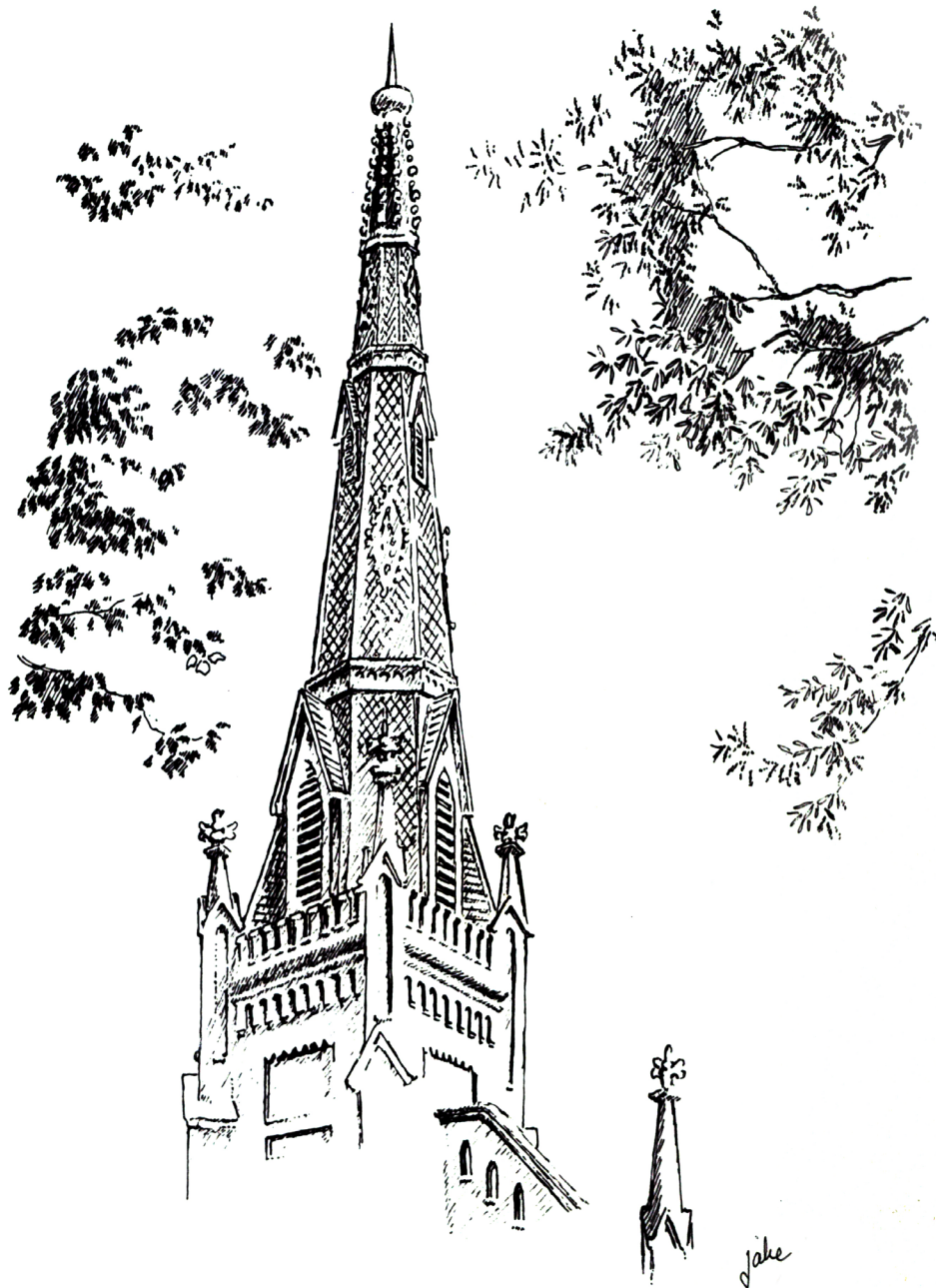


First Presbyterian Church

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP | 9 AM | NOVEMBER 24, 2024
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY



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 Holy God, we open our hearts to worship You, and we are reminded that You are the constant in our lives, that You know absolutely everything about us, and still You love us dearly.

