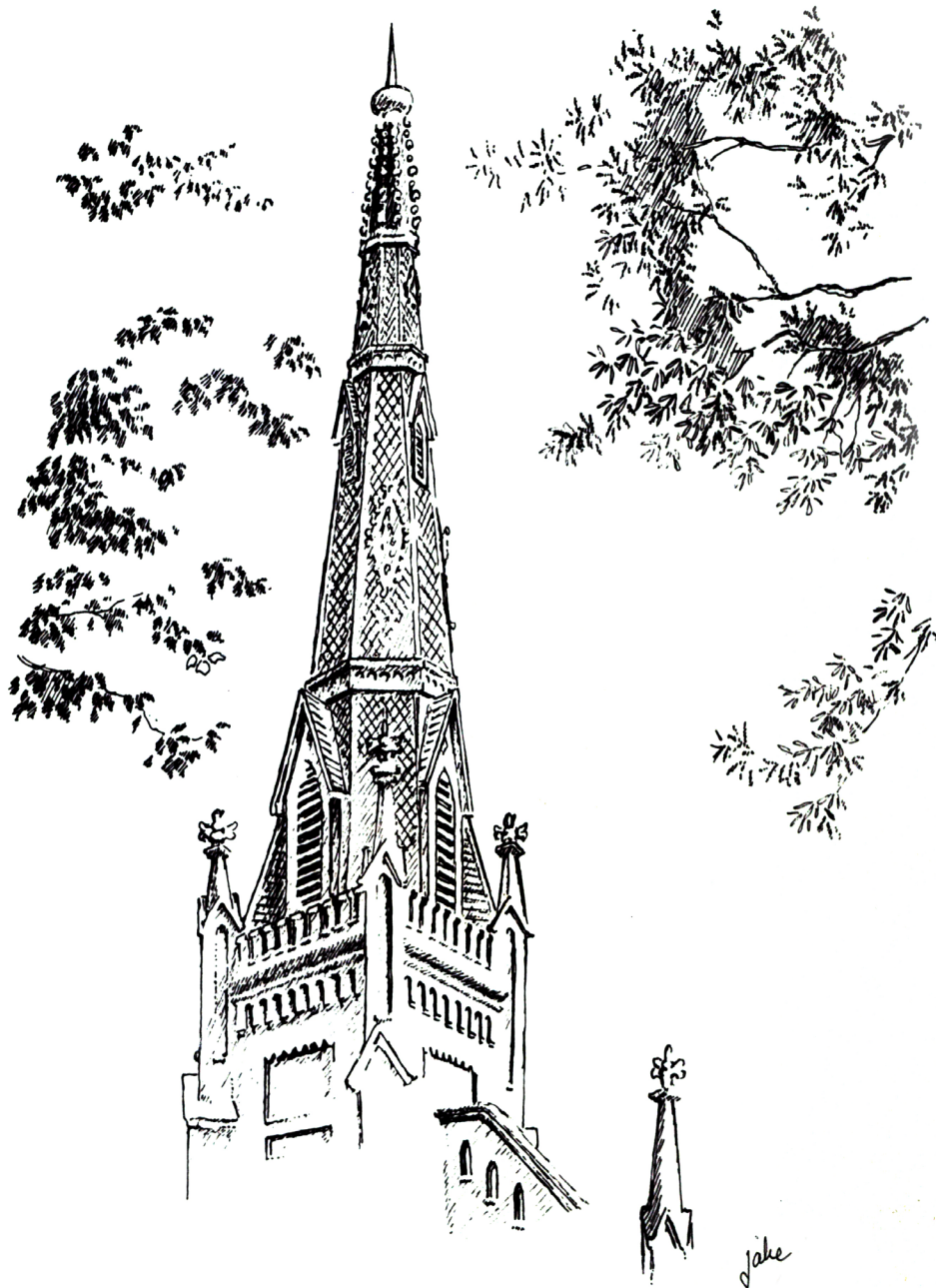


First Presbyterian Church

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP | 9 AM | NOVEMBER 17, 2024
TWENTY-SIXTH 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 Andrew Peterson

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 the stillness of morning worship.

