

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

*“Short Humoresque” and
Meditation on “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*
arr. Paul Fey

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

Adapted from Psalm 104

May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
May the Lord rejoice in his works—
God looks at the earth, and it trembles,
God touches the mountains, and they smoke.
Let us sing to the Lord all our lives;
I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.

† HYMN #15

All Creatures of Our God and King
Vv 1-4

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy and merciful God, we confess that we have failed to honor you by forgetting our kinship with all your creatures. We have walked heavily on your earth, overused and wasted its resources, taken for granted its beauty and abundance, and treated its inhabitants unjustly. Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin. Renew in us the wonder of your world and convict us to care for your creation with grateful and compassionate hearts, through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

Genesis 1:1-19 p. 1

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:20-2:3, p. 1

SERMON

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

All Creatures of Our God and King
arr. Carol Tornquist

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from a Brief Statement of Faith

In sovereign love, God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Those Who Wait on the Lord
Fred Bock

Sanctuary Choir and Youth Singers: Lincoln Holman, Pace Fowler,
and Violet Munoz

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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The living Christ encounters us in the ordinary elements of Communion. The invitation to the Lord's Supper is extended by Christ and is open to all—believers and doubters, young children and adults, members and non-members. To highlight this gracious welcome of all, only non-alcoholic juice is served, and gluten-free bread is available. If you would like to refrain from the feast, you may cross your arms and a blessing will be offered to you. If you cannot come forward, a minister will serve you in your seat. If you feel so moved to respond, people often reply with “Amen” or “Thanks be to God.”

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

For the Beauty of the Earth
Arr. Chris Rice

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING TO SHARE THE WORD

† HYMN #664

Morning Has Broken

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Medieval Dance
arr. Paul Fey



The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Gene Hollifield, Sherry Bryan's father, by Fred, Sherry, and Luke Bryan, and Bess and Brayden Pomajzl.

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: Luke Fisher, Christie Carter, Jenn Selby, Acey Worthy, Ron Church

Sherry Bryan and family on the death of her father, Gene Hollifield, on April 26.

CONTINUING CONCERNS: Marjie Aggers, Deborah Alexander, Preston Askew, Bill Baker, Clay Bureson, Betty Carli, Ty Cobb, Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith's mother), Scott Hay, Carter Jenkins, Rosalie Laughlin, Wib Manuel, Betty Mohs, Reba Parsons, Marcia Reamer, Frank Saunders, John Smith, Jeanette Whitley

BIRTHDAYS: Brady Fowler, Scott Whittington, Doug Shellhorn, Ed Lewis, David Pulliam, Johnny Behrooz, Glenda Brooks, Thomas Shaw, Caren Steele, Doug Glasgow, Lynn Miller, Diane Coggin, Terry Mulkey, Judy Mabe, Tootsie Billings, Coleman Bergsma, Barrett Shoaf, Melissa Harrington, Ellie Grover, Steve Miller, Glenda Askew, John Cresenzo, Dan De Graaf, Steve Thomas

ANNIVERSARIES: Alicia Wilson and Wes Simons, Mark and Ellie Grover, Cory and Katie Menees, John and Kyna Grubb, Duane and Angela Galloway

WE ARE DEEPLY ROOTED

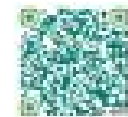
COMMUNION ELDER: Donna Beaver

THIS MORNING, we installed the Elder Class of 2029: Brandon Aron, John Drye, and Blaine Smith. Sherry Bryan will be installed on a later date.

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. We leave from the church parking lot at 11:00. 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. Youth Sunday School has already begun its summer break. 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: \$355,253

WE ARE BRANCHING OUT

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.

FOR MORE DETAILS ON EVENTS: Visit us at www.firstpresssalisbury.org

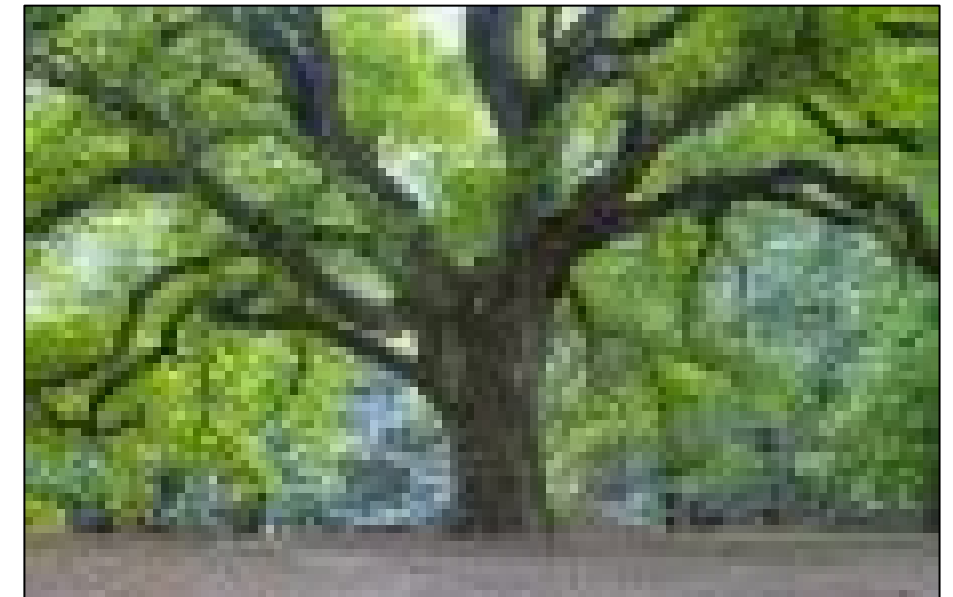
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Service of the Lord's Day

GOD'S DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY TREE

AN INCREDIBLE BEGINNING



5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 3, 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