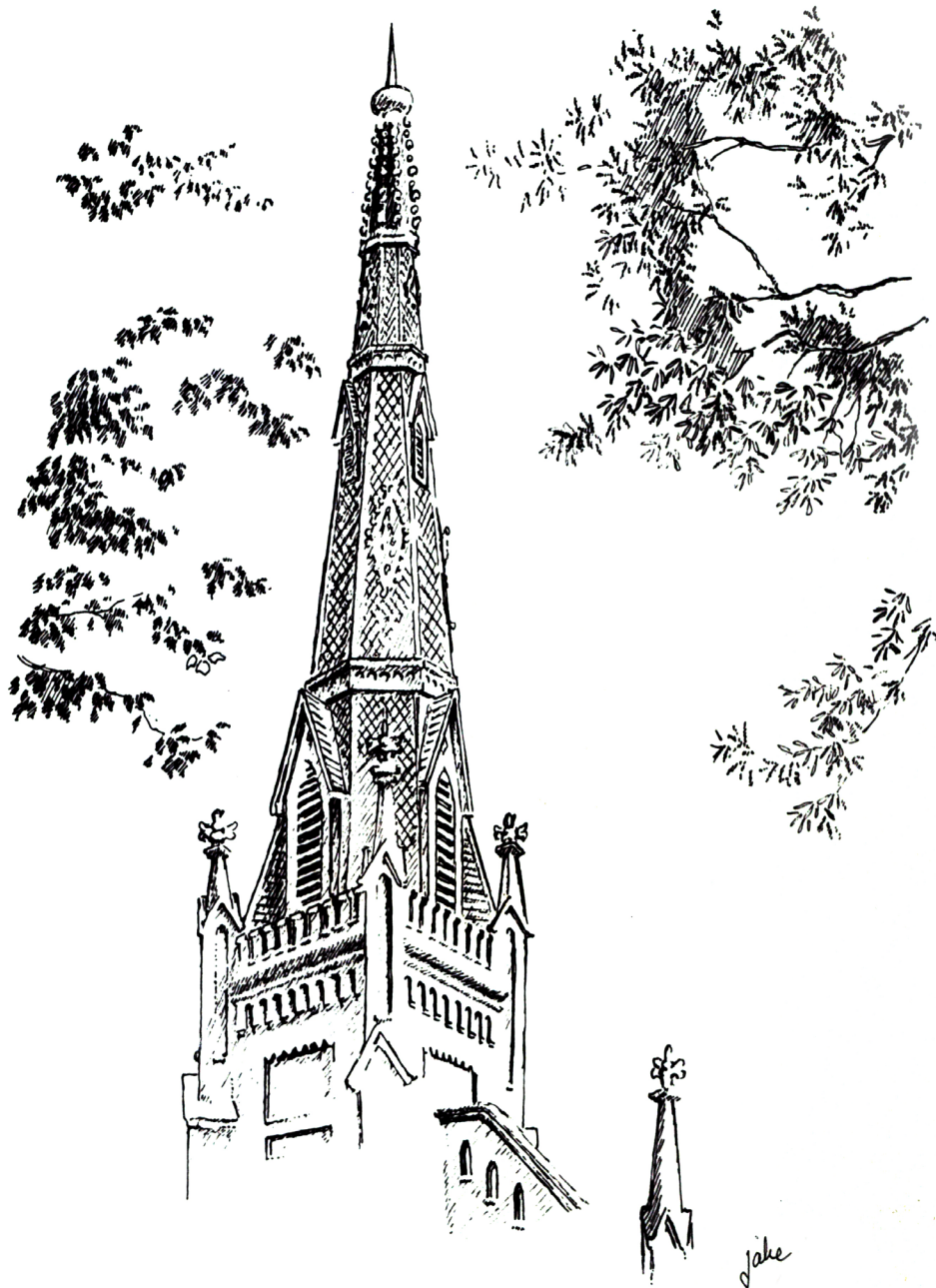


First Presbyterian Church

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP | 9 AM | MAY 10, 2026
SIXTH 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

“Simply be the mirror in which others can see themselves as God sees them.”

— Edward Hays

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

Words of Welcome | Mary Bowman

Opening Prayer | Adapted from Christine Sine

O Gracious God, we lift your name above every other name, and as we move into worship with you, we ask for your help so we may be fully awake and open to your loving presence.

May you help us to let go of all that distracts us, discourages us, weighs us down, and holds us captive.

May you help us attune our ears and hearts to your words so they may echo in the depths of our being.

May we allow you to transform all that we are and all that we do so we can live life freely and to the fullest in your resurrection and created world.

As we take time to silently name what we are carrying, help us to release them or give them to you so we can be open to what you have for us in this space.

Moment of Reflective Prayer

Meet us, O Christ, in the stillness of morning worship.

Move in us, O Spirit, to awaken our hearts.

Mend and forgive us, O Father, from past harms. Amen.

Meditative Music | “Cradle Me” | Bernadette Farrell

God eternal, cradle me, love me till the end;

Give me now your understanding.

Let me be, let me be, let me be your good friend.

Lord Jesus, cradle me, walk with me always;

Let me know true love and justice.

Love me through, love me through, love me through all my days.

Holy Spirit, cradle me, guide me from above;

Let me see you, see your power.

Cradle me, cradle me, cradle me in your love.

Sacrament of Baptism | Reverend Mary Bowman | Elder Nancy Norelli

Victoria Jean Bell

Travis Michael Bell

Berkeley Victoria Bell

Brantley Michael Bell

+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 and promise to guide and nurture each of you by word and deed, encouraging you to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of his church.

Prayer for Illumination | Susan Krebs

Old Testament Reading | Psalm 104:24-34 | NRSVUE

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, great and wide; creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great. There go the ships and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works—who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading | John 14:15-20, 25-26 | J.B. Phillips New Testament | Nancy Norelli

If you really love me, you will keep the commandments I have given you and I shall ask the Father to give you someone else to stand by you, to be with you always. I mean the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot accept, for it can neither see nor recognise that Spirit. But you recognise him, for he is with you now and will be in your hearts. I am not going to leave you alone in the world—I am coming to you. In a very little while, the world will see me no more but you will see me, because I am really alive and you will be alive too. When that day comes, you will realize that I am in my Father, that you are in me, and I am in you.

I have said all this while I am still with you. But the one who is coming to stand by you, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will be your teacher and will bring to your minds all that I have said to you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Moment of Reflection

Meditation | “Come, Holy Spirit: Wonderful Counselor” | Mary Bowman

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**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 Blessing | 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.

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**