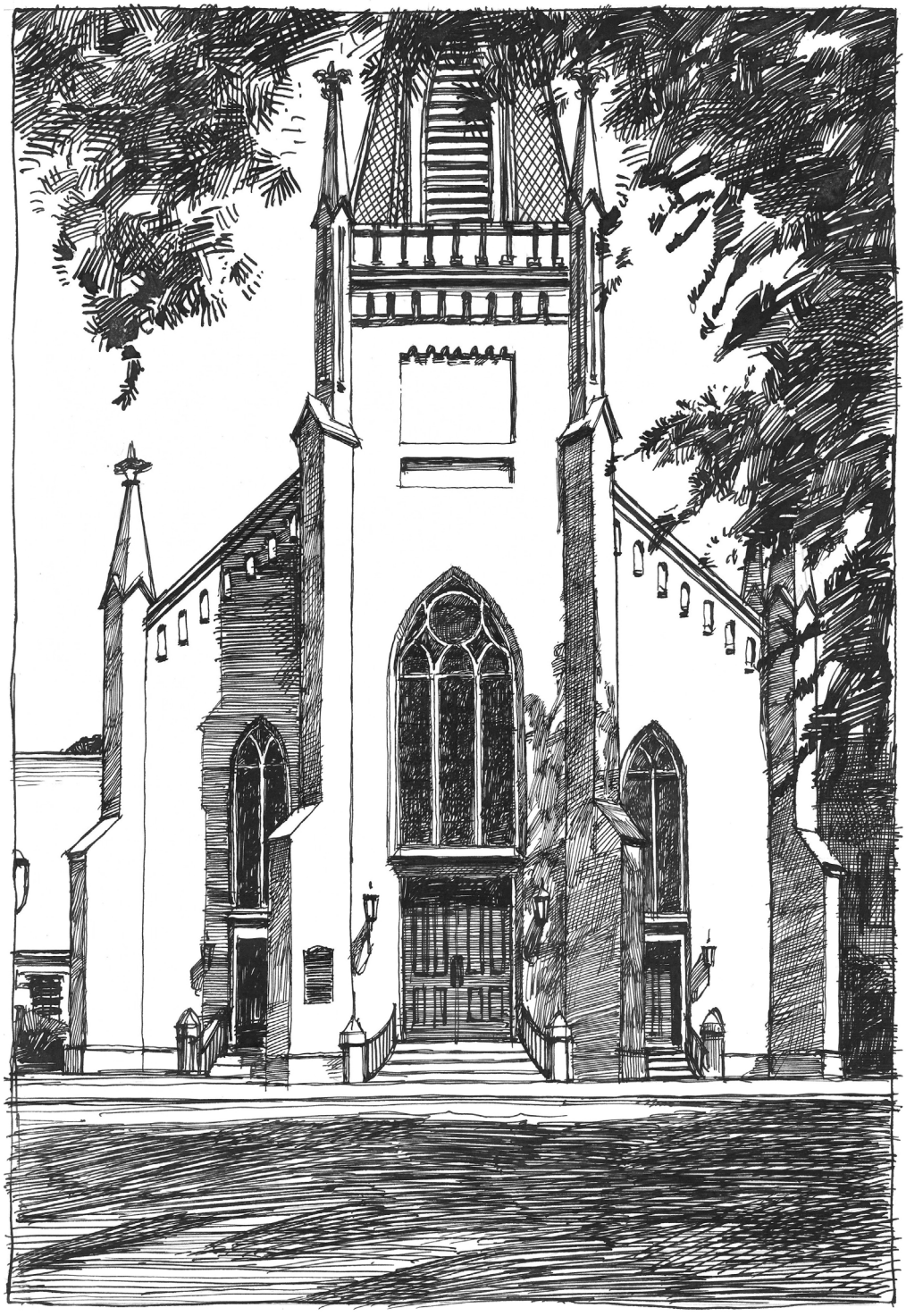
TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

First Presbyterian Church

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



SEPTEMBER 27, 2026
11 AM WORSHIP

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome!

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

Prayer Request

Scan to submit a confidential prayer request.

Preparation

Prelude | Adagio and Allegro from *Concerto in G* | Johann Quantz

Words of Welcome | Lewis Galloway

Chiming of the Trinity

Adoration

Choral Call to Worship | Christopher Tye

O come, ye servants of the Lord, and praise his holy name; from early morn to setting sun his might on earth proclaim. His laws are just and glad the heart; he makes his mercies known. Ye people, come, and bow before his throne.

+Hymn No. 307 | "God of Grace and God of Glory" | CWM RHONDDA

Confession

Call to Confession | Anna Dickson

Prayer of Confession

Gracious Lord, we confess that we have often trusted in our own strength and relied on our own wisdom, rather than listening to your word. We have deceived ourselves and fallen into sin. We have hurt our neighbors, wounded your image in us, and ignored your claim upon our lives. Forgive us, Lord, and open our minds to know the truth that sets us free. Keep ever before us the cross of Christ so that our lives may embody his self-giving love.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

+Response to Pardon | GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Time with Children

Children ages 3 through first grade may leave for First Church. They will return to the Sanctuary during the last hymn. Older children are encouraged to stay and worship with their families.

Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture | Exodus 4:10-17 | pew Bible p. 51

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

+ Please stand if you are able

Anthem | "Immortal, Invisible" | arr. Eric Thiman

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the ancient of days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor waiting, Thou rulest in might: Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above; thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small. In all life thou livest, the true life of all. We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree, and wither and perish; but naught changeth thee. Great Father of Glory, pure Father of Light, Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight; all laud we would render: O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee. Amen.