We do not enter this space empty. We carry the burdens, the disappointments, the sins, and the wounds of a broken world.

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

We ask that You hold what is heavy, that You forgive our sins, that You help us forgive those who have hurt us, and that You open us anew to Your loving presence as we worship. In Christ's holy name. Amen.

Meditative Music | "Great is Thy Faithfulness" | Kathy Troccoli

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; as Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed
Thy hand hath provided: great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow: blessings all mine,
with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

Prayer for Illumination | Selina Malherbe

Old Testament Reading | Psalm 111 | The Message

Hallelujah!
I give thanks to God with everything I've got—
Wherever good people gather, and in the congregation.
God's works are so great, worth
A lifetime of study—endless enjoyment!
Splendor and beauty mark God's craft;
God's generosity never gives out.
God's miracles are God's memorial—
This God of Grace, this God of Love.
God gave food to those who fear God,
God remembered to keep God's ancient promise.
The Lord proved to God's people that God could do what God said:
Hand them the nations on a platter—a gift!
God manufactures truth and justice;
All God's products are guaranteed to last—
Never out-of-date, never obsolete, rust-proof.
All that God makes and does is honest and true:
God paid the ransom for God's people,
Good ordered God's Covenant kept forever.
God is so personal and holy, worthy of our respect.
The good life begins in the fear of God—
Do that and you'll know the blessing of God.
God's Hallelujah lasts forever!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading | James 5:7-20 | The Message | Susan Krebs

Meanwhile, friends, wait patiently for the Master's Arrival. You see farmers do this all the time, waiting for their valuable crops to mature, patiently letting the rain do its slow but sure work. Be patient like that. Stay steady and strong. The Master could arrive at any time.

Friends, don't complain about each other. A far greater complaint could be lodged against you, you know. The Judge is standing just around the corner.

Take the old prophets as your mentors. They put up with anything, went through everything, and never once quit, all the time honoring God. What a gift life is to those who stay the course! You've heard, of course, of Job's staying power, and you know how God brought it all together for him at the end. That's because God cares, cares right down to the last detail.

And since you know that God cares, let your language show it. Don't add words like "I swear to God" to your own words. Don't show your impatience by concocting oaths to hurry up God. Just say yes or no. Just say what is true. That way, your language can't be used against you.

Are you hurting? Pray. Do you feel great? Sing. Are you sick? Call the church leaders together to pray and anoint you with oil in the name of the Master. Believing-prayer will heal you, and Jesus will put you on your feet. And if you've sinned, you'll be forgiven—healed inside and out.

Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with. Elijah, for instance, human just like us, prayed hard that it wouldn't rain, and it didn't—not a drop for three and a half years. Then he prayed that it would rain, and it did. The showers came and everything started growing again.

My dear friends, if you know people who have wandered off from God's truth, don't write them off. Go after them. Get them back and you will have rescued precious lives from destruction and prevented an epidemic of wandering away from God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Moment of Reflection

Meditation | "Walking the Way of Faith: Staying the Course, Regardless of Suffering"

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 | "Did You Know?" | Bernadette Farrell

Did you know Someone's watching over you?
 Did you know Someone's watching over you?
 Through the day, through the night, in the dark, in the light.
 Did you know Someone's watching over you?

Did you know there's a Power in your soul?
 Did you know there's a Power in your soul?
 Through the day, through the night, in the dark, in the light.
 Did you know there's a Power in your soul?

Did you know there's a Peace that never ends?
Did you know there's a Peace that never ends?
Through the day, through the night, in the dark, in the light.
Did you know there's a Peace that never ends?

Did you know Someone's watching over you?
Did you know Someone's watching over you?
Through the day, through the night, in the dark, in the light.
Did you know Someone's watching over you?

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

Eternal God, You call us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with courage, remembering that Your hand is shepherding us, Your voice is guiding us, and Your faithful love is sustaining us, all of our days. In Christ's name. 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