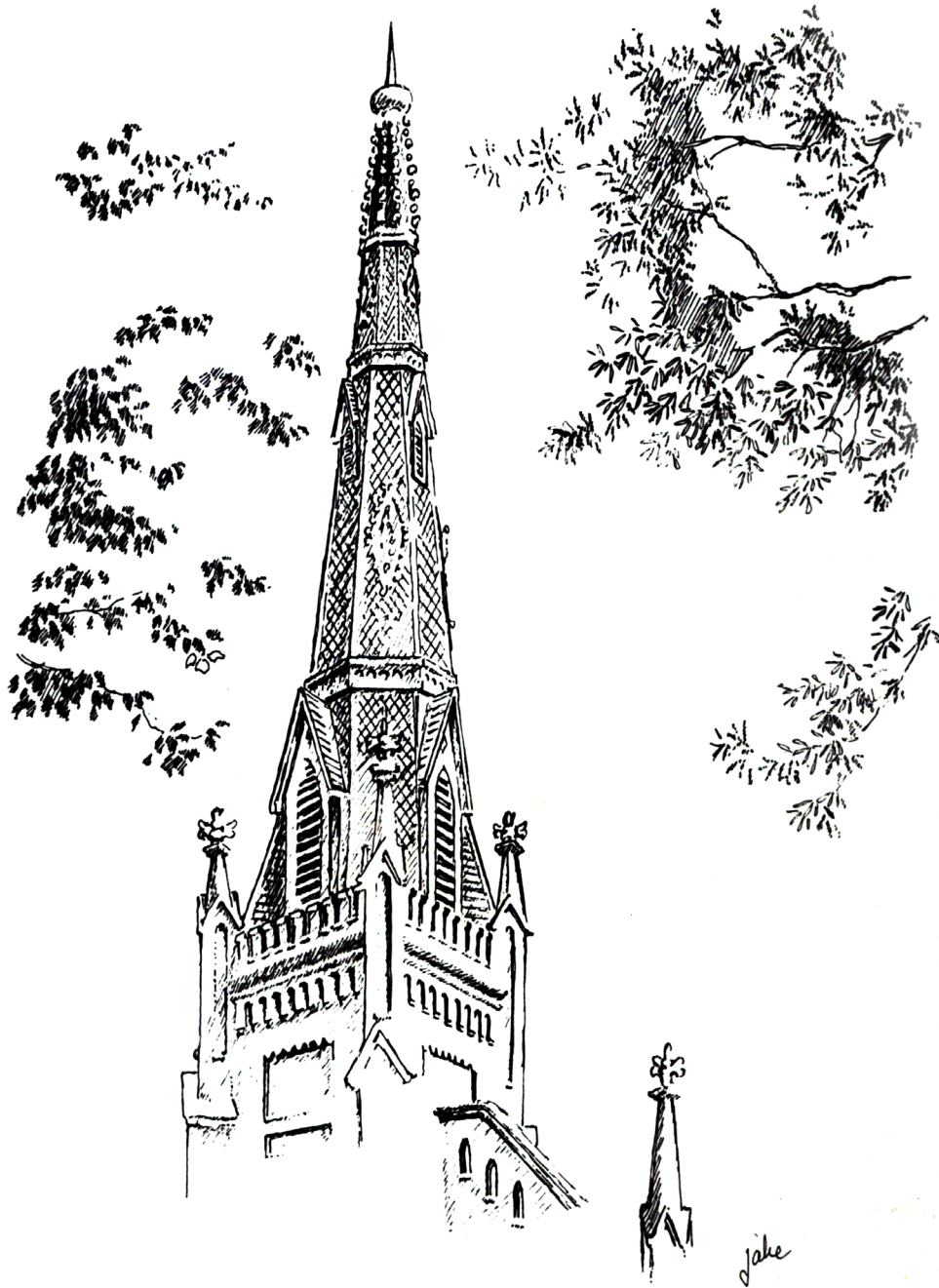


First Presbyterian Church

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP | 9 AM | NOVEMBER 19, 2023
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



We invite you, whoever you are and whoever God is helping you to become, to join First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte in our journey of faith. God is love, and that love is for you. You belong as a child of God, and we welcome you. Come experience how that belonging might change you and our world as we seek to be for Christ in the heart of Charlotte.



First Presbyterian
Church of Charlotte

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

Words of Welcome | Reverend Mary Bowman

Invocation | Adapted from *A Guide to Prayer for Ministers and Other Servants*

Almighty God, You have created us and called us into one human family. By the power of Your Holy Spirit help us to live in unity and peace with all of Your children. Teach us to extend ourselves in love rather than recoil in self-conscious fear. May our actions be the fruit of our faith in Your kingdom. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Meditative Music | “Love One Another” | The Cathedral Singers

Love one another, for love is of God; Those who live in love, God lives in them.
Love one another, for love is of God; Those who live in love, God lives in them.
Those who show love are the children of God. Father and Mother is God to each of them.

Refrain

God showed His love in the face of the Son; Christ lives in us so that we might live through Him.

Refrain

Love has no place for the menace of fear; fear is abandoned where love is found.

Refrain

Love has its purpose in God’s holy will; we learn to love from the One who loved us first.

Refrain

Prayer for Illumination | Joan Wright

First Reading | Romans 12:9-18

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Moment of Reflection

Second Reading | Luke 10:25-37 | Minna Elliott

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” And He said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.” But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take

care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Moment of Reflection

Meditation | "The Two Great Commandments: Loving Our Neighbors (As Ourselves)"

Moment of Reflection

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession |

Merciful God, in Your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in Your likeness and image.

Moment of Reflection

O Lord, 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. We receive Your forgiveness with grateful hearts, and we commit to the work of extending it to others. Amen.

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 | "The Servant Song" | David Haas

Will you let me be your servant, Let me be as Christ to you;
 Pray that I may have the grace to; Let you be my servant, too.
 We are pilgrims on a journey, We are trav'lers on the road;
 We are here to help each other; Walk the mile and bear the load.
 I will hold the Christ-light for you; In the night-time of your fear;
 I will hold my hand out to you, Speak the peace you long to hear.
 I will weep when you are weeping; When you laugh I'll laugh with you.
 I will share your joy and sorrow; 'Til we've seen this journey through.
 Will you let me be your servant, Let me be as Christ to you;
 Pray that I may have the grace to; Let you be my servant, too.

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

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, thank You for meeting us in worship, for drawing us closer to You, and for filling us with Your Spirit. May we go out into the world with fresh eyes and hearts, for ourselves and for our neighbors, and may the way we live this week help earth to be as it is in heaven. All praise to You - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. 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.



**VIRTUAL
CONNECT
CARD**



**PRAYER
REQUESTS**



**ANNOUNCEMENT
LINKS**



**TEXT
TO GIVE**



**GIVE
ONLINE**