

Worship of the Living God

† Those who are able are invited to stand

Bold indicates words spoken in unison

Thank you for silencing your electronic devices.

Gathering Around the Word

An order of worship offers a meaningful and reliable structure for the church’s encounter with the living God. Over time, an order of worship helps to shape our faith and faithfulness as the people of God, becoming a pattern for how we live as Christians in the world.

Prelude

Air II

George F. Handel

Teresa de Freitas

Welcome & Greeting

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

† Call to Worship

Rev. Hannah Ostlund

Adapted from Psalm 31

Blessed be the Lord. When we were a city under siege,
God wondrously showed steadfast love for us.
God is our rock and fortress; **God leads us and guides us.**
We trust in you, oh Lord. **We say, “You are our God.”**
Our times are in your hand. **Let your face shine upon us.**
Let us sing to God!

† Hymn #275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Confession of Sin

Merciful Christ, all things were created in and through you. Yet our lives are like cities under siege. We build our lives on shaky foundations of ambition, status, comfort, and appearance. Our hearts are hardened against our enemies, strangers, and even our own families. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. Break our brittle hearts open to the mysterious flow of your love that we might find our lives hidden in you, our rock and fortress.

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!

Proclamation of the Word

Children’s Message

Karl Hales

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture

Psalm 31, p. 478

Scripture

Colossians 1:15-27, p. 188

Sermon

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

Moment for Reflection

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

arr. Carol Tornquist

Responding to the Word

† Affirmation of Faith

Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

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

Minute for Ministries

Chris Poor, Fund

Offering

Offertory

Lead Me Back – A Song of the Prodigal

Pepper Choplin

DOXOLOGY #606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

† Prayer of Dedication

Sending to Share the Word

† Hymn #353

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

2 Cents-a-Meal

During the singing of the hymn, please bring your 2 Cents a Meal offering to the front.

† Benediction

Postlude

Built On The Rock

Gordon Young



Welcome to First Pres

We are so glad you are here, “Where God’s Love is Alive for Mission.”

Learn more at www.firstpressalisbury.org or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

FRIENDSHIP PADS in your pews are for recording attendance and for visitors to share their information so that we can share about God’s work here.

CHILDREN’S ACTIVITY CLIPBOARDS are in the narthex.

CHILDCARE (ages 4 and under) is available in the Nursery in our Family Life Center (see an usher for directions).

ASSISTED HEARING DEVICES are available from an usher.

The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Anne Hollifield
by Fred, Sherry, and Luke Bryan, and Brayden and Bess Pomajzl.

JOYS AND CONCERNS: Deborah Alexander, Ron Church

Lee and Tricia Johnson on the birth of their grandson, Emmett Atlee Smith. Emmett’s parents are Brooke and Ward Smith, and his older brother is Teddy.

CONTINUING CONCERNS: Preston Askew, Bill Baker, Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith’s mother), Suzanne Glasgow (Doug Glasgow’s sister-in-law), Scott Hay, Rosalie Laughlin, Wib Manuel, Ellen Muire, Reba Parsons, Frank Saunders, John Smith

BIRTHDAYS: Al Dunn, Judy Craig, David Simmons, Meredith Burton, Blake Safrit, Kathy Sanborn, Rochelle Bost, Christina Lewis, Kendall Nagy, Kathryn Swaim, Liz Snyder, Linda Lysterly

ANNIVERSARIES: Kevin and Jessica Holman Settineri, Steve and Robin Fisher, Bill and Christie Carter, Richard and Lynn Miller

We Are Deeply Rooted

WORSHIP: We will continue to explore The Five Senses of Worship, a special once-a-month series led by Rev. Daniel Heath, Lewis Hall Accompanist. 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 am in Lewis Hall on February 8 and March 1. Come ready to encounter God with all your senses!

GROW: Mark your calendars now! **Lewis Preaching Sunday** is February 1. 9:45 unified Sunday School in Fellowship Hall, 11:00 unified worship in the Sanctuary, 5:00 program first in Lewis Hall with a free dinner to follow. Sign up during worship today or on Jan. 25 or call/email Christine. Our guest speaker is Rev. Amos Disasa, Senior Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Dallas, Texas.

We Have A Healthy Core

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, January 25, at 10:40, in Lewis Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to approve the 2026 budget and elect new leaders.

GIVING: As of January 15: Number of pledging units (crosses): 192. Total pledged: \$1,094,396 (109 work gloves). We are at 81% of our goal!

We Are Branching Out

SHARE: Again this year, we are collecting new and gently used winter coats of all sizes to help clients of RHM. Drop off in the Lewis Hall foyer through January.

SHOWING UP: Sign up now through our website for our next Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, January 20, 2:00-6:30, in Fellowship Hall.

DAY SCHOOL: Priority Registration for the 2026-2027 Day School year will open to current students and church members on January 26.

COMMUNITY: The Race & Justice Team Study groups: The Wednesday group begins on January 21 at 7:00 pm, with the book *Black Cake*. Contact Monica Green for the Zoom link. The Sunday group begins on January 25 at 7:00 pm, with TED Talks and other videos on racial healing, inclusive culture, and others. Contact Beffie Cook for the Zoom link.



Our Staff

Church Office Hours:
M-Th (8-5), F (8-1)

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Antonio Cervantes Anguiano
Buildings & Grounds

Sermon Notes

Use this space to jot down key ideas, questions, or insights.

- What verses or themes stood out to you?
- What is God saying to you to today?
- How can God's Word today shape your daily life and prayers?

Service of the Lord's Day

God's Hope for Tomorrow



2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 18, 2026
11:00 am | Sanctuary

For more details on events: Visit our website | Use QR Code below



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