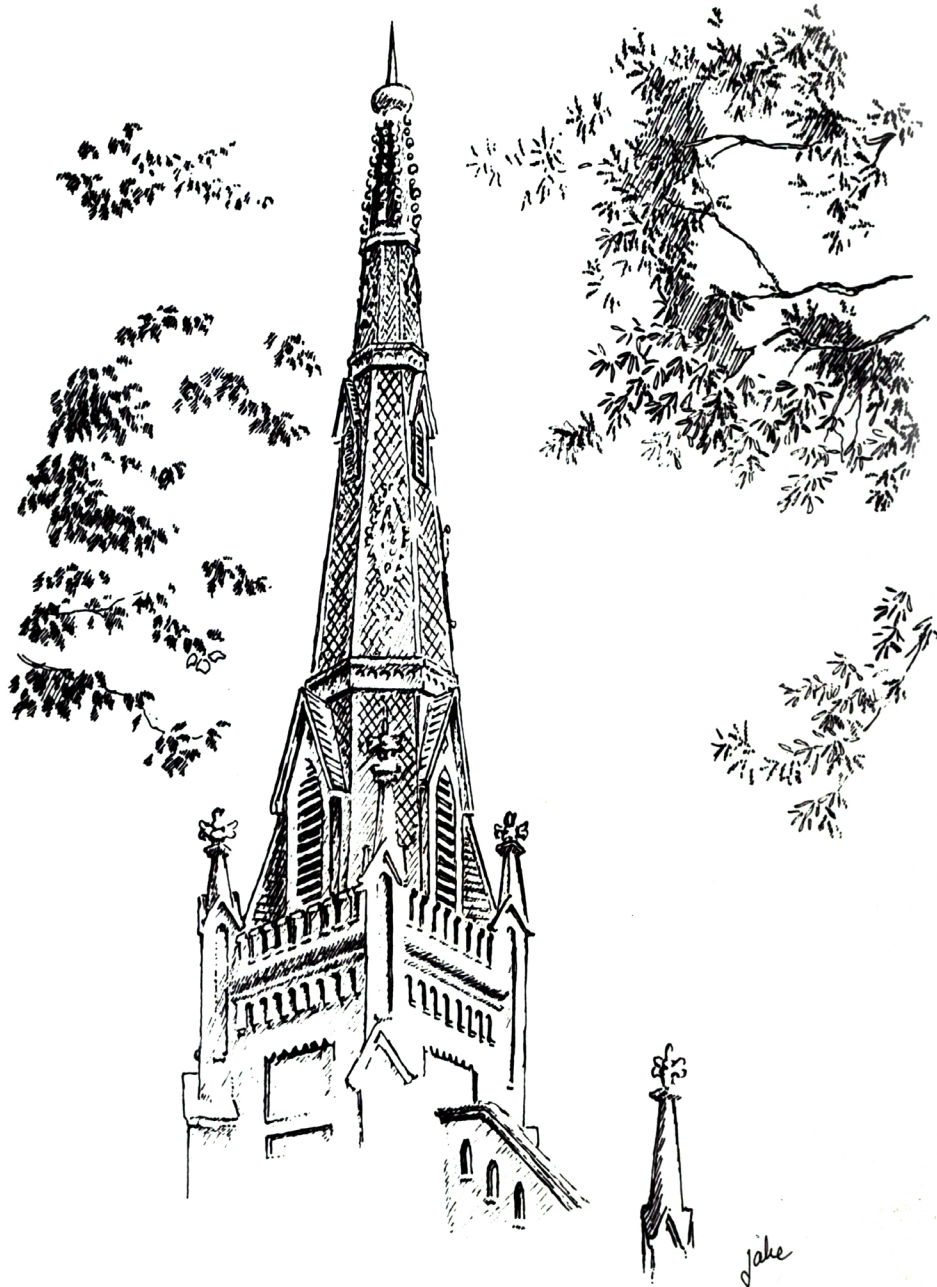


First Presbyterian Church

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP | 9 AM | OCTOBER 12, 2025
EIGHTEENTH 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

*“The Sabbath is the most precious present mankind has received from the treasure house of God”
– Abraham Joshua Heschel*

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

Words of Welcome | Mary Bowman

Opening Prayer

Gracious and Holy God, Thank you for the gift of today and for all of the gifts that you have bestowed upon us throughout our lives! We are grateful for the gift of communal worship, and as we draw near to you, we ask that you draw near to us.

