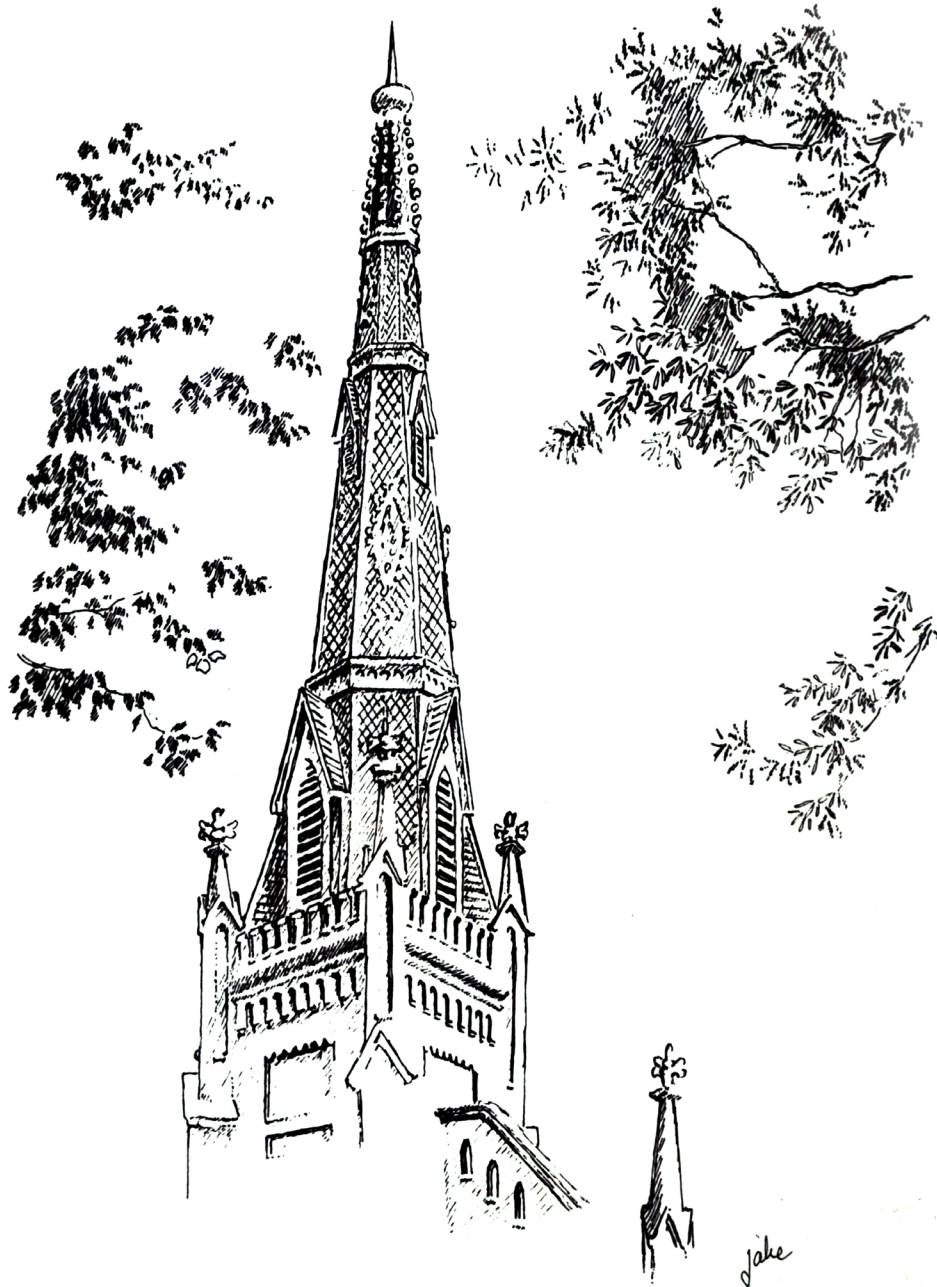


First Presbyterian Church

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP | 9 AM | NOVEMBER 23, 2025
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY



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

“Deep silence leads us to realize that prayer is, above all, acceptance. When we pray, we are standing with our hands open to the world. We know that God will become known to us in the nature around us, in people we meet, and in situations we run into. We trust that the world holds God’s secret within and we expect that secret to be shown to us.

Prayer creates that openness in which God is given to us.”

