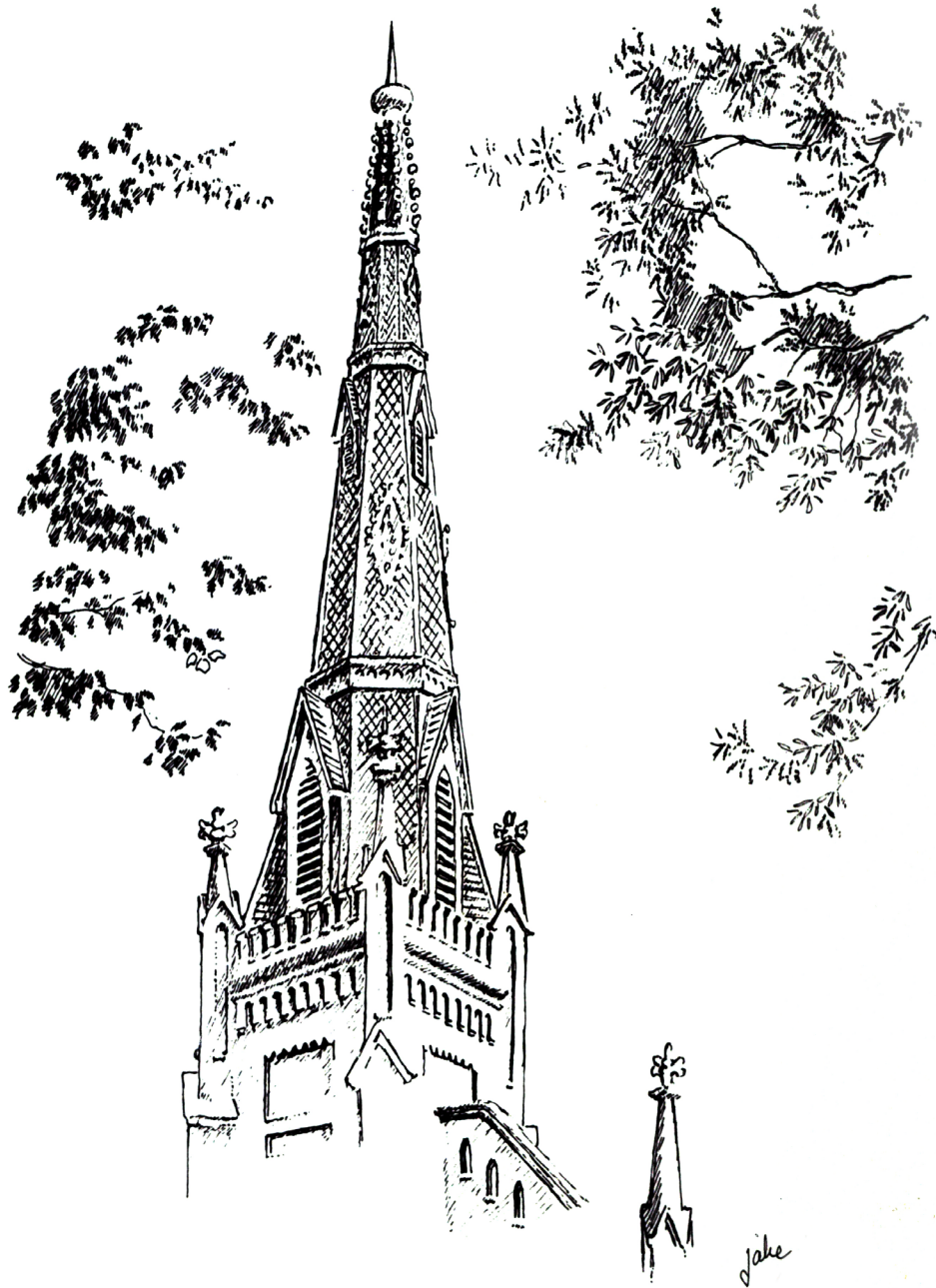


# First Presbyterian Church

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP | 9 AM | NOVEMBER 30, 2025  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



*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

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

**Words of Welcome** | Reverend Rob Spach

**Opening Prayer**

Gracious God, as we enter this season of Advent, we thank you for the gifts of darkness and light, hunger and fullness, longing and contentment. Help us to make time for quiet in the midst of the coming hurry, so that we may hear your eternal Word. Help us to move from scatteredness to stillness, so that we may sense your gentle hand upholding and guiding us. And nurture in us, by the power of your Holy Spirit, an abiding hope in Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us.

**Moment of Reflective Prayer**

Keep us ever mindful that we are your people, made in your image.  
May we ever give thanks to you and bless your holy name!  
O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever,  
and your faithfulness to all generations, even our own. Amen.

**Meditative Music** | "O Come, Emmanuel" | Robert Shaw and the Robert Shaw Chamber Singers

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appears  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer, Our spirits by Thine advent here,  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.

**Prayer for Illumination** | Claire Tate

**Old Testament Reading** | Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**New Testament Reading** | Romans 15:5 - 6, 13 | Elise Barksdale

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ... May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Moment of Reflection**

**Meditation** | "Nourishing Seeds of Hope" | Rob Spach

**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 Chuck Williamson

## Meditative Music | "Morning Softly Awakens" | The Monks of Weston Priory

Morning ... morning ... morning ... morning

Morning softly awakens,

All our deepest longings to be reborn.

When in a certain still moment,

Gifting us his presence, Jesus is born.

*Refrain*

Into the desert of our lives

Bringing truth and freedom God comes to us.

You are the chosen of Yahweh,

And we find such gladness in knowing You.

*Refrain*

Sing now a new song to Yahweh,

Let the trumpets welcome this very new day.

*Refrain*

Morning softly awakens,

All our deepest longings to be reborn,

To be reborn.

Morning ... morning ... morning ... morning

## 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

**Lord Christ, we know that faith, hope, and love are all gifts that flow from your heart to ours. Guide us today as we go forth from this space, that we may be instruments of your reign of justice and righteousness in our communities. Instill in us, by your Holy Spirit, the courage and vision we need, so that we may bear your message of hope to your often wounded but ever beautiful world. In your holy name we pray. 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.

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  
ONLINE**