

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 Wyatt Newsome

*Duke Street
arr. Wilbur Held*

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Hannah Ostlund

† CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Barry Sang

If God is for us, who is against us?

He who gave up his own Son for all of us!

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

Nothing in creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ

Jesus!

God leads us out of every wilderness we face.

Because your love is better than life itself, our lips will sing your praise!

† HYMN #267 *Come Christians, Join to Sing*

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy God, we confess that in the wilderness moments of our lives, we often turn away from you. When we seek to separate ourselves from you, we hurt ourselves, others, and your beloved creation. Help us, O God, to seek your light and love first and always. Guide us step by step, to walk in the ways of your risen Son toward healing and forgiveness.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Cathy Adams

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Psalm 138, p. 545

SCRIPTURE Ephesians 2:1-10, p. 181

SERMON

Rev. Hannah Ostlund

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

My Faith Looks Up to Thee
Cindy Berry

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *A brief statement of faith (PCUSA)*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. 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. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain
Robert Buckley Farlee

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 #275 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing
John Leavitt

The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God, and in honor of Berkley Loeblein and Jacob Greene's marriage, by Doug, Janet, Noah, and Nicholas Loeblein.

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.

JOYS AND CONCERNS: Larry Glass (Mark and Ellie Grover's brother-in-law), Wib Manuel, Clay Burleson, Marcia Reamer

Doug and Janet Loeblein on the marriage of their daughter, Berkley, to Jacob Greene, on April 11.

Teresa Williams and family on the death of her husband, Bobby.

CONTINUING CONCERNS: Marjie Aggers, Deborah Alexander, Bill Baker, Betty Carli, Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith's mother), Jennifer Flynn, Bill Garraty (Jennifer Hudson's father), Scott Hay, Carter Jenkins, Rosalie Laughlin, Betty Mohs, Reba Parsons, Nadine Potts, Ruth Purser (Kathy Sanborn's mother), Frank Saunders, Jenn Gardner Selby, John Smith, Jeanette Whitley, Acey Worthy

BIRTHDAYS: Mandi Repsher, Antonia Barolini, Teresa Williams, Harold Mesimer, Tim Smith, Glenna Todd, John Harrington, Vick Bost, George Damtey, Carley Drye Robinson, Fletcher Busby, Evelyn Mead, Robert Ogden

ANNIVERSARIES: Chris and Paula Mead, Colin and Cindy Dailey

WE ARE DEEPLY ROOTED

WELCOME: This morning, we welcome Wyatt Newsome as our guest accompanist. Thank you, Wyatt, for joining us in worship today.

WELCOME: This morning we welcome the following to our First Pres family of faith: Betty Defreese (Diane Coggin's mother), Chris and Stacie LaRoche, Connie MacLean, and Beverly and Phillip McKinney.

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

GROW: Vacation Bible School 2026 registration is now OPEN! Join us on June 15-18, 5:00-7:30 pm, for a Snowball Mountain Challenge. VBS is open to all children currently in 3K through 5th grade.





GROW: VBS 2026 – It takes a village! We need youth and adult volunteers to help with VBS, June 15-18, 5:00-7:30 pm. Whether you can only help two nights or all five, we need you! Registration is now open for volunteers. For more information, contact Megan Shaw at 704-636-1321.

GROW: Dr. Trevor Eppheimer will lead a spring book study on *The Vanishing Church* by Ryan P. Burge. Join us on Wednesdays, April 15-May 13, at 11:00, in the Open Horizons classroom 201. Register by email: teppheimer@hoodseminary.edu

MUSIC: Our first concert of the 2026 Concert Series will feature the Lake Norman Orchestra. They will perform “Classical in Space” on April 19, at 2:00, in Lewis Hall. Please join us for this special time of music. Don’t miss this enchanting time of music. Bring your family and friends!

MUSIC: The Salisbury Rowan Choral Society will present a concert here in the Sanctuary on Saturday, April 25, at 3:00 pm. Do not miss this chance to hear their beautiful voices.

WORSHIP: Our final enhanced worship service featuring our 5 Senses will take place at 8:30 on Sunday, April 19. This will conclude Daniel Heath’s doctoral research project. Do not miss this chance to experience worship through our eyes, ears, noses, touch, and taste.