As we begin our worship, we open ourselves anew to you so that we may be reminded that you are with us and for us.

We are sorry for the ways that we have sinned against you and those around us. 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.

As we open ourselves to you, we pause to name the things that are distracting us . . . our sins, our hurts, our fears, our jobs, our griefs, our insecurities, our concerns. In this time of prayer, help us to name these things and offer them to you so we may be free to worship and to enjoy your presence.

Moment of Reflective Prayer

Thank you for your mercy, O God.

Thank you for your forgiveness, O Christ.

Thank you for your guidance, O Spirit. Amen.

Meditative Music | “I Am for You” | Meek Squad

I Am the Bread of Life.

When you're hungry, I will feed you.

I Am the Bread of Life.

When you're hungry, I will fill you.

I Am for you, I Am for you, I Am for you, I Am for you.

I Am the Light of the World.

In the darkness, I am shining.

I Am the Light of the World.

In the darkness, I will lead you.

I Am for you, I Am for you, I Am for you, I Am for you.

I Am the Good, Good Shepherd.

From your fears, I will protect you.

I Am the Good, Good Shepherd.

When you wander, I will seek you.

I Am for you, I Am for you, I Am for you, I Am for you.

I Am. Oh, I Am. Oh, I Am. Oh, I Am. I Am.

Prayer for Illumination | Addison Ayer

Old Testament Reading | Exodus 20:8-11 | Adapted from The Message

Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Work six days and do everything you need to do. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to God, your God. Don't do any work—not you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your servant, nor your maid, nor your animals, not even the foreign guest visiting in your town. For in six days God made Heaven, Earth, and sea, and everything in them; God rested on the seventh day. Therefore God blessed the Sabbath day; God set it apart as a holy day.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading | Mark 2:23-28 | Adapted from J.B. Phillips New Testament | Scott Wallace

One day Jesus happened to be going through the cornfields on the Sabbath day. And his disciples, as they made their way along, began to pick the ears of corn. The Pharisees said to Jesus, "Look at that! Why should they do what is forbidden on the Sabbath day?"

Then Jesus spoke to the Pharisees. "Have you never read what David did, when he and his companions were hungry? Haven't you read how he went into the house of God when Abiathar was High Priest, and ate the presentation loaves, which nobody is allowed to eat, except the priests—and gave some of the bread to his companions? The Sabbath," Jesus continued, "was made for humankind's sake; humankind was not made for the sake of the Sabbath. That is why the Son of Man is master even of the Sabbath."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Moment of Reflection

Meditation | "How Do We Understand Sabbath?" | 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 | "Did You Know?" | Bernadette Farrell

Did you know Someone's watching over you?
Did you know Someone's watching over you?
Through the day, through the night, in the dark, in the light.

Did you know Someone's watching over you?
Did you know there's a Power in your soul?
Did you know there's a Power in your soul?
Through the day, through the night, in the dark, in the light.
Did you know there's a Power in your soul?

Did you know there's a Peace that never ends?
Did you know there's a Peace that never ends?
Through the day, through the night, in the dark, in the light.
Did you know there's a Peace that never ends?

Did you know Someone's watching over you?
Did you know Someone's watching over you?
Through the day, through the night, in the dark, in the light.
Did you know Someone's watching over you?

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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving | 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 Leslie Sebo upon the death of her mother, Lois Murray, on September 26.

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/>



VIRTUAL
CONNECT
CARD



PRAYER
REQUESTS



TEXT
TO GIVE



GIVE
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