Move us, O Spirit, to quiet our hearts.

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

Amen.

Meditative Music | “Order My Steps” | Praise and Harmony Singers

Order my steps in Your word, dear Lord; Lead me, guide me everyday; Send Your anointing, Father, I pray;

Order my steps in Your word; Please order my steps in Your word.

Humbly I ask Thee, teach me Your will; While You are working, help me be still; Though Satan is busy, God is real; Order my steps in Your word; Please order my steps in Your word.

Bridle my tongue, let my words edify; Let the words of my mouth be acceptable in Your sight; Take charge of my thoughts both day and night; Order my steps in Your word Please order my steps in Your word.

I want to walk worthy; According to Thy will; Please order my steps, Lord; And I'll do Your blessed will;

The world is ever changing, it keeps changing; But You are still the same; Please order my steps, Lord; I'll praise Your name.

Order my steps in Your word; Order my tongue in Your word; Guide my feet in Your word; Wash my heart in Your word; Show me how to walk in Your word; Show me how to talk in Your word; When I need a brand new song to sing; Show me how to let Your praises ring; In Your word, in Your word; Please order my steps in Your word; Please order my steps in Your word.

I want to walk worthy; According to Thy will; Please order my steps, Lord; And I'll do Your blessed will;

The world is ever changing, it keeps changing; But You are still the same; Please order my steps, Lord;

Please order my steps, Lord; Please order my steps, Lord; I'll praise Your name.

Prayer for Illumination | Kelly Graves

Old Testament Reading | Proverbs 3:21-32

My child, do not let these escape from your sight: keep sound wisdom and prudence, and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck. Then you will walk on your way securely, and your foot will not stumble. If you sit down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. Then you will not be afraid of sudden panic or of the storm that strikes the wicked, for the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught.

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. Do not say to your neighbor, “Go and come again; tomorrow I will give it,” when you have it with you. Do not plan harm against your neighbor who lives trustingly beside you. Do not quarrel with anyone without cause, when no harm has been done to you. Do not envy the violent, and do not choose any of their ways, for the perverse are an abomination to the Lord, but the upright are in his confidence.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading | James 4:11-17 | Tom Temple

Do not speak evil against one another, brothers and sisters. Whoever speaks evil against another or judges another speaks evil against the law and judges the law, but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is one lawgiver and judge who is able to save and to destroy. So who, then, are you to judge your neighbor?

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town and spend a year there, doing business and making money." Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it commits sin.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Moment of Reflection

Meditation | "Walking the Way of Faith: Do Not Withhold Goodness"

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 | "Oh for a Closer Walk with God" | New Irish Hymns

Oh for a closer walk with God
A calm and heavenly frame
A light that shines upon the road
Leading to the Lamb, leading to the Lamb.

Cá bhfuil na beannachtaí . . . Where is the blessedness I knew
Nuair a tháinig mé mo Dhia? . . . when I once saw the Lord?
Cá bhfuil m'anam . . . Where is the soul-refreshing view
Beo i mo shaoil? . . . living in His word?

Chorus:

A light to be my guide
The Father's presence at my side
In Your will, my rest I find
Oh for a closer walk with God
Leading to the Lamb, leading the Lamb.

So shall my walk be close with God
With all the hopes made new
So purer light shall mark the road
Leading to the Lamb

Chorus repeated twice

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 Lord, we thank You for meeting us at the table and for calling us to be our better selves, the selves who follow closely after You. Help us this week to choose courage over selfishness, to choose trust over fear, and to choose love over anger. Help us to see Your image in each other. 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

William Evans Keenan, September 1, 1926 - November 10, 2024

The sympathy of the congregation is expressed to Pender McElroy upon the death of his sister, Diana Crossland.



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PRAYER
REQUESTS



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TO GIVE



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