

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

Prayer for Peace

'Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.'

Psalm 34:14

arr. Paul Fey

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

† CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

Where does my help come from?

My help comes from the Lord.

The Maker of heaven and Earth.

The Lord will keep me from all evil.

The Lord will keep my going out and coming in. From this time on and forevermore.

† HYMN #475 *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

CONFESSION OF SIN

Living God, we spend so much of our time seeking after false comforts. We want to be liked, to be happy, and to gain admiration.

And yet in our comfort, we miss the work you want to do with us.

We miss the cost of following you, and we ignore our need to be transformed. Forgive us for taking the easy road. Lead us along your righteous paths; open us up to the freedom your way offers.

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 Ron Church

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Luke 4:17-26, p. 57

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40:1-11, p. 627

SERMON Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION Gwynne Shoaf

A Song of Paul
arr. Alfred V. Fedak

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Rev. Hannah Ostlund

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 Sanctuary Choir, Kathy Sang, Piano

Do You Believe This?

James Biery

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 #838 *Standing on the Promises*

2 CENTS A MEAL OFFERING

During the singing of the hymn, please bring your

2 Cents a Meal offering to the front.

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccatina on 'Praise to the Lord'

Paul Fey



The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God, and in celebration of Liza Fisher and Felix Holzer's wedding on April 18, by Luke and Diane Fisher.

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: Ty Cobb

Luke and Diane Fisher on the marriage of their daughter, Liza, to Felix Holzer.

Jonas Spry and family on the death of his mother, Seleta Kluttz Spry, on April 9.

CONTINUING CONCERNS: Marjie Aggers, Deborah Alexander, Preston Askew, Bill Baker, Clay Burleson, Betty Carli, Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith's mother), Jennifer Flynn, Bill Garraty (Jennifer Hudson's father), Larry Glass (Mark and Ellie Grover's brother-in-law), Scott Hay, Carter Jenkins, Rosalie Laughlin, Wib Manuel, Betty Mohs, Reba Parsons, Nadine Potts, Ruth Purser (Kathy Sanborn's mother), Marcia Reamer, Frank Saunders, Jenn Gardner Selby, John Smith, Jeanette Whitley, Acey Worthy

BIRTHDAYS: Mike Farris, Maria Velasquez Sanchez, Brian Pritchard, Ben Dunkin, Brenda White, Nolan Spry, Becky Lounsbury, Abby Robinette, Kia Creamer, Jake Pritchard, Dean Wilson, Will Paul, Mary-Ellen Bailey, Emma Blackwell, Betty Carli

ANNIVERSARIES: Steve and Donna Ashley, Brayden and Bess Bryan Pomajzl, Trent and Brooks Busby

WE ARE DEEPLY ROOTED

WORSHIP: This morning, we welcome Vincent, Holly, Violet, and Kaius Muñoz to our First Pres family. Vincent will also be baptized this morning.

MUSIC: TODAY! Our first concert of the 2026 Concert Series will feature the Lake Norman Orchestra. They will perform "Classical in Space" 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! Childcare available. A light reception will follow the concert.

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.

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: JOY (Just Older Youth) is headed out to Lexington. Lunch at the Southern Lunch, then tour the Bob Timberlake Gallery on Tuesday, May 5, 11:00-3:00. Call the church office to reserve your spot.

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

GROW: Summer break! Our children’s Sunday School and First Kids will take a summer break. Our last Sunday School day is May 10, and the First Kids finale is May 6. We look forward to seeing everyone back in the fall!

GROW: Summer break for Youth! Today is our last day of Sunday School. See you all in the fall!

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.

COMMUNICATE: The deadline for the Summer newsletter (June-Aug) is May 6. Please send Christine your announcements and articles.

GIVING UPDATE:

2026 Budgeted Pledges through 04-30-26 \$384,155
2026 Year-to-Date Received: \$307,920

WE ARE BRANCHING OUT

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.

SERVE: 2nd Sunday Cinema is set to begin on May 10. Our first movie will be "Sunday Best: The Untold Story of Ed Sullivan." It's "a 2025 Netflix documentary exploring how Ed Sullivan championed Motown and Black artists during the Civil Rights era, featuring rare performances and interviews with icons like Smokey Robinson and Berry Gordy. The film highlights Sullivan's role in normalizing Black excellence in American households. Join us on Sunday, May 10, at 5:00 in Everyman's Bible classroom.

MOMCO: The next meeting of MomCo will be held on Monday, April 27, 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.

YOUTH: Summer Break! Today is our Year-end Party for Youth. Games, food, and fellowship galore at 5:00. Then we will break until fall. Have a great summer!

YOUTH: Our annual TWAM 5K Run and Walk will be held on Friday, May 1. The course will be on the Salisbury Greenway beginning at Overton Elementary School. Glow Kids' Run: 6:30. 5K Glow Run and Walk: 7:00. We need runners, sponsors, and race support. Contact Delaine Fowler to help. Come out and cheer on the runners!



Church Office Hours
Monday - Friday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Sunday: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Ministries & Programs

- Worship Services:**
 - Sunday: 10:00 AM (Sanctuary)
 - Wednesday: 7:00 PM (Lexus Hall)
- Children's Ministry:**
 - Sunday: 10:00 AM (Everyman's Bible Classroom)
 - Wednesday: 7:00 PM (Lexus Hall)
- Men's Ministry:**
 - Tuesday: 6:30 AM (Room 201)
- Women's Ministry:**
 - Tuesday: 6:30 AM (Room 201)
- Prayer Ministry:**
 - Monday: 7:00 PM (Lexus Hall)
- Small Groups:**
 - Various times and locations throughout the week.
- Special Events:**
 - Summer Bible Study: June 15-18, 5:00-7:30 PM

Contact Us:
Phone: 704-636-1321
Email: office@firstpresssalisbury.org
Website: www.firstpresssalisbury.org

FOR MORE DETAILS ON EVENTS: Visit us at www.firstpresssalisbury.org
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Service of the Lord's Day



3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 19, 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