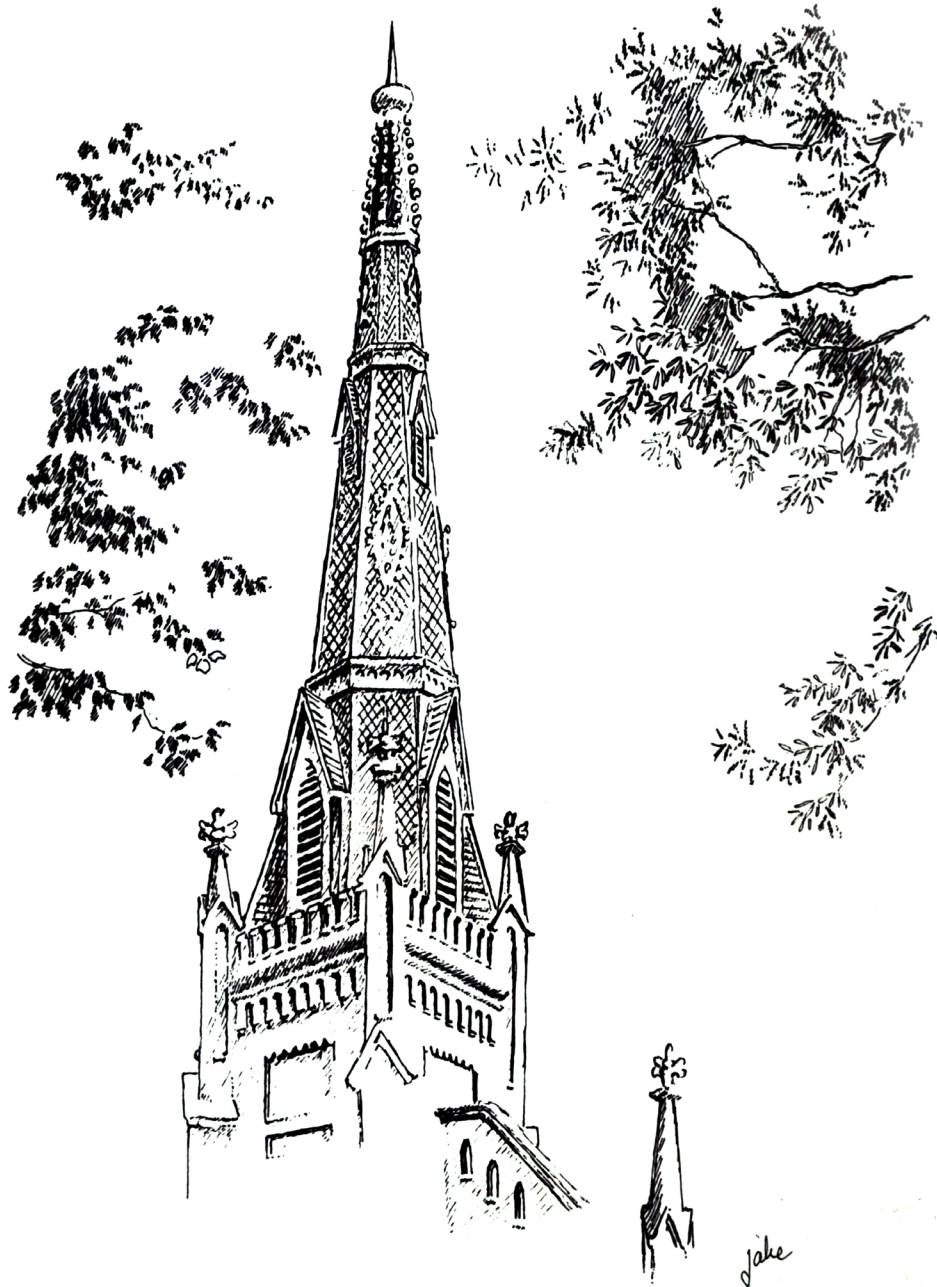


# First Presbyterian Church

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP | 9 AM | OCTOBER 26, 2025  
TWENTIETH 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** | Lucy Crain

**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** | "All Creatures of Our God and King" | BYU Vocal Point

All creatures of our God and King; Lift up your voice and with us sing; Alleluia, alleluia; Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Thou flowing water pure and clear; Make music for thy Lord to hear; Alleluia, alleluia.  
Thou fire so masterful and bright; That gives to men both warmth and light; Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Oh, praise Him alleluia.

Dear mother earth who day by day; Unfolds His blessings on our way; Alleluia, alleluia.  
Thou flowers and fruit that in Thee grow; Let them His glory also show; Alleluia, alleluia; Oh, praise Him alleluia, alleluia.  
Thou rushing wind that art so strong; Ye clouds that sail in heaven along, Alleluia, alleluia.  
Thou rising morn in praise rejoice; Ye light of evening find a voice; Alleluia, alleluia; Oh, praise Him alleluia.

**Prayer for Illumination** | Scott Wallace

**Old Testament Reading** | Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.  
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.  
The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice; the earth melts.  
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.  
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.  
"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth."  
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**New Testament Reading** | Matthew 11:28-30 (The Message)

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Moment of Reflection**

**Meditation** | "Cultivating a Sabbath Mindset" | Lucy Crain

**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** | "Spirit of the Living God" | The American Boychoir & Stephen Curtis Chapman

Spirit of the Living God; Fall afresh on me,  
Spirit of the Living God; Fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the Living God; Fall afresh on me.

**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

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The sympathy of the congregation is expressed to Gloria Clark upon the death of her mother, Barbara Brooks.

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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REQUESTS**



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TO GIVE**



**GIVE  
ONLINE**