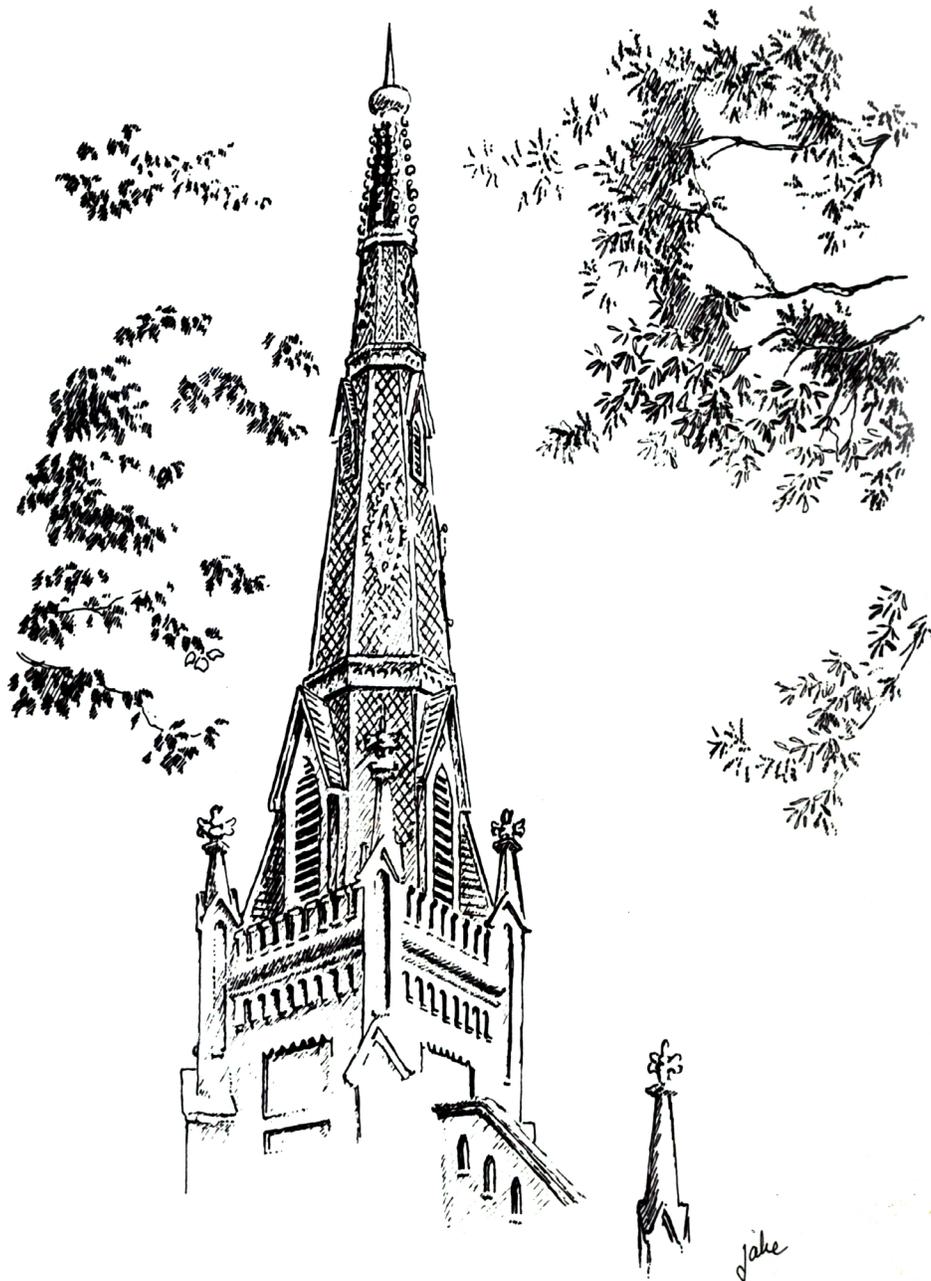


First Presbyterian Church

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP | 9 AM | FEBRUARY 22, 2026
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT



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 Mary Bowman

Opening Prayer

O Gracious and Holy God, our annual pilgrimage has begun. We choose to walk with you along the forty-day journey through Lent to the cross in Jerusalem, knowing that it will not be easy. We are vulnerable to faithless fears. We are assaulted by temptations. We can succumb to worldly anxieties. We are prone to wander. This morning, we slip our hand again into yours. We commit ourselves in trust to you as our guide through this pilgrimage and the deserts of life. You - the one who knows both our weaknesses and our gifts. We trust that you will reveal things about us and about yourself that will bring us into fuller life as your beloved. In this time of prayer, may we be open to you about what we need from you for the journey.

Moment of Reflective Prayer

O God, may you forgive our sins and help us to forgive those who have hurt us.
 O Christ, may you quench our thirst with the living waters and satisfy our hunger with the bread of heaven.
 O Spirit, may you heal us and make us whole for your service. Amen.

Meditative Music | "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" | BYU Vocal Point

Come Thou fount of every blessing
 Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
 Streams of mercy never ceasing
 Call for songs of loudest praise.

Here I raise my Ebenezer
 Hither by Thy help I've come
 And I hope by Thy good pleasure
 Safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger
 Wandering from the fold of God
 He, to rescue me from danger,
 interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
 Daily I'm constrained to be
 Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
 Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
 Prone to wander, Lord I feel it
 Prone to leave the God I love.

Here's my heart, oh take and seal it
 Seal it for Thy courts above.
 Here's my heart; Oh take and seal it
 Seal it for Thy courts above.

Prayer for Illumination | Scott Wallace

First Reading | Matthew 13:31-32 | NET

Jesus gave them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest garden plant and becomes a tree, so that the wild birds come and nest in its branches."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading | John 2:1-11 | NET | Addison Ayer

Now on the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran out, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no wine left." Jesus replied, "Woman, why are you saying this to me? My time has not yet come." His mother told the servants, "Whatever he tells you, do it."

Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washing, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus told the servants, "Fill the water jars with water." So they filled them up to the very top. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the head steward," and they did. When the head steward tasted the water that had been turned to wine, not knowing where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), he called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the cheaper wine when the guests are drunk. You have kept the good wine until now!" Jesus did this as the first of his miraculous signs, in Cana of Galilee. In this way he revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Moment of Reflection

Meditation | The Good News: The Surprising Flow of Transformation | Reverend Mary Bowman

Moment of Reflection

Sacrament of Baptism | Reverend Mary Bowman | Elder Ross Loeser

Austen James Butler
Remington Elliott Frost
Holly Joann Tillet

+**Affirmation of Faith** | Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Congregational Welcome

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you, Austin, and you, Remi, and you, Holly, into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.

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**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

Giver of life and truth, at this table and at this fount, we have experienced your perfect love and grace. Nourished by your gifts, we are called to be your hands in a broken world—to build what's torn down, to heal what is wounded, and to lift up the lowly. In trials, anchor us firmly in faith; in blessings, humble our hearts to serve. Let our lives become living reflections of the wisdom we have received here. May our actions be evidence of our faith in you by bearing the light of your goodness in every step we take. As we go from here help us to remember to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. In Christ's 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