

Worship of the Living God

Gathering around the Word

Prelude Laurie Klaus  
Sing We Now of Christmas  
arr. Larson

Welcome Rev. Alicia Wilson

\* Call to Worship  
We are here, because we have heard a promise of peace  
and we have faith its day will come.  
We have heard a rumor of justice  
and we have faith its day will come.  
We have heard a whisper of hope  
and we have faith its day will come.  
We have heard a hint of love  
and we have faith its day will come.  
We have heard of the birth of the Christ-child  
and we have faith that his day is here.  
In Jesus Christ, we are here.  
Let us worship God.

\* Hymn 133 Oh Come, All Ye Faithful

Confession of Sin  
God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came  
among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that  
we have not welcomed the light or trusted good news  
to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our  
midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive  
our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may  
receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth  
of Christ the Lord. 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 Christmas Story

Scripture: Psalm 148 p. 550  
Luke 2:22-40 p. 55

Response with Carols  
\* Hymn 119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
Hymn 128 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly  
Hymn 114 Away in a Manger  
Hymn 140 Once in Royal David’s City  
\* Hymn 136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

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 & the Lord’s Prayer

Announcements & Celebrations

Offering

Offertory  
All is Well  
arr. Carol Tornquist

\* Doxology

Christmastide Doxology

1  
Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow Praise God all

7  
crea - tures here be - low Praise God a - bove ye heav' - nly hosts Praise

14  
Fa - ther. Son - and Ho - ly Ghost! A - men!

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\* Prayer of Dedication

Sending to share the Word

\* Hymn 545 Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

\* Benediction

Postlude  
I Saw Three Ships  
arr. Hayes

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

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Dottie Thomason, Ames Flynn, Anne Hollifield

CONTINUING CONCERNS

Deborah Alexander, Preston Askew, Bill Baker, Lina Drinkard  
(Mike Drinkard’s sister-in-law), Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith’s  
mother), Bill and Kathy Garraty (Jennifer Hudson’s parents),  
Suzanne Glasgow (Doug Glasgow’s sister-in-law), Scott Hay,  
Rosalie Laughlin, Wib Manuel, Ellen Muire, Reba Parsons, Frank  
Saunders, John Smith, Paula Troxler, Sue Weddington

CELEBRATIONS

**Birthdays:** Jennifer Flynn, Liz Messinger, Bobby Williams,  
Chris Bradshaw, Elizabeth Calvert, Katie Church, Berkley  
Loeblein, Andy Storey, Lynn Weisler

**Anniversaries:** Jim and Sonja Goodman, Randy and Marica  
Reamer, Scott and Kim Johnson, Jesse and Kathy Tart

## CHURCH LIFE

### DEEPLY ROOTED

**Grow in Faith: First Pres 101** will be held on the first and second Sundays of the month, 9:50-10:35, in Pastor Lara's office. If you'd like to learn more about the theology and ministry of First Presbyterian Church, join us for this class on January 4 and 11. (Next opportunity: February 8 and 15.)

**Epiphany Sunday:** Join us on January 4 at 8:30 and 11:00 for worship with communion and pick up your Star for 2026. The star will have a word for you to ponder throughout the new year to see how God will speak through it. It will also have the name of a family for you to pray for throughout 2026.

**Worship:** The Five Senses of Worship — Coming in the New Year! Beginning in January, our contemporary worship service will explore The Five Senses of Worship, a special once-a-month series led by Rev. Daniel Heath, Lewis Hall Accompanist. Each service will invite worshippers to experience God through sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch—deepening our connection with God and one another through creative, sensory-rich expressions of faith. Join us for these unique worship services at 8:30 a.m. in Lewis Hall on January 4, February 8, and March 1. Come ready to encounter God with all your senses!

**Grow in Faith:** Presbyterian Women is asking for your help in supporting the Rowan County One Church One Child Program, a missions/outreach program. They help meet the needs of children being served by the Rowan County Department of Social Services. It also benefits children in Foster Care. A collection box for donations of underwear and socks for children and teens of all ages will be placed outside Lewis Hall through January 11. Please be generous.

**Grow in Faith:** It's time to sign up to volunteer for First Kids for the spring semester. We need people to serve, cook, and shepherd. If you want to sign up, contact Megan Shaw or through our website.

**Come to the Kirby Library!** Newly reopened, the Kirby Library is now refreshed with First Pres historical artifacts, a table for meetings and study, and books organized by topic. Discover wisdom in books on Christian living, grief, theology, prayer, and more. Books curated by Pastor Randy especially for our congregation can be found in the Kirby Collection. Come and check out a book!

## CORE

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

**Giving:** As of December 23: Number of pledging units (crosses): 179. Total pledged: \$1,007,276 (100 work gloves). We are at 75% of our goal!

**Year-end** is quickly approaching. The church office will be closed for Christmas break from 12:00 noon on Christmas Eve through January 1. For gifts to be included in your 2025 giving statement:

- Checks must be postmarked no later than Dec. 31.
- Online gifts must be submitted through our website [www.firstpresssalisbury.org](http://www.firstpresssalisbury.org) by 11:59 pm on Dec. 31.
- Hand-delivered donations must be dropped off no later than 12:00 noon on Dec. 31.
- IRA qualified distributions must leave and clear your IRA account by Dec. 31.

During the office Christmas break, you may slip your envelopes into our door mail slot on W Fisher St.

## BRANCHING OUT

**Showing Up:** Next Sunday, January 4, is our Rowan Helping Ministries Food Pantry Sunday. Please remember to bring in donations of peanut butter, cereals, and canned goods.

**Embracing the Unchurched:** Again this year, we are collecting new and gently-used winter coats through January to help those in need at Rowan Helping Ministries. Drop-off boxes are located in the Sanctuary narthex and the Lewis Hall foyer.

# First Presbyterian Church

December 28, 2025  
11:00 am



### *Mission Priorities*

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



## LICENSES

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