

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
Prelude on 'A New Song to the Lord You Render'
"Rendez à Dieu"
Paul Fey

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Hannah Ostlund

MINUTE FOR MISSION Delaine Fowler, TWAM

† CALL TO WORSHIP Megan Shaw
We gather in the presence of the living God.
The One who gave us life and breath,
The One who is never far away from us,
The One in whom we get our strength and peace.
This is the God we know,
This is the God we worship!

† HYMN #743 *O God, You Are My God*

CONFESSION OF SIN
Almighty God, you have set us on paths of faith and light, but we wander again and again off on our own, trying to find a different way. We think we have all the answers and that we can do this on our own. Remind us, loving God, that we are always your growing children with much to learn. Help us to return to the path you have laid before us and walk with you always, our one true, faithful God.

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 Ron Church

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 44:21-24, p. 633

SCRIPTURE Acts 17:22-31, p. 129

SERMON Rev. Hannah Ostlund

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION
Grace Greater than Our Sin
arr. Carol Tomquist

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 Sanctuary Choir
They Will Know We Are Christians
arr. 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 #772 *Live into Hope*

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Festive March*
Paul Fey



The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of John Cave, Jr., on his birthday by John and Anne Cave.

Welcome to First Pres

WE ARE SO GLAD YOU ARE HERE!

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: Jenn Selby, Roxanne Myers (co-worker's infant), Ty Cobb

Jennifer Hudson and family on the death of her father, Bill Garraty.

Kathy Garraty and family on the death of her husband, Bill Garraty.

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

BIRTHDAYS: Melinda Swaim, Jenn Gardner Selby, Sonja Goodman, Marny Hendrick, Gail Hounshell, Myrnie McLaughlin, Allison Adams, Walker Brooks, Samantha Pritchard, Christopher Cook, Vickie Clark, Sandy Alexander, Lawana Ford

ANNIVERSARIES: Mark and Ellie Grover, Cory and Katie Menees, Wes Simons and Alicia Wilson

WE ARE DEEPLY ROOTED

MUSIC: The Charlotte Bronze Handbells will present a concert here in Lewis Hall on Saturday, May 9, at 4:00 pm. Do not miss this chance to hear their beautiful music.

WORSHIP: Mark your calendars now for a Night of Worship, an evening of praise, prayer, and community in our courtyard! Bring your chairs and settle in for a wonderful time on Sunday, May 17, at 6:00 pm. Music led by our LCW Praise Team and Jessica Holman Settineri and Matthew Holman.

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 four, we need you! Registration is now open for volunteers. For more information, contact Megan Shaw at 704-636-1321.

GROW: VBS is right around the corner, and we need your 1-gallon clean, empty milk jugs to help with decorations. Also, if you are looking to help but won't be in town, we are asking for Food Lion gift cards to help with dinner costs. Drop off both in the church office.

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!

WE HAVE A HEALTHY CORE

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

COMMUNICATE: Have you seen our new bulletin boards in the hallway by Lewis Hall? Stop by to see what's going on at First Pres and in the community. You can also see what the Day School is up to on the bulletin board in the parking lot stairwell. We have a lot happening here! Contact Pastor Hannah if you have items for the bulletin boards.

GIVING UPDATE:

2026 Budgeted Pledges through 04-30-26: \$384,155
2026 Year-to-Date Received: \$326,331

WE ARE BRANCHING OUT

SERVE: Rowan Helping Ministries Food Pantry donation day is next Sunday, May 3. Current needs are jelly, canned diced tomatoes, pasta sauce, granola bars, and reusable bags. Our normal items of canned goods, peanut butter, and cereals are always welcome.

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: TWAM 5K Run/Walk is Friday, May 1. TWAM invites you to join us at Overton Elementary School at 6:30 pm for the Fun Run and 7 pm for the 5K. Come Run, Walk, Cheer, Volunteer, eat Kona Ice, be a part of our community outreach, and support our youth!



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



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 26, 2026
11:00 am | Sanctuary

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Where God's Love is Alive for Mission