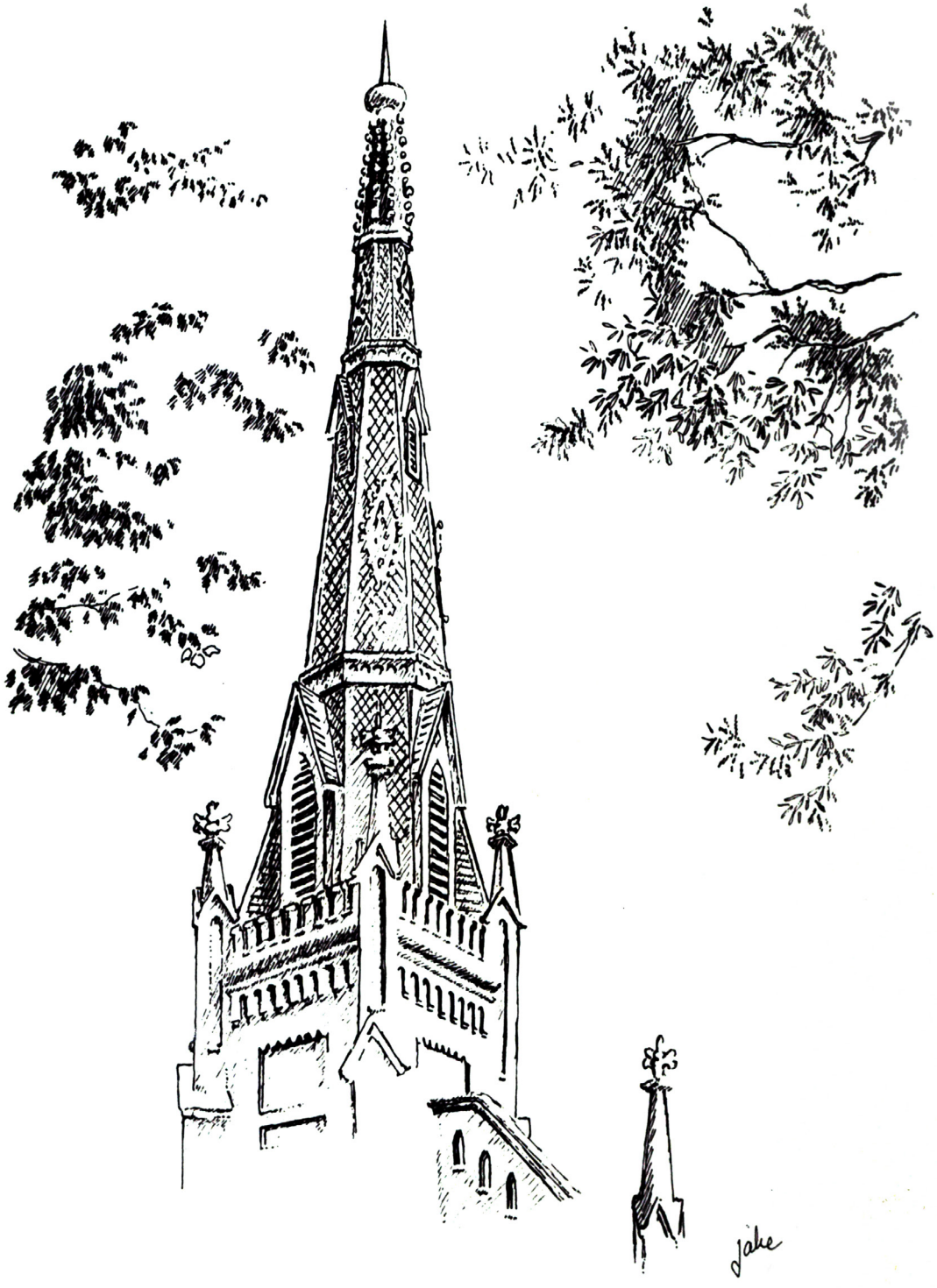
CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP SERVICE

First Presbyterian Church

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



OCTOBER 25, 2026
9 AM WORSHIP

TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

Please remember that certainty -- not doubt -- is the opposite of faith. The insistence on certainty reveals a need for control, not a need for love or understanding. - Richard Rohr

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

Words of Welcome | Reverend Mary Bowman

Opening Prayer | Adapted from Joseph A. Tetlow

Oh, Lord, my God, you called us from the sleep of nothingness merely because in your tremendous love you want to make good and beautiful things. You have called us by name in our mothers' wombs. You have given us breath and light and movement and walked with us every moment of our existence. We are amazed, Lord God of the universe, that you attend to us, and, more, cherish us. Create in us the faithfulness that moves you, and we will trust you and yearn for you all our days. As we rest in your presence, we pause and name the sin and worries that are preoccupying us, are isolating us, or are simply hard to carry.

