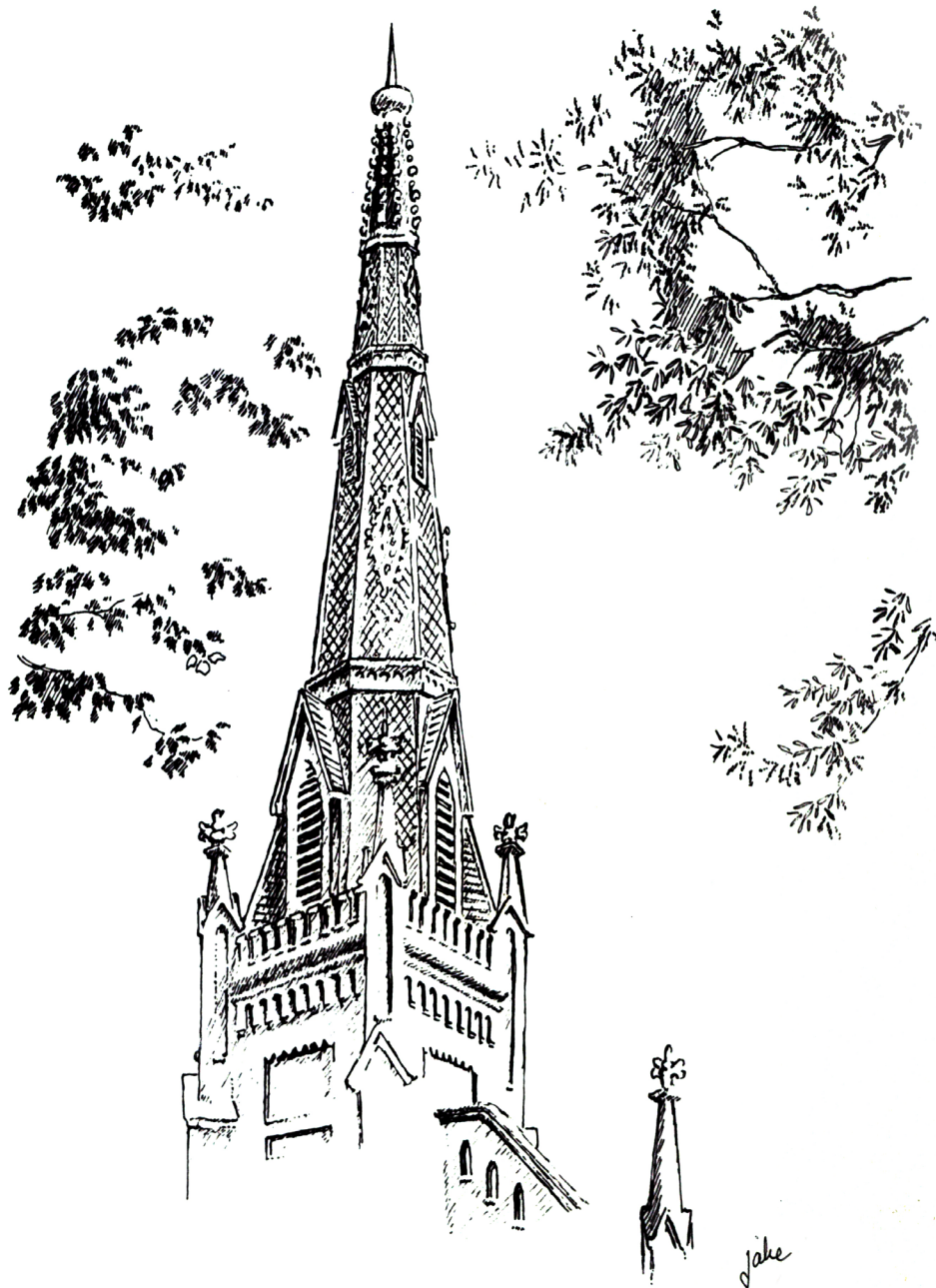


# First Presbyterian Church

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP | 9 AM | APRIL 19, 2026  
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



*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** | Chuck Williamson

### Opening Prayer

God of life, we rejoice in your love which has filled creation from the beginning and which calls all life into being. We praise you for Jesus Christ who reveals most fully your loving purpose for all people. We bless you for your Spirit who draws all humanity into the circle of your tender love.

**Gracious God, bless us with your presence so that our worship and our lives may be a true celebration of your love in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**Meditative Music** | “O God, You Search Me” (Psalm 139) | Bernadette Farrell

O God, you search me, and you know me  
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze  
When I walk or lie down, you are before me  
‘Ever the Maker and Keeper of my days.

You know my resting and my rising  
You discern my purpose from afar  
And with love everlasting, you besiege me  
In ev’ry moment of life or death, you are.

Before a word is on my tongue, Lord  
You have known its meaning through and through  
You are with me beyond my understanding  
God of my present, my past and future, too.

Although your Spirit is upon me  
Still I search for shelter from your light  
There is nowhere on Earth I can escape you  
Even the darkness is radiant in your sight.

For you created me and shaped me  
Gave me life within my mother’s womb  
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you  
Safe in your hands, all creation is made new.  
Mmm, all creation is made new.

**Prayer for Illumination** | Tom Bunn

**First Reading** | Psalm 139:1-12

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and night wraps itself around me,” even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Second Reading** | John 20:19-22 | Marcia Dixon

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Meditation** | "How Did They Do That?" | Chuck Williamson**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.

**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**

**God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 David Eades upon the death of his father, Joe Carroll Eades, on April 8, 2026; and to Steve Godwin upon the death of his father, John Godwin, on April 13, 2026.

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