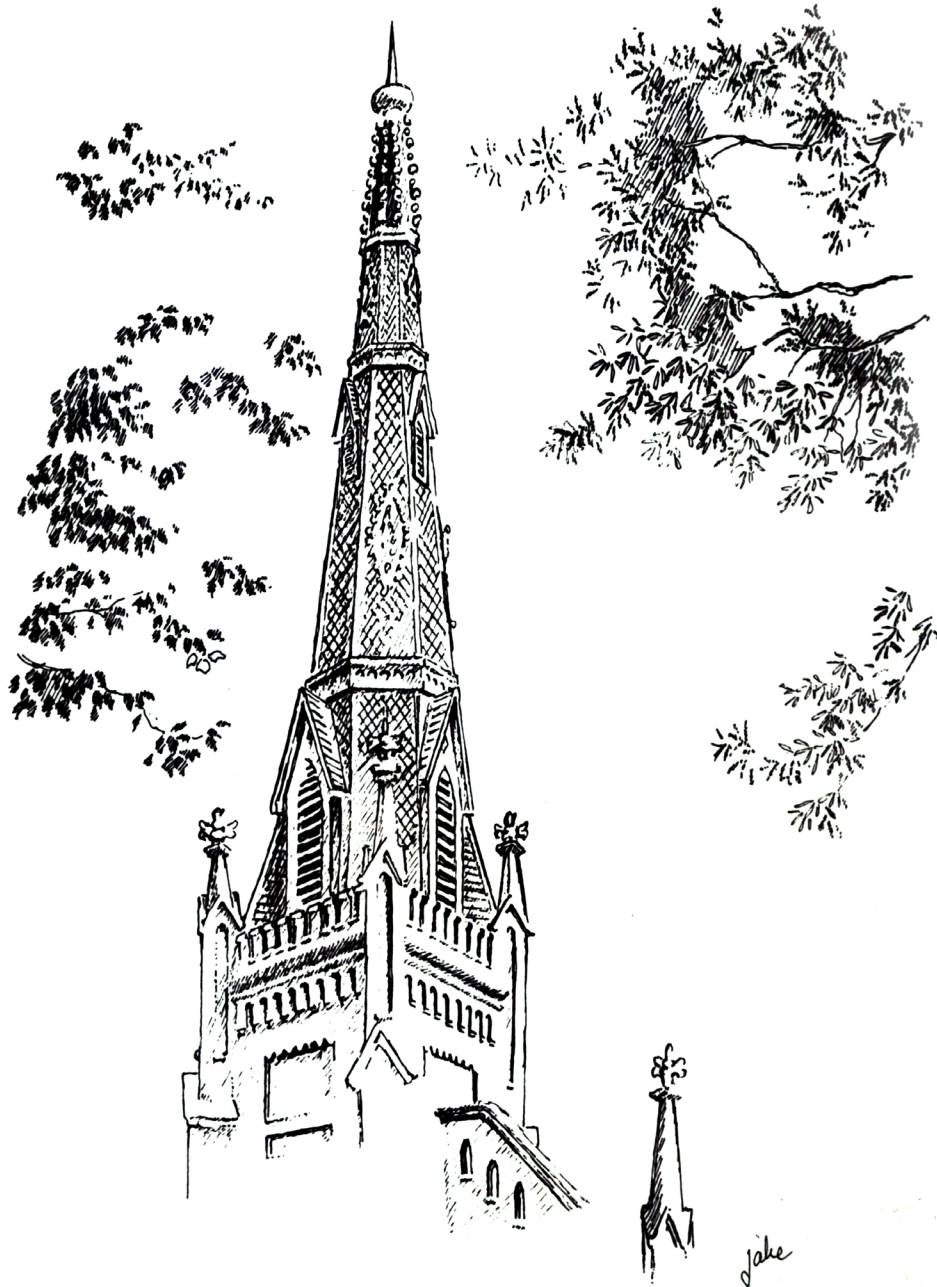


First Presbyterian Church

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP | 9 AM | OCTOBER 19, 2025
NINETEENTH 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 | 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 | "Let the Words" | Eclipse6

Let the words of my mouth
Bring Thee praise
Let the words that I speak
Be seasoned with Thy love and grace
May the things, O Lord, that I choose to say
Bring glory, not shame, to Your name each day
Let the words of my mouth
Bring Thee praise.
Let the works of my hands
Bring Thee praise
Be what Thy Son would do
If He were to take my place
May my works be part of Thy grand design
As I humbly surrender my will to Thine
Let the works of my hands
Bring Thee praise.
Let the course of my life
Lead to Thee
Make the Savior's example
A pathway unto my feet
Help me weather the storms of this life and then
Find my way back to my home again
Let the course of my life
Lead me to Thee.

Prayer for Illumination | Elise Barksdale

Old Testament Reading | Deuteronomy 5:12-15 (NET)

"Be careful to observe the Sabbath day just as the Lord your God has commanded you. You are to work and do all your tasks in six days, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. On that day you must not do any work, you,

your son, your daughter, your male slave, your female slave, your ox, your donkey, any other animal, or the resident foreigner who lives with you, so that your male and female slaves, like yourself, may have rest. Recall that you were slaves in the land of Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there by strength and power. That is why the Lord your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading | Luke 10:38-42 (NRSVUE) | Selina Malherbe

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Moment of Reflection

Meditation | "Cultivating Freedom from Taskmasters" | 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 | "Trust in You" | Praise and Harmony Singers

Letting go of every single dream, I lay each one down at Your feet
 Every moment of my wandering Never changes what You see
 I've tried to win this war, I confess, My hands are weary, I need Your rest
 Mighty warrior, King of the fight, No matter what I face, You're by my side.

Refrain:

When You don't move the mountains, I'm needing You to move
 When You don't part the waters I wish I could walk through
 When You don't give the answers As I cry out to You
 I will trust, I will trust
 I will trust in You.

Truth is, You know what tomorrow brings, There's not a day ahead You have not seen
 So in all things be my life and breath, I want what You want, Lord, and nothing less.

Refrain

You are my strength and comfort, You are my steady hand
 You are my firm foundation, The rock on which I stand
 Your ways are always higher, Your plans are always good
 There's not a place where I'll go, You've not already stood.

Refrain

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

Doris Daughtry Parker, February 9, 1934 - October 10, 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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