

Worship of the Living God

Gathering around the Word

Prelude Teresa de Freitas
An Advent Prelude
Charles Callahan

Welcome & Greeting Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

* Call to Worship Lighting the Candles of Advent
Brad, Dana, Virginia, and Henry Walser
God who speaks light into existence,
You are our best hope.
God who speaks life into existence,
You are our only hope.
God who speaks hope into existence,
Your son Jesus is light and life.
Let us worship him now!

* Hymn 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
vs. 1-4

* Confession of Sin Rev. Lara Musser Gritter
Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned
against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we
have done, and by what we have left undone. We have
not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved
our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we
humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight
in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of
your name. Amen.

* Assurance of Forgiveness

* Response 113 Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain only)
Glo—ria in excelsis Deo.
Glo—ria in excelsis Deo.

Proclamation of the Word

Children’s Message Megan Shaw

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-5 p. 594

Anthem Gail Drinkard, hammer dulcimer
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
arr. Ted Yoder

Scripture: Matthew 24:36-44 p. 26

Sermon Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

Moment for Reflection
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Carol Tornquist

Responding to the Word

* Affirmation of Faith The Nicene Creed
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and
unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of
God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten,
not made, of one Being with the Father; through him
all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he
came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy
Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.
For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried. On the third day, he
rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he
ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand
of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the
living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of
life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who
with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We
believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We
acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life
of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Announcements & Celebrations

Offering

Offertory Sanctuary Choir
Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus
John Purifoy

* Hymn 95 Prepare the Way of the Lord
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
Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring
JS Bach

* Prayer after Communion

Sending to share the Word

* Hymn 106 Prepare the Way, O Zion

* Benediction

Postlude
Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates
Wilbur Held

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,
by Kathy Vestal, in memory of Betty Fellows
for their shared birthday.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Lina Drinkard (Mike Drinkard’s sister-in-law), Gerhard Wolf, Paula Troxler, Anne Hollifield

CONTINUING CONCERNS

Deborah Alexander, Preston Askew, Bill Baker, Bob Bruce, Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith’s mother), Lawana Ford, Bill and Kathy Garraty (Jennifer Hudson’s parents), Suzanne Glasgow (Doug Glasgow’s sister-in-law), Scott Hay, David Jordan, Rosalie Laughlin, Wib Manuel, Ellen Muire, Reba Parsons, Frank Saunders, John Smith

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays: Sue Fisher, David Whitley, Sharon Hoffman, Janet Loeblein, Gabe Steinman, John Drye, Mark Grover, Barry Sang, Graham Smith, Kathy Vestal

Anniversaries: Jeff and Lyn Beaver, Dyke and Deborah Messinger, Jim and Barbara Norman

CHURCH LIFE

DEEPLY ROOTED

Worship: It’s time to sponsor our Wreaths and Poinsettias. Wreaths: \$20 each; Poinsettias: \$20 each. Use our QR code to sign up. Thank you!



Worship: Lessons & Carols Sunday, December 7, at 8:30 and 11:00. Special music and guest musicians.

Worship: Longest Night service will be held on Sunday, December 21, at 7:00 pm, in Lewis Hall. A service of prayer, music, and reflection.

Worship: Christmas Eve services – Join us at 3:00 in Lewis Hall for our Family Christmas Eve service featuring music, word, and the Children’s Pageant. Then at 8:00 pm in the Sanctuary, join us for our Communion and Candlelight service, featuring music, word, and communion.

Gather: Our annual Advent Gatherings will be held each Sunday of Advent, beginning on November 30, 9:15-10:00, in Fellowship Hall. Stop by for fellowship and a bite of food.

Gather: Karl Hales will present his Christmas Stories to the children on Sunday, December 14, at 10:00, in Fellowship Hall.

Grow in Faith: Presbyterian Women will meet on December 1, at 11:00. We will continue our study of *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*. Reverend Dr. Rhashell D. Hunter lets her imagination take over in the story of the prodigal son. What if the prodigal son was the prodigal daughter? What if the loving father was the devoted mother? The scriptures might be revealed to women in a different way. Please join us as we nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study.

CORE

Called Congregational meeting for December 7 at 10:30 in **Lewis Hall**. The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee has been diligently searching for an Associate Pastor for Formation and Missions since June. They are now ready to present a candidate for approval.

Staff: Don’t assume we know! Your staff wants to care for you. Births, weddings, deaths, illnesses, hospitalizations, etc., please let us know!

Staff: Please be aware that your pastors and staff will never text or email you to solicit money or gift cards. Other things to watch out for: emails not ending with @firstpresssalisbury.org or emails/texts about ‘a private matter.’ Please, do not respond to these phishing emails and texts.

Giving: As of November 25: Number of pledging units (crosses) to date: 162. Total pledged: \$935,396 (93 work gloves). We are at 72% of our goal!

BRANCHING OUT

Showing Up: Next Sunday, December 7, is our regular day to bring in canned goods and cereals to help restock the shelves at Rowan Helping Ministries. Currently, there is a great need for peanut butter, jelly, oatmeal, cereals, and canned fruit.

Showing Up: Rowan County Department of Social Services is looking for a few volunteers to listen in on phone calls between social workers, families, and community partners on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 12-2. There may be various calls during this time period, and each call will last 5-10 minutes. The volunteer doesn't need to speak during the call - just listen. The volunteer can listen in on calls from anywhere. If you are available to help with these calls, please contact Donna Beaver at 704-267-7996 or donna.beaver@rowancountync.gov.

Youth: 6th-12th-grade students are invited to join us from 5:00-6:30 pm here at First Pres on Sundays. Bring your friends!

Youth: Our Youth Christmas Party is set for Sunday, December 7, at 5:00, here at church. Enjoy food, fellowship, games, prizes, and fun. Bring your friends!

Embracing the Unchurched: MomCo (mothers of young children) will meet on Monday, December 8, at 9:30. Help us spread the word to all mothers of young children. For more information, contact Alex Paul.

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

First Presbyterian Church

November 30, 2025
11:00 am

1st Sunday of Advent



Mission Priorities

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