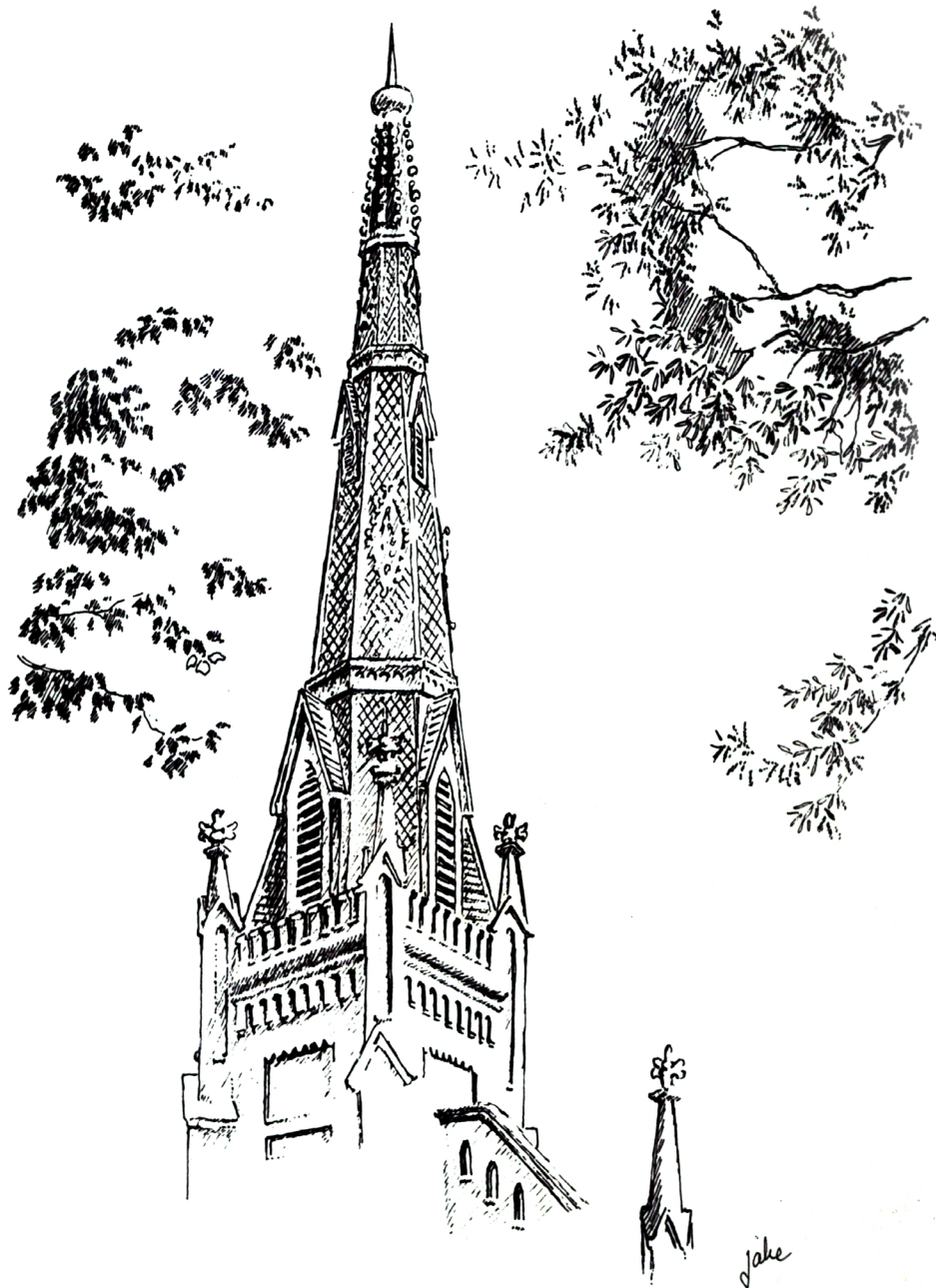


First Presbyterian Church

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP | 9 AM | OCTOBER 6, 2024
TWENTIETH 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

Opening Prayer | Adapted from Douglas Kaine McKelvey

O Eternal God, we give You thanks for the gift of worship in this place and the opportunity to be in Your presence and in Your love. We acknowledge as we enter this place, that some of us are encumbered by burdens, some caught up by distractions, some weighed down by our shortcomings, some filled up with worry and anxiety, and some carrying deep wounds.

We long to be truly open to You in our time of worship and ask that You help us to set down what is heavy, to give to You what is hard, and to accept the forgiveness that You offer.

As we take time to silently name what we are carrying, help us to release them or give them to You so we can be open to what You have for us in this space.

Moment of Reflection

Meet us, O Christ, in this stillness of morning worship.

Move us, O Spirit, to quiet our hearts.

Mend and forgive us, O Father, from past harms.

Amen.

Meditative Music | “O God, You Search Me” (Psalm 139) | Bernadette Farrell

O God, You search me, and You know me
All my thoughts lie open to Your gaze
When I walk or lie down, You are before me
‘Ever the Maker and Keeper of my days

You know my resting and my rising
You discern my purpose from afar
And with love everlasting, You besiege me
In ev’ry moment of life or death, You are
Before a word is on my tongue, Lord
You have known its meaning through and through
You are with me beyond my understanding
God of my present, my past and future, too

Although Your Spirit is upon me
Still I search for shelter from Your light
There is nowhere on Earth I can escape You
Even the darkness is radiant in Your sight

For You created me and shaped me
Gave me life within my mother’s womb
For the wonder of who I am, I praise You
Safe in Your hands, all creation is made new
Mmm, all creation is made new

Prayer for Illumination | Scott Wallace

Old Testament Reading | Isaiah 43:18-21 | The Message

Forget about what’s happened; don’t keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I’m about to do something brand-new. It’s bursting out! Don’t you see it? There it is! I’m making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands. Wild animals will say ‘Thank you!’ —the coyotes and the buzzards—Because I provided water in the desert, rivers through the sunbaked earth, Drinking water for the people I chose, the people I made especially for myself, a people custom-made to praise me.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading | Ephesians 4:17-19 (The Message); 20-32 (NRSVUE)

And so I insist—and God backs me up on this—that there be no going along with the crowd, the empty-headed, mindless crowd. They’ve refused for so long to deal with God that they’ve lost touch not only with God but with reality itself. They can’t think straight anymore.

That is not the way you learned Christ! For surely you have heard about Him and were taught in Him, as truth is in Jesus, to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. So then, putting away falsehood, let each of you speak the truth with your neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Those who steal must give up stealing; rather, let them labor, doing good work with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths but only what is good for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Moment of Reflection

Meditation | “Rooted in Christ: God’s New Way - Letting Go of the Old”

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 | “This Fragile Vessel” | Praise and Harmony Singers

This fragile vessel You have made
No hand on earth can fill
For the waters of this world have failed
And I am thirsty still

We can be worthy of His love, wisdom and mercy
Take this bread and wine
As we share His cross and crown
Receive the grace sent down

I seek the treasures of Your love
It’s not that far to see
I heard a melody above
A gift from You to me

Chorus

To save what’s lost from heaven He came
His presence still remain
Open our eyes to His precious blood
Because it’s not in vain

Chorus

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.

Sabbath Blessing | Ephesians 3:16-21

O Gracious God, we pray that, according to the riches of Your glory, You may grant that we may be strengthened in our inner beings with power through Your Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith, as we are being rooted and grounded in love. We pray that we may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ, that surpasses knowledge, so that we may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to You, Lord, Who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to You be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. 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



TEXT
TO GIVE



GIVE
ONLINE