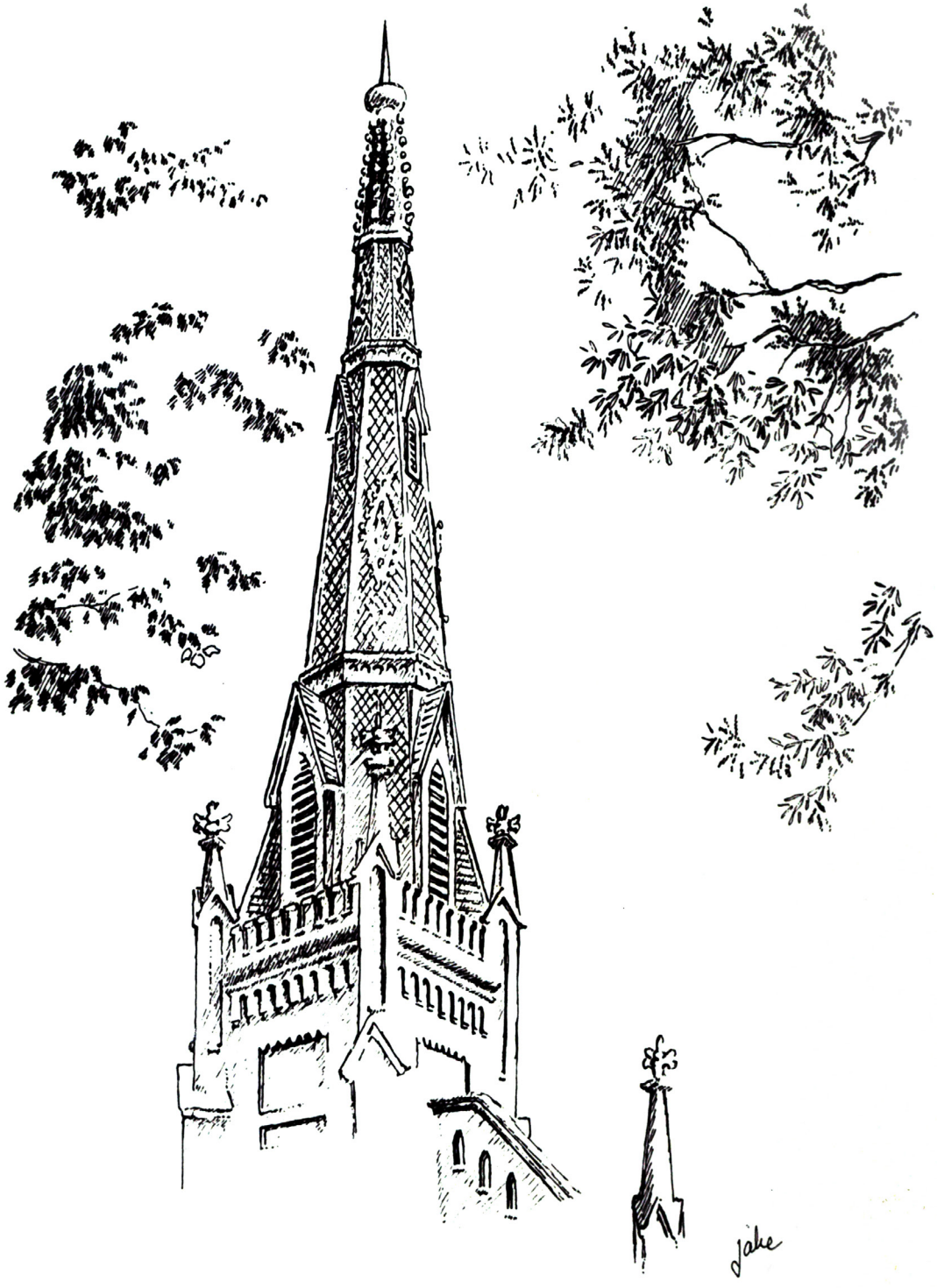
CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP SERVICE

First Presbyterian Church

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



NOVEMBER 1, 2026
9 AM WORSHIP

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

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

Words of Welcome | Reverend Lewis Galloway

Opening Prayer

Gracious and Holy God, thank you for the gift of today and for all of the gifts that you have bestowed upon us throughout our lives! We are grateful for the gift of communal worship, and as we draw near to you, we ask that you draw near to us. As we begin our worship, we open ourselves anew to you so that we may be reminded that you are with us and for us. We are sorry for the ways that we have sinned against you and those around us. We ask that you forgive what we have been and done, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. As we open ourselves to you, we pause to name the things that are distracting us . . . our sins, our hurts, our fears, our jobs, our griefs, our insecurities, our concerns. In this time of prayer, help us to name these things and offer them to you so we may be free to worship and to enjoy your presence.

Time of Reflective Prayer

Thank you for your love, O God. Thank you for your forgiveness, O Christ. Thank you for your guidance, O Spirit. Amen.

Meditative Music | "Now Thank We All Our God" | Nathan Drake

Now thank we all our God, With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, In whom his world rejoices.
Who from our mothers' arms,Has blessed us on our way,
With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God, Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts, And blessed peace to cheer us.
To keep us in his grace. And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ill, Of this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, The Father be given,
The Son and Spirit blest, Who reign in highest heaven.
The one eternal God, Whom heaven and earth adore,
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.

Prayer for Illumination and First Reading | Amos 7:10-17 | Scott Wallace

Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said, 'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.' "

And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there, but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet nor a prophet's son, but I am a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

"Now therefore hear the word of the Lord. You say, 'Do not prophesy against Israel, and do not preach against the house of Isaac.'

Therefore thus says the Lord: Your wife shall become a prostitute in the city, and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword, and your land shall be parceled out by line; you yourself shall die in an unclean land, and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land."

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Second Reading | Luke 4:16-30 | Elise Barksdale

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.' " And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Moment of Reflection

Meditation | "Wisdom from the Minor Prophets (Amos): Troublemakers"

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 | "Renew Me, Lord" | Bernadette Farrell | Eric Langer, soloist | Kaitlyn Davros, organist

O God, I seek safe harbor in this storm, a place of peace in which my soul can form
the inner strength to follow day by day, Your will for me, unceasingly.
Renew me, Lord, I pray.

O God, I seek new vision clear and strong, that once again the sign that all along
You held before these eyes, once turned away, I now may see, more faithfully.
Renew me, Lord, I pray.

O God, I seek to recommit my life, to honor well the gospel of the Christ
to speak of peace, and only peace obey, to daily raise my hands in praise.
Renew me, Lord, I pray.

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

O Gracious God, as we prepare to leave our worship, we thank you for your nourishing and saving ways. Continue to open us to you, to the world and to our neighbors. Open our eyes, our hearts, and our minds that we may truly see you, know you, and follow you. In Christ's holy name. 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.

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/virtualprayer**

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
@FirstPresofCharlotte