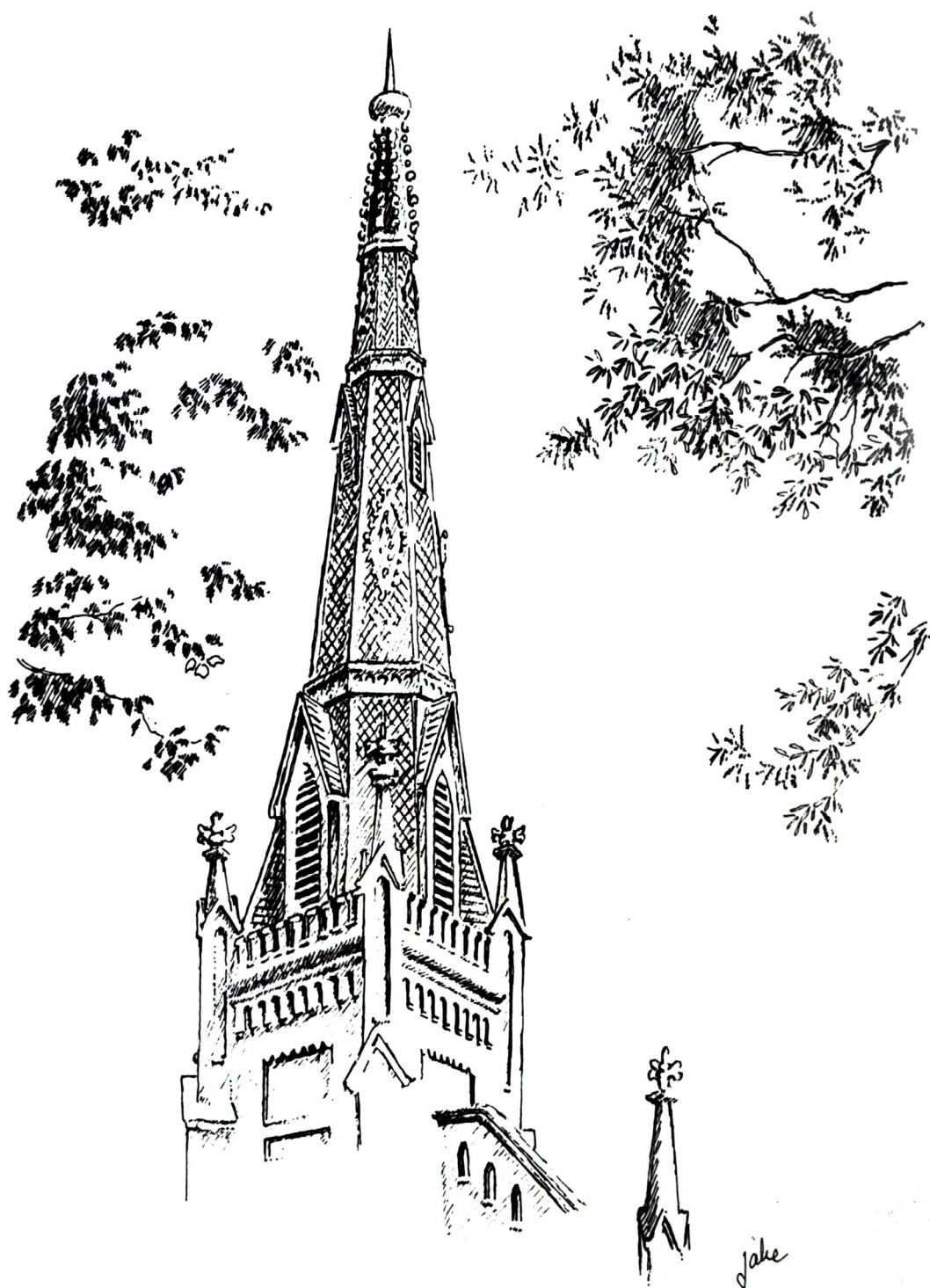


CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP SERVICE

First Presbyterian Church

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



SEPTEMBER 13, 2026
9 AM WORSHIP



TWELFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Time of Quiet Meditation and Reflection

Silence begins in the Chapel at 8:50 a.m.

Words of Welcome | Chuck Williamson

Opening Prayer

**Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of worship. As we gather today:
Here may the faithful find salvation and the careless be awakened;
Here may the doubting find faith and the anxious be encouraged;
Here may the sorrowful find comfort and the weary find rest.**

Meditative Music | "O Love" | Beckenhorst Singers | Dan Forrest

*O Love, O Love, O Love that will not let me go
O Love I rest my weary soul in Thee
I give Thee back the life I owe
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.*

*O Joy, O Joy that seeks me through the pain
O Joy I cannot close my heart to Thee
I trace the rainbow through the rain
And feel the promise is not in vain
That morn shall tearless be.*

*O Love, O Love, O Love that will not let me go
O Love I rest my weary soul in Thee
I give Thee back the life I owe
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.
That morn shall tearless be.*

*O Love, O Love, O Love
O Love, O Love, O Love that will not let me go.
O Love that will not let me go.*

Prayer for Illumination | Claire Tate

New Testament Reading | John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its savior.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Old Testament Reading | Hosea 1:2-9 | Susan Krebs

When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, "Go, take for yourself a wife of prostitution and have children of prostitution, for the land commits great prostitution by forsaking the Lord." So he went and took Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. And the Lord said to him, "Name him Jezreel, for in a little while I will punish the house of Jehu [Jehu was one of the bad kings.] for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house



of Israel. On that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel." She conceived again and bore a daughter. Then the Lord said to him, "Name her Lo-ruhamah, for I will no longer have pity on the house of Israel or forgive them. But I will have pity on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the Lord their God; I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen." When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son. Then the Lord said, "Name him Lo-ammi, for you are not my people, and I am not your God."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Moment of Reflection

Meditation | "But God..." | Chuck Williamson

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

Meditative Music | "Great is Thy Faithfulness" | Kathy Troccoli

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; as Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.*

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided:

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow: blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain (repeated)

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

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy sacrament in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others in the name 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.

Hosea 11:1-9

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

2 The more I [called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and offering incense to idols.

3 Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up in my [c] arms, but they did not know that I healed them.

4 I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. [d] I bent down to them and fed them.

5 They shall return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me.

6 The sword rages in their cities; it consumes their oracle priests and devours because of their schemes.

7 My people are bent on turning away from me. To the Most High they call, but he does not raise them up at all.

8 How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender.

9 I will not execute my fierce anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim, for I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

About Today's Service



Welcome

Scan the QR code to fill out our Virtual Connect Card to help us get to know you.

Prayer Requests

Submit a confidential prayer request at
fpc.tiny.us/prayer

Digital Offerings

This service is available via livestream on our website. A recording and a written transcript of today's sermon will be available on Monday afternoon at **firstpres-charlotte.org/sermons**

Ways to Give

In Person

The offering plates are located at the back of the chapel if you are interested in giving regularly as a spiritual practice.

Give Online

fpc.tiny.us/give

Text to Give

Text "givetofpc"
to 73256

Venmo

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