

First Presbyterian Church

October 27, 2024

11:00 am

Commitment Sunday



Worship of the Living God

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Hymn Medleys
arr. Kevin G. Pace

Teresa de Freitas

Welcome

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

Centering Music

I've Got Peace Like a River
arr. Sandra Eithun

The Bell Tower Ringers

* Call to Worship

Rev. Margaret Almeida

Shout for joy to the Lord all the earth,

worship the Lord with gladness.

Come before him with joyful songs,

for it is God who made us, and we are his.

We are God's people, and the sheep of his pasture.

**Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,
and God's courts with praise.
Let us worship the Lord.**

* Hymn 623

I've Got Peace like a River

* Confession of Sin

**God our Father,
if we are honest, we do not always want to pray.
Nor do we want to be still and to listen for your voice.
We see only the here and now
and idolize the powers of this world.
We prefer to pursue our own will,
secure our own resources,
and glorify our own ability.
Open our ears, living one, and teach us to pray.
Not so that we have the right words,
but so that you may encounter us
and transform our lives.**

* Assurance of Forgiveness

* Response 583

Glory to God

***Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!***

***Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!***

Proclamation of the Word

New Members & Baptisms

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

Moment for Reflection

Alex Johnson, cello

The God of Abraham Praise
arr. David S. Abramsky

Responding to the Word

* Affirmation of Faith

Rev. Josh Musser Gritter
The United Church of Canada

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others, to seek justice
and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus,
crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Announcements & Celebrations

Minute for Ministries

Cathy Adams

Offering

Offertory

Sanctuary Choir

O Love
Elaine Hagenberg

Surrendering of Gifts

Presentation of Pledges

Litany of Surrender

Giving God, we offer our gifts and pledges to you. They are in response to your transforming love.

**They are symbols of our gratitude for your grace,
our trust in your faithfulness,
and signs of our joyful discipleship.**

We give you more than our financial commitments.

**We give you our whole lives: our energy, intelligence,
imagination, and our love.**

We give in a spirit of surrender, faith, and joy,
**trusting that you will honor our faithfulness,
deepen our discipleship,
and care for your beloved world. Amen.**

* Doxology 654

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful
In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

* Prayer of Dedication

Sending to share the Word

* Hymn

I Surrender All
See Insert

* Benediction

* Benediction Response 540

Farewell, Good Friends
Farewell, good friends! Farewell, good friends!
Shalom, shalom! Till we meet again,
till we meet again, shalom, shalom.

Shalom, chaverim! Shalom, chaverim!
Shalom, shalom! Lehitraot, lehitraot, shalom, shalom.

Postlude

The Heavens Declare- Psalm XIX
Benedetto Marcello

*Those who are able are invited to stand.
Bold indicates words spoken in unison.

**The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God,
and in honor of the marriage of Alexandra Drye and Alex Glontz on
October 19 by Lesleigh and John Drye.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Everyone affected by Hurricane Helene, John Laughlin, John Smith, Jean Wurster, Richard Franklin

CONTINUING CONCERNS

Fred Aggers, Bill Baker, Daniel and Amy De Graaf (Dan and Karen De Graaf's son and daughter-in-law), Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith's mother), Scott Hay, Richard Hudson, Tricia Johnson, Vonnie Jordan (Mike Jordan's mother), Doug Lynch

(Roxanne Myer's brother-in-law), John McLaughlin, Andy Rowland (Jared Rowland's father), Ryan Snyder, Ebbie Whisenant, Sharon Whittington

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays: Patsy Wilson, Wendy Weant, Archie Tucker, Steve Butler, Duane Galloway, Bob Ingram, Will Almeida, Barrie Kirby, Kate Burton, Denise McKenzie, Teague Rowlan, Dianne Scott, Michelle Cook, Frieda Vick, Tony Shaw, Emma Snyder, Lily Yatawara Roberts

Anniversary: Mike and Julie Fuller

MINISTRY FOCUS – DEEPLY ROOTED

Welcome! We welcome all new and returning visitors to First Pres. We are glad you're here and hope you feel God's presence as you worship and fellowship among this community of believers. Children are always welcome in worship. However, if your little one needs some time to wiggle or play, a nursery is available for infants-4 Pre-K. Please see an usher for more information.

New Members: This morning we welcome new members at the 8:30 and 11:00 services. Please say hellow and introduce yourselves to our newest brothers and sisters in Christ, Emmanuel Amponsah, Dick and Mary Cameron, George Damtey, Steve Miller, and Kevin and Jessica Holman Settineri and family.

Music: We now have childcare for Sanctuary Choir and Handbell rehearsals on Wednesdays! Contact Teresa de Freitas at 704-636-1321 to join!

Grow in Faith: To celebrate Dr. Randy Kirby's return from sabbatical, please take a moment and write a Blue Card to welcome him back.

Grow in Faith: Today is the Rev. Margaret Almeida's last day serving as our Parish Associate while Dr. Kirby has been on Sabbatical. We have loved her time with us. Please thank her personally and with a blue card this morning.

CORE

Staff: Don't assume we know! Your pastors and congregation want to care for you through prayer, visitation, letters, and more, but we can't do that unless you tell us something is going on. Let us love you.

Giving: As of October 24, we have received 66 pledges for a total of \$391,596.00.

BRANCHING OUT

Hurricane Helene Relief: We have suspended collecting supplies for now. You may still donate monetarily by writing a check to First Pres and noting at the bottom, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Showing Up: Rowan Helping Ministries Food Pantry – Please remember to bring your donations of peanut butter, canned goods, and cereals to help stock the shelves at RHM next Sunday, November 3.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Oct 27	8:30	Contemporary Worship: Lewis Hall
	9:30	Breakfast
	9:45	Sunday School for all ages
	11:00	Traditional Worship: Sanctuary
	7:00	RJM Book Study
Oct 28	9:30	MomCo Team
	12:30	Media & Communications Team
Oct 29	10:00	Staff
	7:00	EHD Group
Oct 30	9:00	Yoga
	11:00	Prof Eppheimer's Study
	5:00	Handbell Rehearsal
	5:30	First Kids
	7:00	Choir Rehearsal, RJM Book Study
	7:30	Youth @ the Porch Bible Study
Oct 31	6:30	Life Center Worship Rehearsal
Nov 3	8:30	Contemporary Worship: Lewis Hall
	9:45	Sunday School for all ages
	11:00	Traditional Worship: Sanctuary
	5:00	Youth
	7:00	RJM Book Study

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First Presbyterian Church
308 W Fisher St Salisbury NC 28144
704-636-1321 www.firstpresssalisbury.org