

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

Lead Me to Calvary
arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Teresa de Freitas

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Hannah Ostlund

Through Adam, sin entered the world and death through sin. Death came to all people because all sinned. **Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**

God called Abram from his father's house to an unknown land of promise.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Through Moses, God provided water from a rock to a grumbling and thirsty people. **Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**

God looked not upon appearance but upon the heart and called the shepherd boy David to be King. **Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**

Through Ezekiel, God promised to bring life back into bones long dead and set the Holy Spirit upon us. **Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**

† HYMN #286

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dry and brittle are our spirits, O God. We confess that, like those before us, we often feel that all hope is lost. Our lives and the world around us leave us unsteady amid the chaos. We have stopped

looking for the good, convinced that what is lost cannot be found.

Draw us closer to you, and the truth of your restoring power. Breathe your resurrection Spirit into us again, O God. Raise us to new life,

that we may live each day into your purpose, we pray.

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

BAPTISM & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 37:1-6, p. 759

SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 37:7-14, p. 759

SERMON

Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Near the Cross
Arr. Carol Tornquist

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

The Brief Statement of Faith

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus! With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBER

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Before the Cross of Christ We Stand
Lloyd Larson

† 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 #288

Spirit of the Living God

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata in G Minor
Paul Fey



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 honor of Del and Carol Denny's 61st wedding anniversary.

JOYS AND CONCERNS: Jenn Selby, Clay Burleson, Nadine Potts, Acey Worthy, Marcia Reamer, Jim and Betty Carli, Ruth Purser (Kathy Sanborn's mother), Billy Canup (Cindy Coleman's father), Alexander Freeman (Missionary trip in the Philippines)

CONTINUING CONCERNS: Deborah Alexander, Preston Askew, Bill Baker, Ron Church, Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith's mother), Bill Garraty (Jennifer Hudson's father), Scott Hay, Carter Jenkins, Rosalie Laughlin, Wib Manuel, Betty Mohs, Reba Parsons, Kelly Potts (David and Nadine Potts' son), Frank Saunders, John Smith, Jeanette Whitley

BIRTHDAYS: Victor Wallace, Vijay Michael, Ellen Dalrymple, Katie Bullock, Cindy Dailey, Dottie Thomason, David Carmichael, Carole Simmons, Megan Easter, Libby Folwer, Anna Harrington, Katie Menees, James Brincefield, Ryan Honeycutt, Martha Lassiter, Wib Manuel, Trey Bergsma

ANNIVERSARIES: Scott and Ellen Whittington, Bill and Paula Troxler, Ryan and Meredith Honeycutt, Brandon and Teen Aron

WE ARE DEEPLY ROOTED

WORSHIP: This morning, John and Susan Muth present their son, John Michael, for baptism.

WORSHIP: This morning, we welcome our Director of Music Ministries, Teresa de Freitas, to our family of faith at First Pres.

GROW: Lenten Prayer Breakfasts each Wednesday at 7:00 am in Lewis Hall during Lent. Join us for the best homemade breakfast in town. Schedule of speakers: March 25: Dr. Sidney Davis, Zion Olivet Presbyterian, Charleston, SC, retired. Cost: Adults \$7, Children/Youth \$3, and children under 4 are free. Sign up weekly on the friendship pads, or call/email Christine in the office.

GROW: Our New Men's Bible Study is off to a great start! Pastor Josh is leading a new weekly Tuesday morning Bible Study for men at 6:30 am, in the Open Horizon classroom, room 201. Josh says, "My earnest hope for this Bible Study is that it will be a place for men of different generations to find brothers in Christ who will encourage them in the life of faith."

WORSHIP: It's time to sponsor our Easter Lilies. All dedications and payments will be due by March 25. Use the QR Code or see Christine in the church office. Cost: \$15 each.



GROW: New Members Lunch Sunday, March 29, 12:15-2:15, in Fellowship Hall. Have you been visiting First Presbyterian Church for a while? Do you consider First Pres your church home? Join Pastor Lara and other prospective new members for lunch to learn about the meaning of membership, what we believe, and how to grow and serve in faith together! Please RSVP to Pastor Lara or the church office to save your spot by March 25.

GROW: JOY will celebrate Easter with the Day School on Tuesday, March 31, at 10:00, in Lewis Hall. Please RSVP to the church office.

HOLY WEEK:

Palm Sunday, 8:30 and 11, join us as we triumphantly journey into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday, join us for a complimentary meal at 5:45 in Lewis Hall. Food and fellowship together, then stay for our moving Maundy Thursday in the Sanctuary at 7:00. Childcare is available.

Good Friday, hear the Last 7 Words of Christ in worship at 7:00 in Lewis Hall. Childcare is available.

Easter Sunday, Sunrise Service with the Downtown Churches at 6:30 am in the Bell Tower Park (bring a chair). 8:30 and 11:00, join our celebration of the risen Lord. Feed the Fish finale, butterfly release, and decorating the cross will be held at 9:45 in the courtyard.

WE HAVE A HEALTHY CORE

STAFF: Please be aware that your pastors and staff will never text or email you to solicit money or gift cards, or run errands. 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.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Scholarships are available to high school seniors and undergraduate students. For more information, visit the church website. www.firstpressalisbury.org/share/#youthministry. Applications are due by April 24.

GIVING UPDATE:

2026 Amount Pledged: \$1,115,246

2026 Year-to-Date Received: \$216,684

WE ARE BRANCHING OUT

SERVE: Feed the Fish ends Palm Sunday. We have currently raised \$1,347.65. All donations and spare change welcome!

SERVE: The Helene Recovery Team plans to take quarterly work trips to Western NC to assist with homes affected by the hurricane. The next trip is April 6-10. Lodging and meals are provided at the Montreat Conference Center. Call Bob Harris (704-202-5877) or Mike Drinkard (770-283-9046) with questions.

SERVE: Former Girl Scouts and/or leaders, we are having a reunion, March 24, 10:00-12:00, in the Mary & Martha Classroom. Please bring a brunch dish to share. RSVP to the Church Office or Carolyn Glasgow at 704-433-7871.



Our Staff

Church Office Hours:
M-Th (8-5), F (8-1)
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Antonio Cervantes Anguiano
Buildings & Grounds

Mike Mangum
Buildings & Grounds

Service of the Lord's Day

Life and Death



5TH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 22, 2026

11:00 am | Sanctuary

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

308 W Fisher St | Salisbury, NC 28144
www.firstpressalisbury.org | 704-636-1321
Where God's Love is Alive for Mission