WORSHIP: Share Your Experience – Focus Group Volunteers Needed! As part of The Five Senses of Worship services, we are gathering feedback from worshippers who have attended one or more of these special services. If you’d like to share your experience and help shape future worship at First Presbyterian, please consider joining a one-time Focus Group that will meet during the Sunday School hour on April 19. Participants will enjoy light refreshments and conversation as we reflect on how engaging all five senses can make worship more meaningful, memorable, and accessible. To volunteer, please contact the church office by April 15.

WE HAVE A HEALTHY CORE

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.

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 Budgeted Pledges through 3-31-26: \$288,117
2026 Year-to-Date Received: \$286,637

WE ARE BRANCHING OUT

SERVE: Our quarterly offering for 2 Cents a Meal will be collected next Sunday, April 19, at both services. Please remember to bring in your donations to help support this vital ministry.

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.

SERVE: Yoga! Certified Yoga Instructor, Felicia Stewart Hoyle, leads yoga each Wednesday morning, 9:00-10:15 in Lewis Hall for beginners through advanced levels, as well as all ages. Suggested donation: \$10.

MOMCO: The next meeting of MomCo will be held on Monday, April 13, at 9:30, in the Youth Room. MomCo is a great way for young mothers to find support, mentors, and new friends. Each meeting has a lesson and discussion, crafts, and lots of fellowship. Childcare is provided. Call Bridget Brown for more information.



Our Staff

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

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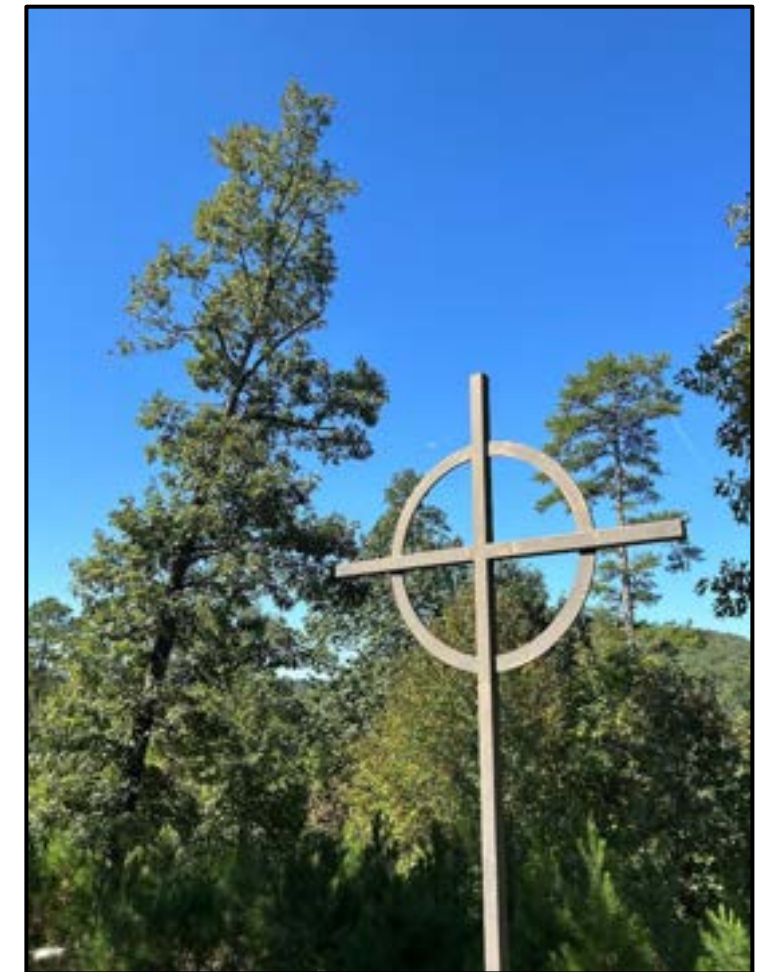
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First Presbyterian Elders
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Cover Photo by Rev. Hannah Ostlund, Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

Service of the Lord’s Day



2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 12, 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