

Worship of the Living God

Gathering around the Word

Prelude Teresa de Freitas
Peaceful Meditation
Paul fey

Welcome Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

* Call to Worship Dr. Randy Kirby
Let the redeemed be joyful!
Let them rejoice before God.
Sing to God, all peoples of the world.
Sing praises to God most high.
From the sanctuary of heaven,
God gives life and renews the world.
Let the redeemed be joyful!
Let us rejoice before God!

* Hymn 14 For the Beauty of the Earth

* Confession of Sin
Merciful and loving God,
you have called us to be your people
and claimed us for the service of Jesus Christ.
We confess that we have not lived up to our calling
to proclaim the good news in word and deed.
We are quick to speak when we ought to listen,
and remain silent when it is time to speak.
We put too much faith in our own actions
and fail to trust the strength of your Spirit.
O God, forgive our foolish and sinful ways.
Strengthen us to follow Christ’s way in the world.
By your Holy Spirit, give us the grace we need
to be faithful disciples and fulfill our common
calling, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

* Assurance of Forgiveness

* Response 581 Glory Be to the Father
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

Proclamation of the Word

Children’s Message

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: John 13:31-35

Scripture: Psalm 148

Sermon Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

Moment for Reflection Daniel Heath

Responding to the Word

* Affirmation of Faith Rev. Josh Musser Gritter
The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended
into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right
hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he
shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Prayers of the People

Announcements & Celebrations

Offering

Offertory Sanctuary Choir & Praise Team
Trust In God
Chris Brown | Steven Furtick

* Hymn 497 Bread of Life from Heaven (v. 1)

Sacrament of Holy Communion
Invitation to the Lord’s Table
Great Thanksgiving and the Lord’s Prayer
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
Communion of the People
The body of Christ, given for you.”
The blood of Christ, shed for you.”

Music during Communion Praise Team
Remembrance
Matt Maher | Matt Redman

* Prayer after Communion

Sending to share the Word

* Hymn 726 Will You Come and Follow Me

* Sending of the Graduates

* Benediction

* Benediction Response 748 Go With Us, Lord
Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.

Postlude
Toccata Opus 161
Paul Fey

The living Christ encounters us in the ordinary elements of Communion. Christ extends the invitation to the Lord’s Supper and is open to all – believers and doubters, young children and adults, members and non-members. To highlight this gracious welcome, only non-alcoholic juice is served, and gluten-free bread is available. If you would like to refrain from the feast, you may cross your arms, and a blessing will be offered. If you cannot come forward, a minister will serve you in your seat. If you feel so moved to respond, people often reply with “Amen” or “Thanks be to God.”

*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 Grayson Smith and all the 2025 graduates
by Tim and Jan Smith.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Richard Hudson, Richard Miller, Dale Alderson (Roxanne Myers’ mother)

CONTINUING CONCERNS

Fred Aggers, Bill Baker, Melanie Sink Bailey, Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith’s mother), Jim Goodman, Scott Hay, Vonnie Jordan (Mike Jordan’s mother), Tom Overcash, Reba Parsons, Jessica Settineri, John Smith, Ebbie Whisenant, Acey Worthy

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays: Melanie Burton, Emily Muire, Margaret Almeida, Annette Roberts, Beverly Cobb, Holly Whittington, Ames Flynn, Helen Kichefski, Ron Church, Ann Blankenship, Eleanor Behrooz, Anne Cave, Kevin Settineri, Zandra Spencer, Zane Creamer, Vickie Wallace

Anniversaries: Tom and Anne Maxey, Tom and Rochelle Bost, Andy and Diane Storey, Blaine and Andrea Smith, Bob and Cindy Coleman, David and Dari Caldwell

CHURCH LIFE

MINISTRY FOCUS – DEEPLY ROOTED

Communion Elder: Gail Bankett

Today, please join us in Lewis Hall following the service for a reception in honor of our 2025 Graduates. Food, fellowship, and fun!

Worship: First Pres 2025 Concert Series begins TODAY! Join us at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary for a concert by Caroline Owen, a national and international award-winning pianist. Refreshments will follow the concert. Childcare will be available!

Grow in Friendship: A New Members Reception will be held at Pastor Lara and Josh’s home on Tuesday, May 20, 5:30-7:00 pm. **If you have joined the church in the last few years**, we want to celebrate you. Enjoy light appetizers and fellowship.

Grow in Faith: Vacation Bible School is coming soon! Register your children now (purple QR Code). We also need MANY volunteers (black QR Code)! June 16-19, 5:00-7:30 pm, dinner included!



Grow in Faith: Would you like to help with Vacation Bible School but are unable to volunteer? Consider donating Food Lion gift cards of any amount to help offset the cost of providing meals, or sign up to prepare an item like mac and cheese. Donations can be given to Noel Adams or Robin Fisher.

MINISTRY FOCUS – 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.

MINISTRY FOCUS – BRANCHING OUT

Showing Up: RSS Summer Meals Program – School will be out soon, which means the Summer Meals Program will be starting. We need 2-3 volunteers daily to host the families that attend. June 2-July 25. Remember, the office will need a current copy of your driver’s license. Sign up now to help!



THIS WEEK

May 18	9:45	Sunday School
	11:00	Unified Worship – Sanctuary
	12:00	Reception for Baccalaureates – Lewis Hall
May 19	4:00	Caroline Owen Concert – Sanctuary
	10:30	Prayer Shawl Team
	6:00	Gather Team
May 20	7:00	Session
	10:00	Staff
	5:30	New Members Welcome
May 21	9:00	Yoga
	7:00	Choir
May 22	6:30	LCW Rehearsal
May 25	8:30	Worship – Lewis Hall
	9:45	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship – Sanctuary



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First Presbyterian Church
308 W Fisher St Salisbury NC 28144
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First Presbyterian Church

May 18, 2025
11:00 am

Baccalaureate Sunday



Mission Priorities

Spirit-Centered Discipleship
Hands-on Local Mission
Friendships Across Differences
Embracing the Unchurched