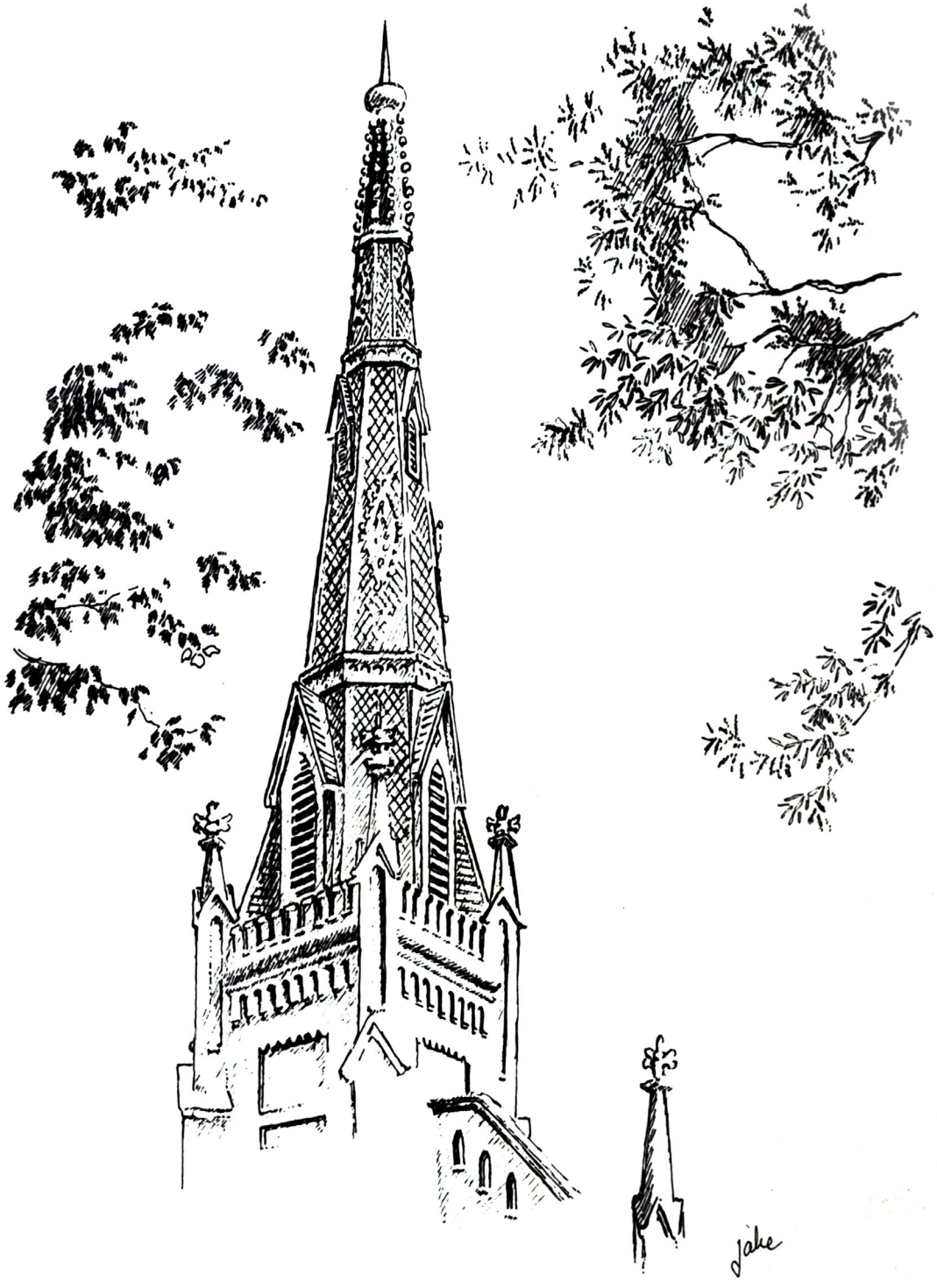
CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP SERVICE

First Presbyterian Church

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



NOVEMBER 22, 2026
9 AM WORSHIP

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

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

Words of Welcome | Audrey Webb-Kahrs

Opening Prayer

God of heaven and earth, we delight in your goodness, and we want to be part of it. We want to do justice, but the world rewards our self-interest. We want to love kindness, but we fear vulnerability. We want to walk with you, but we are busy forging our own paths. As we gather here today, seeking what is good, we ask that you steady our anxious hearts, quiet our racing minds, and soothe our worried souls. Be with us, Lord. Meet us here and now, and draw our attention outside of ourselves, so that we might respond to your love by loving in kind.

Time of Reflective Prayer

Creator, stir within us. Savior, walk before us. Spirit, stay among us. Amen.

Meditative Music | "Be Thou My Vision" | Audrey Assad

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 and by night;
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father, I thy dear child;
Thou in me dwelling, with thee reconciled.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight.
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r;
Raise thou me Heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's, empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always.
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'ns Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Prayer for Illumination and First Reading | Micah 6:1-8 | Knox Gustafson

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel.

"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

"With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

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

Second Reading | Matthew 22:36-40 | William Gustafson

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

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

Moment of Reflection

Meditation | "Wisdom from the Minor Prophets (Micah): Do. Love. Walk."

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 | "All You Ask" | The Many

You don't ask us to get on our hands and knees
You don't ask us to crawl in the dust
You don't ask us to say the right words, cross our t's

You don't ask us to believe; All you ask us is to be love.

You don't ask us to do it all perfectly
You don't ask us if we are enough
You don't ask us to all be alike or agree

You don't ask us to believe; All you ask us is to be love.

Let us be here in your love
Always only be your love
Be your hands and arms of love
Be your voice and heart of love
Let us be your love.

You don't ask us to believe; All you ask us is to be love.

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

Gracious God, we find that when we love you with all our hearts and all our souls and all our minds, we cannot help but love our neighbors, too. What wondrous love is this, that you should call us as we are, in all our imperfections, to be servants of your people. Thanks be to God. 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 and linger in the Chapel. The minister is available for prayer or conversation after the service. For those interested, Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m.

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