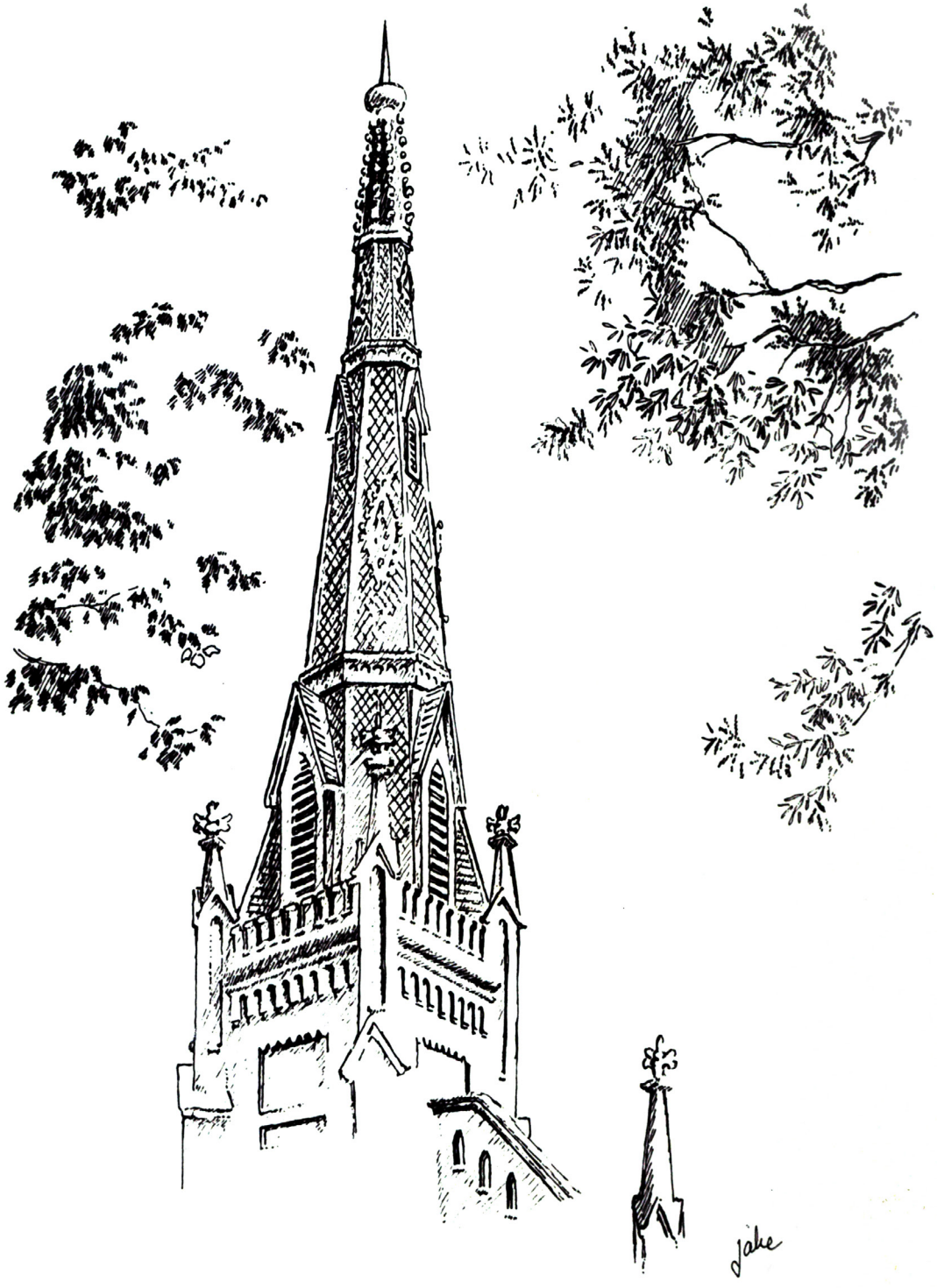
CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP SERVICE

First Presbyterian Church

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



NOVEMBER 8, 2026
9 AM WORSHIP

TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

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

Words of Welcome | Reverend Rob Spach

Opening Prayer

Gracious and Eternal God, we are grateful for the gift of worship and the opportunity it gives us to re-set ourselves to your ways and to come back to ourselves. We come into your presence today acknowledging that you love righteousness and hate injustice and that we have not always stood with you and with our neighbors. Open our eyes to see the pain around us, open our ears to hear the cries of the voiceless, and give us the courage to stand against unfairness in our world. Grant us the gifts of your wisdom so we may speak truth with grace; your strength so we may protect the vulnerable; your courage so we are emboldened to refuse to look away from suffering; and your guidance so we can work with you to help bring your kingdom. Help us to use this time of quiet to confess our sins and our hurts. Open us to your forgiveness and possibilities.

Time of Reflective Prayer

Guide our time together today, and use us as instruments of your peace, mercy, justice, and love. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Meditative Music | "Christ Be Our Light" (from Glory and Praise) | Bernadette Farrell

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us Your own, Your holy people
Light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in Your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us Your living voice. Refrain.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others
Shared until all are fed. Refrain.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us Your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stones. Refrain.

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making Your kingdom come. Refrain.

Prayer for Illumination and First Reading | Amos 5:14-15, 21-24 | Susan Krebs

Seek good and not evil, that you may live, and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me

your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

Second Reading | Luke 6:20-26 | Addison Ayer

Then Jesus looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets."

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets."

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

Moment of Reflection

Meditation | "Wisdom from the Minor Prophets (Amos): Justice in the Gate"

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 | "Bread for the World" (from Spirit and Song) | Bernadette Farrell

Bread for the world, a world of hunger.
Wine for all peoples, people who thirst.
May we who eat, be bread for others.
May we who drink, pour out our love.

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life.
Broken to reach and heal the wounds of human pain
Where we divide your people, you are waiting there
On bended knee, to wash our feet with endless care. Refrain.

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the wine of peace
Poured into hearts once broken, and where dryness sleeps
Where we are tired and weary, you are waiting there
To be the way which beckons us, beyond despair. 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

Giver of life and truth, at this table, we tasted your perfect love and grace. Nourished by your gifts, we are called to be your hands in a broken world—to build what's torn down, to heal what is wounded, and to lift up the lowly. In trials, anchor us firmly in faith; in blessings, humble our hearts to serve. Let our lives become living reflections of the wisdom we have received here. May our actions be evidence of our faith in you by bearing the light of your goodness in every step we take. As we go from here help us to remember to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. In Christ's name, we pray. 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.

In Loving Memory

We join our prayers with Becky Hart and family upon the death of her brother, David Kerr Heasley, on October 23, 2026.

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