Time of Reflective Prayer

O God, uphold us and care for us. O Christ, heal us and forgive us. O Spirit, enliven us and guide us. Amen.

Meditative Music | "O Christ, Surround Me" | Kaitlyn Davros, soloist | Will Young, organist

God be the love to search and keep me
God be the prayer to move my voice;
God be the strength to now uphold me
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Walking behind to hem my journey
Going ahead to light my way;
And from beneath, above, and all ways
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Christ in the eyes of all who see me
Christ in the ears that hear my voice;
Christ in the hearts of all who know me
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Prayer for Illumination and Old Testament Reading | Habakkuk 3:1-16 (The Message), 17-19 (NRSVUE) | Thold Gill

A prayer of the prophet Habakkuk, with orchestra: God, I've heard what our ancestors say about you, and I'm stopped in my tracks, down on my knees. Do among us what you did among them. Work among us as you worked among them. And as you bring judgment, as you surely must, remember mercy. God's on the way again, retracing the old salvation route, coming up from the south through Teman,the Holy One from Mount Paran. Skies are blazing with God's splendor, God's praises sounding through the earth, God's cloud-brightness like dawn, exploding, spreading, forked-lightning shooting from God's hand—what power hidden in that fist! Plague marches before God, pestilence at God's heels! God stops. God shakes Earth. God looks around. Nations tremble. The age-old mountains fall to pieces; ancient hills collapse like a spent balloon. The paths God takes are older than the oldest mountains and hills. I saw everyone worried, in a panic: Old wilderness adversaries, Cushan and Midian, were terrified, hoping God wouldn't notice them. God, is it River you're mad at? Angry at old River? Were you raging at Sea when you rode horse and chariot through to salvation? You unfurled your bow and let loose a volley of arrows. You split Earth with rivers. Mountains saw what was coming. They twisted in pain. Flood Waters poured in. Ocean roared and reared huge waves. Sun and Moon stopped in their tracks. Your flashing arrows stopped them, your lightning-strike spears impaled them. Angry, you stomped through Earth. Furious, you crushed the godless nations. You were out to save your people, to save your specially chosen people. You beat the stuffing out of King Wicked, stripped him naked from head to toe, set his severed head on his own spear and blew away his army. Scattered they were to the four winds—and ended up food for the sharks! You galloped through the Sea on your horses, racing on the crest of the waves. When I heard it, my stomach did flips. I stammered and stuttered. My bones turned to water. I staggered and stumbled. I sit back and wait for Doomsday to descend on our attackers. Though the fig tree

does not blossom and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; God makes my feet like the feet of a deer and makes me tread upon the heights.

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

New Testament Reading | Matthew 11:28-30 | NRSVUE and The Message | Addison Ayer

Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.

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

Moment of Reflection

Meditation | "Wisdom from the Minor Prophets (Habakkuk): Cultivating a Resilient Faith"

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 | "Trust in You" | Praise and Harmony Singers

Letting go of every single dream; I lay each one down at Your feet;
Every moment of my wandering; Never changes what You see.
I've tried to win this war, I confess; My hands are weary, I need Your rest;
Mighty warrior, King of the fight; No matter what I face, You're by my side.

When You don't move the mountains, I'm needing You to move
When You don't part the waters I wish I could walk through
When You don't give the answers As I cry out to You
I will trust, I will trust, I will trust in You.

Truth is, You know what tomorrow brings;
There's not a day ahead You have not seen.
So in all things be my life and breath;
I want what You want, Lord, and nothing less. Refrain.

You are my strength and comfort; You are my steady hand;
You are my firm foundation; The rock on which I stand.
Your ways are always higher; Your plans are always good
There's not a place where I'll go; You've not already stood. Refrain.

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 and loving God, we thank you for nurturing us at this table. We thank you for loving us so well and for inviting us into the way of your love, by walking with us and making us your beloved children. As we move back into the world, may we do so with hearts fully confident of your love for us, so we can share love with others. 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