-Henri Nouwen

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

Words of Welcome | Reverend Mary Margaret Porter

Opening Prayer | Adapted from *Morning Prayers (First Prayer of St. Basil)*

**O Lord our God, who hast given us rest by sleep for the relief of our weakness,
and hast illumined the day with the light of the sun,
grant that we may use this day without sin;
strengthen us to fulfill Your holy commandments,
that we may be found pleasing in Your sight in all we do and say.**

Moment of Reflective Prayer

**For You are our light and our life, O Lord Jesus Christ,
and to You we give glory,
with the Father who sent You,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells within us,
now and forever. Amen.**

Meditative Music | “A Living Prayer” | Alison Krauss

In this world, I walk alone; With no place to call my home;
But there’s One who holds my hand; The rugged road through barren lands.
The way is dark, the road is steep; but He’s become my eyes to see.
The strength to climb, my griefs to bear; the Savior lives inside me there.

In your love, I find release; a haven from my unbelief.
Take my life and let me be; a living prayer, my God to Thee.

In these trials of life, I find; another voice inside my mind.
He comforts me and bids me live; inside the love the Father gives.

In your love, I find release; a haven from my unbelief.
Take my life and let me be; a living prayer, my God to Thee.
Take my life and let me be; a living prayer, my God to Thee.

Prayer for Illumination | Selina Malherbe

Old Testament Reading | Jeremiah 29:10-14

This is what the Lord says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading | Romans 12:9-21 | Thold Gill

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one

another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly;[b] do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Moment of Reflection

Meditation | "Cultivating Prayer" | Mary Margaret Porter

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 | Reverend Mary Bowman

Meditative Music | "The Call" | Apollo5

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life;
Such a Way, as gives us breath;
Such a Truth, as ends all strife;
Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength;
Such a Light, as shows a feast;
Such a Feast, as mends in length;
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart;
Such a Joy, as none can move;
Such a Love, as none can part;
Such a Heart, as joys in love.

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 | from *St. Basil - Prayer for Steadfastness*

O Lord our God, give us a steadfast heart that we may ever call upon Your holy Name. Grant that we may begin and end each day in prayer, that no hour may find us far from You. Establish us in the practice of good works and the constancy of prayer, that we may walk in the light of Your commandments. 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.

Sabbath is ...

Sabbath is blessed.
 Sabbath makes us blessed.
 Sabbath is holy.
 Sabbath makes us holy.
 Sabbath is a command.
 Sabbath is a gift.
 Sabbath is a law woven into the fabric of creation by the Creator.
 Sabbath is an invitation.
 Sabbath is a twenty-four unit of time.
 Sabbath is practicing eternity in time.
 Sabbath is a day.
 Sabbath is a way of being.
 Sabbath is rhythm.
 Sabbath is resistance.
 Sabbath means we don't have to hurry because there is nothing we have to do.
 Sabbath means that "it is finished."
 Sabbath means that we work from love, not for love.
 Sabbath means we can rest because we are no longer slaves.
 Sabbath means we must never become slaver drivers.
 Sabbath means that we do not need to ask because we lack nothing.
 Sabbath means that we do not need to buy because we lack nothing.
 Sabbath means that we do not need to want because we lack nothing.
 Sabbath means that we do not need to complain because we lack nothing.
 Sabbath breaks our addiction to the twin gods of accomplishment and accumulation.
 Sabbath says that we are not what we do, what we have, or what others think of us.

Sabbath says we are who we are loved by.
 Sabbath must be prepared for.
 Sabbath must be sacrificed for.
 Sabbath must be remembered.
 Sabbath must be observed – guarded, protected, watched over.
 Sabbath puts a wall around beauty and goodness.
 Sabbath brings maturity and health.
 Sabbath brings healing and deliverance.
 Sabbath is not a denial of pain, but a determination to move through pain into joy.
 Sabbath is embracing our limits and accepting our finitude.
 Sabbath shatters the illusion of control.
 Sabbath reminds us that the Lord is our shepherd. Someone else is caring for us.
 Sabbath says the world will get along just fine without us for a while.
 Sabbath says someone else is running the universe, and he is a good king.
 Sabbath is for quiet and solitude.
 Sabbath is for celebration and community.
 Sabbath is a day to delight in the goodness of the world.
 Sabbath is a day to delight in goodness of our life in the world.
 Sabbath is a day to delight in God.
 Sabbath is a day for worship. To orient and reorient all we are back to God.
 Sabbath is for God.
 Sabbath is a signpost in time.
 Sabbath points backward to Eden.
 Sabbath points forward to the New Jerusalem.
 Sabbath is a taste of heaven on earth.
 Sabbath is where God is taking his people to live forever.

– Christian Dawson and John Mark Comer

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
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CARD**



**PRAYER
REQUESTS**



**TEXT
TO GIVE**



**GIVE
ONLINE**