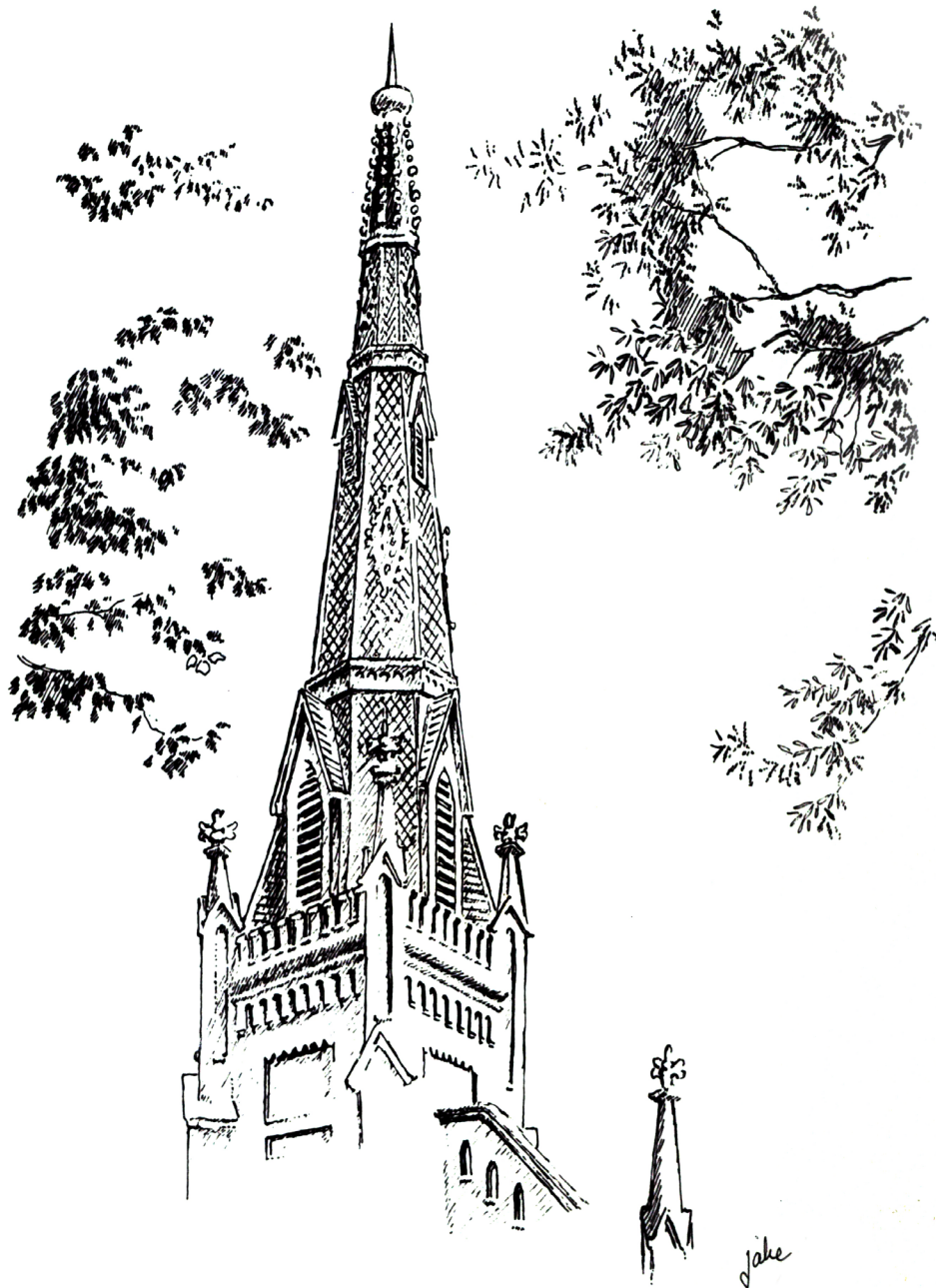


First Presbyterian Church

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP | 9 AM | FEBRUARY 2, 2025
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



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

“For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. If you have ears to hear, then hear!” And Jesus said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and it will be added to you.” - Mark 4:22-24

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

During our series “Seeking the Sacred Unseen,” you may like to begin your worship with this breath prayer as you breathe in and out in the silence. Written by Christine Valters Paintner.

Breathe in: *What you seek*
 Breathe out: *also seeks you.*
 Breathe in: *Rest*
 Breathe out: *and let it find you.*

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 Reflective Prayer

**Forgive us and heal us, O God.
 Help us to follow you, O Christ.
 Speak, your servants are listening, O Spirit.
 Amen.**

Meditative Music | “Be Thou My Vision” | The Cambridge Singers | City of London Sinfonia | John Rutter

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
 Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
 Be thou my best thought in the day and the night
 Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word
 Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
 Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
 Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
 Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
 Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:
 O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
 Be thou mine inheritance now and always;
 Be thou and thou only the first in my heart:
 O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun
 O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won;
 Great heart of my own heart, whatever befall
 Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.
 His is the earth and His the heavens above.

Prayer for Illumination | Claire Tate**First Scripture Reading** | 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Scripture Reading | 1 Samuel 3:1-10 | Scott Wallace

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

This is the Word of the Lord.

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Moment of Reflection

Meditation | "Seeking the Sacred Unseen - Through Listening" | Reverend Mary Bowman

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** | “God Be in My Head” | The Gesualdo Six | John Rutter

God be in my head
 And in my understanding;
 God be in mine eyes
 And in my looking;
 God be in my mouth
 And in my speaking;
 God be in my heart
 And in my thinking;
 God be at mine end
 And at my departing.

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer (Centering Prayer Version)

Our Father, who is in heaven, Holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our sins, as we forgive the sins of others, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and forever. Amen.

Sacrament of Communion

To receive a blessing with water, please come forward to a minister. 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 | Adapted from Pete Greig

**May this day bring Sabbath rest to our hearts and our homes.
 May God’s image in us be restored and our imaginations in God be re-storied.
 May the gravity of material things be lightened and the relativity of time slow down.
 May we know grace to embrace our own finite smallness in the arms of God’s infinite greatness.
 May we have eyes to see those around us as sisters and brothers in our human family.
 May God’s words feed us and God’s Spirit lead us into the week and into the life to come. 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.

Transcripts for the Contemplative Service can be found here: <https://firstpres-charlotte.org/sermons/>



**VIRTUAL
 CONNECT
 CARD**



**PRAYER
 REQUESTS**



**TEXT
 TO GIVE**



**GIVE
 ONLINE**