Scripture | 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 | pew Bible p. 166

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon | "Divine Foolishness" | Lewis Galloway

+Hymn | "God Has Chosen What Is Foolish" | HOLY MANNA

God has chosen what is foolish, what is easy to despise, to save us from our own wisdom and bring low what we call wise. God has chosen what is weakest, what cannot be counted on, to save us from our own power and bring low what we call strong.

What is strong by human measure? War and wealth seem strong and real. What is weak? A human body, met by fists and wood and steel. Yet the body of our Jesus has defied the cross and grave. God has cherished what is fragile, come in Christ to mend and save.

God has chosen what is nothing to be something in his sight, and to send into the shadows those who seem to own the light. Some things seeming now the greatest will be dream-like, fading fast. God has chosen what is empty to be filled with joy at last.

Ways to Give

In Person
Place your gift in the offering plate during **Presentation of Tithes and Offering**

Give Online
fpc.tiny.us/give

Text to Give
Text "givetofpc" to 73256

Venmo
@FirstPresofCharlotte

Response

+Affirmation of Faith | Colossians 1:15-20 | Lucy Baum

Who is Jesus Christ?
Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

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.

+ Please stand if you are able

Stewardship of Life | Cuba Partnership | Betsy Gustafson

Presentation of Tithes and Offering

Offertory Anthem | "Be Thou My Vision" | arr. Heather Sorenson

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart. Naught be all else to me save that thou art. Thou my best thought by day or by night; waking or sleeping, thy presence my light. Riches I need not, nor vain, empty praise. Thou mine inheritance, now and always, thou and thou only, the first in my heart. Blessed redeemer, my treasure thou art! High King of heaven, my victory won! May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision. Still be my light. Shine in the night. Still be my vision, O ruler of all. Be thou my light when I walk through the night.

+Doxology | LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

+Prayer of Dedication

Sending Forth

+Hymn No. 69 | "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky" | HERE I AM

+Benediction

+Benediction Response | Fourfold Amen | John Stainer

Postlude | Voluntary on *Engleberg* | Craig Phillips

About Today's Service

Sanctuary Flowers

If you wish to sponsor sanctuary flowers for a baptism, marriage, memorial/honorarium, or special occasion, please notify Diane Maye at dianenmaye@hotmail.com.

Today's Special Offering

Part of our offering today goes to the Ten-Cents-a-Meal program, which is used to purchase fresh foods for our onsite Nourish Up food pantry. Thank you for supporting our mission to provide food for those experiencing food insecurity.

Today's Worship Leaders

The Reverend Dr. Lewis Galloway
Transitional Pastor

The Reverend Anna R. Dickson
Executive Pastor and Associate for Congregational Care

The Reverend Lucy Baum
Associate Pastor for Formation and Fellowship

William P. Young, III
Director of Music Ministries

Kaitlyn Davros
Associate Director of Music Ministries

Lenora Leggatt
Guest Violinist

Teil Taliesen
Guest Oboist

John Mooney
Guest Cellist

Welcome!

We're so glad you're here! Whether you are a member, a frequent visitor, or it's your first time, keep reading for details about today's worship service.

Are you new here? Please fill out a Connect Card, which can be found in the seatback of the pew in front of you, or scan the "Virtual Connect Card" QR code on page 2 of your bulletin.

Children's Offerings:
A nursery is available for children ages birth through 2 in room P311. During the 11 a.m. service, children will be invited to participate in the Time with Children. Afterward, children ages 3 through first grade may leave for First Church and will return to the Sanctuary during the last hymn.
If your child will be attending First Church, please scan the QR code to check them in using mobile check in.

COVENANT NETWORK OF PRESBYTERIANS

Our church is a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, which seeks equity still not fully realized for LGBTQIA+ people in church.

stephen MINISTRY

Do you need support? We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation. Stephen Ministers are trained to engage in confidential, structured, and caring relationships with people who are going through a difficult period. If you are in a tough season and need extra support, email Mary Bowman (mbowman@firstpres-charlotte.org). If you have a pastoral emergency outside of regular church hours, dial 704.927.0256 for the on-call voicemail. Your call will be returned promptly.

CONNECT WITH US!

@firstprescharlotte

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Announcements

Interested in something you see below? Visit **FPC.TINY.US/LINKS** or scan the QR code to learn more, register, or take the next step.

Cuba Information Meeting
Today, 12:15 p.m., P206
Come learn about the upcoming Cuba Trip and meet previous trip attendees.

Voting Advocacy Info
Before worship, October 4
Are you registered to vote? Have you moved since the last election? Stop by the voting advocacy tables and make sure your info is up to date!

Operation Sandwich
October 4, 9:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
We invite children, youth, and adults to help us make sandwiches to feed our friends at Roof Above.

Global Mission Sunday
October 4
Join us for Global Mission Sunday as we focus on our global mission partners in Haiti, Cuba, Mexico, and Western NC — with mission tables, a combined adult class with leaders from Konpayon, our partner serving in Haiti, and guest preacher Rev. Dr. Amantha Barbee at 11 a.m.

Communion Sunday Food Drive
October 4
When we come to the communion table to be spiritually nourished, we bring food donations to nourish those of God's children who suffer from physical hunger. Collection bins are in front of the Sanctuary today, and permanently located in the Welcome Center.

Racial Justice Tour at Davidson College
October 17, 10 a.m.
Rev. Daniel Heath, Associate Chaplain and Director of Descendant Community Outreach, will lead a guided tour of campus sites that illuminate the connections of the college's history to slavery and its ongoing work toward repair and reconciliation. Registration required.

Reformation Tour
September 20 - October 2, 2027
A few spots remain for this exciting exploration of Germany, Switzerland, and Strasbourg.

New Nursery Rooms
Sunday mornings, C101 & C102
Our Nursery is now on the first floor of the C building. The nursery is open from 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

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