

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

Teresa de Freitas

Reflection on “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Paul Fey

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

PROCESSION OF THE PALMS

Bell Tower Ringers

Palm Sunday Processional

† CALL TO WORSHIP

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 #197

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

CONFESSION OF SIN

Patient God, with eager hearts and open postures, we welcome Jesus, riding into Jerusalem on a lowly donkey. We wave palms with jubilee and scream shouts of Hosanna through the air. But as the journey of Holy Week continues, our tendency is to follow the crowd that cries out for Christ's crucifixion and turn our faces away from His passion. We ask for your forgiveness and seek your transforming power to right our ways. Give us the courage to face the events of your death, knowing that we look forward to the light of resurrection, 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

SPECIAL MUSIC

First Kids, Youth, Bell Tower Ringers, & Sanctuary Choir

“Blessed Is He”

Virian Hare and Katie Houts

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21:1-11, p. 21

SCRIPTURE

John 6:60-69, p. 93

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 3:14-22, p. 232

SERMON

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

All Glory, Laud and Honor

Arr. Carol Tornquist

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Wendy Weant, soloist

Rejoice Greatly – From Messiah

G. F. Handel

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 #196

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

† BENEDICTION

Jesus enters into Jerusalem riding a humble donkey. **Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!** What will this messiah king bring? **Peace on earth and glory in the highest heaven!** Then, the assembly rose and brought Jesus before Pilate, saying: **We found this man undermining our law and order and saying that he is the Messiah, a king.** Then Pilate said to the crowds, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” **He stirs up the people with his teaching and disturbs the peace everywhere.** I have not found this man guilty of any charges against him. **Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!** Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews? **Crucify, crucify him!** Why? What evil has he done? **Crucify him! Crucify him!**

POSTLUDE

From Acht Kleine BWV 558

J. S. Bach



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 the Youth of First Pres, 2026 TWAM chaperones & participants, and the Youth Ministry Team, consisting of Pastor Josh Musser Gritter, Salem Fleming, Chris Mead, Troy Creamer, Cindy Coleman, Margaret Harris, & Andrea Smith by Ryan, Meredith, & Camden Honeycutt.

JOYS AND CONCERNS: Wib Manuel, Ron Church, Acey Worthy, Jenn Selby, Clay Burleson, Nadine Potts, Marcia Reamer, Ruth Purser (Kathy Sanborn’s mother)

Ames and Jennifer Flynn on the birth of their grandson, Callum James Gelbaugh, on March 24. His parents are Colin and Anna Flynn Gelbaugh.

Cindy Coleman and family on the death of her father, Billy Canup, on March 22.

Ellen Whittington and family on the death of her sister, Karen Furey, on March 21.

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

BIRTHDAYS: Sybil Baker, Cynthia Randleman, Nancy Phillips, Cathy Adams, Frank Adams, IV, Lee Johnson, Christine Mowery, Gabe Dufour, Suzanne Jenkins, David Upton, Steve Coggin, Roxanne Myers, Bowie Leary, Sherry Bryan, Lauren Smith

ANNIVERSARIES: David and Donna Beaver, Dan and Karen De Graaf, Harry and Denise Fink

WE ARE DEEPLY ROOTED

GROW: Our final Lenten Prayer Breakfast is this week. Join us on Wednesday at 7:00 am in Lewis Hall. This week, we welcome Monica Green and the Jubilee Community Choir. Adults \$7, Children/Youth \$3, and children under 4 are free. Sign up on the friendship pads, or call/email Christine in the office.

GROW: Our New Men’s Bible Study with Pastor Josh continues each Tuesday at 6:30 am in room 201.

GROW: JOY will celebrate spring on Sunday, April 12. Lunch at the Salisbury Country Club, then an afternoon concert with the Salisbury Swing Band, games, vendors, and flowers all in Hurley Park. Bring a chair! Cost: Lunch (no membership required). Seating at lunch is limited. RSVP to the church office soon.

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. Eat 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

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

MAXWELL CHAMBERS TRUST: The next semi-annual meeting of MCT will be on Monday, April 20, at 6:00 pm, in Everyman’s Bible classroom. We need all current and former Elders to attend for a quorum.

GIVING UPDATE:
2026 Amount Pledged: \$1,152,466
2026 Year-to-Date Received: \$239,392

WE ARE BRANCHING OUT

SERVE: Next Sunday, April 5, is Food Pantry Sunday, our time to bring in canned goods, peanut butter, jelly, and cereals to help support Rowan Helping Ministries.

SERVE: Our quarterly Red Cross Blood Drive is set for Tuesday, April 21, 2:00-6:30, in Fellowship Hall. Go to www.redcrossblood.org to sign up.



Our Staff

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

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COVER ART: scottericksonarts.com

Service of the Lord’s Day

Life and Death



PALM SUNDAY

March 29, 2026
11:00 am | Sanctuary

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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