

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

Celeste Meditation

Paul Fey

Teresa de Freitas

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Hannah Ostlund

I love the Lord, for he has heard my cries.
There I will call on the Lord as long as I live.
Gracious is the Lord, and righteous.
Our God is merciful; when I was brought low, he saved me.
I walk before the Lord in the land of the living.
Let us worship the living God.

† HYMN #634

To God Be the Glory

CONFESSION OF SIN

Living Jesus, we are so consumed by securing ourselves. You bless us with gifts, but we want more. You offer us grace, but we strive to prove we’re worth it. You move all around us, but we miss it. Restore us, by your unlimited mercy. Save us, by your unending love. Forgive us, by unrelenting grace.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

† RESPONSE #582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Cathy Adams

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 48:1-11 p. 43

Jim Mitchell

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 48:12-22, p. 44

SERMON

Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Nothing but the Blood

arr. Carol Tornquist

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

In Remembrance

Buryl Red

Sanctuary Choir

† 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

Fairest Lord Jesus

arr. Chris Rice

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING TO SHARE THE WORD

† HYMN #697

Take My Life

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune in C Major

Paul Fey



The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Julie Steele by Robert, Andrea, and Alex.

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:

Betty Carli, Barry Sang

Carol and Acey Worthy on the death of her cousin, Mike Boyer.

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Preston Askew, Bill Baker, Mary Cameron, Ron Church, Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith’s mother), Richard Franklin, Scott Hay, Rosalie Laughlin, Wib Manuel, Martha Michael, Betty Mohs, Frank Saunders, John Smith, Jesse Tart, Jeanette Whitley, Acey Worthy

BIRTHDAYS:

Wesley Lanning, Brooks Kennedy, Richard Franklin, Wilson Cook, Jonas Spry, Gayle Brinson, Danny Fisher, Connie MacLean, Grace Myers, Debbie Kessler, John Grubb, Rachel Mead, Derrick Preston, Ada Grace Church

ANNIVERSARIES:

Ron and Susan Church, Phillip and Beverly McKinney, Stephen and Andrea Bullock, Gary and Rose Hall

WE ARE DEEPLY ROOTED

COMMUNION ELDERS: Blaine Smith, Donna Beaver

GROW:

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

GROW: Calling all Young Adults! Join Pastor Hannah at New Sarum Brewing on Wednesday, August 5, 6:30-8:00 for Theology on Tap. A time of fellowship, food and drinks, and a little theology. Get to know other young adults. Invite your friends!

MUSIC: Our Sanctuary Choir rehearsals will resume each Wednesday, 7:00-8:30 PM in the choir room below the Sanctuary beginning on August 5. Our Bell Tower Ringers are moving to Thursdays, 5:30-7:00 PM in Celebration Hall below the Sanctuary beginning August 27. If you would like to participate in either/both, contact Teresa de Freitas in the church office.

GROW: Devotional-Drop In for Parents! Are you a parent looking for community at First Pres? Have you ever dropped your child off at Sunday School and been unsure of where to go yourself? Come to the new “Devotional Drop-In” during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45) in the Kirby Library at First Pres! We will have refreshments, time to connect with other parents, and a chance to reflect on our faith together. Kick off August 16!

MUSIC: Join us on Sunday, August 16, at 2:00 PM in the Sanctuary for our First Pres Concert Series featuring the Astralis Ensemble. This award-winning trio consists of a cello, flute, and harp. Don’t miss these ‘scary-good’ musicians!

GROW: Calling all preschool 3-4-year-olds through 5th-grade kids, it’s time to sign up for First Kids! We will begin earlier this year, so mark your calendars now for Wednesday, August 19. Parents, we will also have a parent meeting on August 19. Come for dinner and stay for a meeting to hear about expectations, the calendar, and new opportunities!

GROW: First Kids needs volunteers. It takes a village. Watch for signups to begin soon. Cooks, cleanup teams, table parents, and shepherds are needed!

GROW: Pastor Hannah is hosting a Dip Off for young adults! Bring your favorite dip to share on Wednesday, August 26, 6:00-8:00 in our courtyard. Dips, games, and fellowship. Invite your friends.

GROW: The 2026-2027 Presbyterian Women’s Bible Study will kick off on Monday, September 14, at 11:00 in the Fellowship Hall. This year’s book is titled “United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other,” Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians. Contact Joyce Durkee asap if you would like a copy of the book.

GROW: Worship Scripture Readers wanted. Help share God's word by reading the first scripture lesson at 8:30 or 11:00. Readings will be distributed the week prior. Sign up using the QR code or on the bulletin board by Lewis Hall.

WE HAVE A HEALTHY CORE

STAFF: Please be aware that your pastors and staff will never text or email you to solicit money, gift cards, or run errands. Other things to watch out for: emails not ending with @firstpresssalisbury.org or emails/texts about ‘a private matter.’ Please do not respond to these phishing emails and texts.

GIVING UPDATE:
2026 Budgeted Pledges through 07-31-26: \$672,272
2026 Year-to-Date Received: \$603,878

GIVING: Make summertime giving a breeze by setting up recurring gifts! Set up regular, recurring donations through our secure online giving site – www.firstpresssalisbury.org/give.

WE ARE BRANCHING OUT

RACE & JUSTICE: Join us for a free screening of “Natchez” at the Norvell Theater on Thursday, August 6, at 7:00. And remember our next 2nd Sunday Cinema is on Sunday, August 9, at 5:00, in Everyman’s Bible Classroom. Our movie this month is “Selma.” Both events are sponsored by the RJM Team.

YOUTH: Attention Parents of youth! Help us keep in touch with you and your youth for all of our youth events. Please complete this year’s Information Form asap.



YOUTH: Mark your calendars now. Youth @ the Porch begins on Wednesday, August 12, at 7:30 PM, on the Musser Gritters’ front porch. They meet weekly through November. Pizza, fellowship, and study.

YOUTH: Youth Sunday School begins on August 16, 9:45-10:30, in the Youth Room. They meet weekly throughout the school year. Food, fellowship, and study.

YOUTH: Youth Group begins on Sunday, August 19, 5:00-7:30 PM. They meet weekly throughout the school year. Invite your friends and be sure we have parent and student emails up-to-date to keep up with events.

SERVE: United Way Day of Caring. The Showing Up Team is looking for volunteers to join as a church group to help with United Way’s Day of Caring on August 27. Please contact Mike Drinkard (770-283-9046 or mikedrinkard@gmail.com) if you’d like to join this mission outreach effort of First Pres.

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 and for all ages. Suggested donation: \$10.

SERVE: God’s Table @ RHM – Volunteer now to help Pastor Hannah lead a brief time of worship at Rowan Helping Ministries (Jeannie’s Kitchen at 226 N Long St) before serving lunch together. Two dates to choose from: Aug 23 and Sept 20. Hours: 11:15-1:00.



DAY SCHOOL: School will begin soon, and the Day School has a wish list they would love to see fulfilled. Please consider donating one of these items to help enhance the amazing program they offer children in Rowan County.



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Service of the Lord’s Day

**God’s Dysfunctional Family Tree
An Incredible Beginning**



10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 2, 2026
10:30 am | Sanctuary

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
308 W Fisher St | Salisbury, NC 28144
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Where God’s Love is Alive for Mission