

1st Sunday of Advent

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Welcome & Greeting Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

* Call to Worship *Lighting the Candles of Advent*Ron and Susan Church

* Song Here I Am To Worship

Tim Hughes

* Confession of Sin Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

Assurance of Forgiveness

* Response Angels We Have Heard on High
Chris Tomlin | James Chadwick

Proclamation of the Word

Children's Message Megan Shaw

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-5

Scripture: Matthew 24:36-44

Sermon Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

Moment for Reflection

Responding to the Word

* Affirmation of Faith The Nicene Creed

Prayers of the People

Announcements & Celebrations

Offering

Offertory

Hope for Everyone
Jason Ingram | Matt Maher

* Doxology Doxology (Bring a Torch)

Thomas Ken | arr. John Stafford

Communion

Communion Music Invited

Jeff Owen | Mike Donehey

Prayer after Communion

Sending to share the Word

* Song Jesus Messiah
Chris Tomlin | Daniel Carson

* Benediction

Postlude

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

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

The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God, by Kathy Vestal, in memory of Betty Fellows for their shared birthday.

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 children 4 and younger. Please see an usher for more information.

Communion: 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."

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.

MINISTRY FOCUS

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 @firstpressalisbury.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.



Wreath/Poinsettia form

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

First Presbyterian Church

Where God's Love is Alive for Mission

November 30, 2025 8:30 am

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today.







